

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
July 7, 2025
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Alex Saitta presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were emailed to members of council and local news media on July 2, 2025. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and on the County website the required length of time.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman
Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman
Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
C. Claiborne Linvill
Scott Lang
Chris Bowers (**absent**)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
Kim Wunder, Interim County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the July 7, 2025, meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Councilor Claiborne Linvill offered the invocation, followed by PSCO Lieutenant Uniform Patrol, Shane Brummit, Tommy Camp, Adam McJunkin, and Lieutenant Charlie Musselwhite leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Sheriff Tommy Blankenship introduced these four lieutenants from the Pickens County Sheriff's Office Uniform Patrol Division, highlighting their years of frontline service.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. Laura Yates: Ms. Yates, County Assessor, gave an update to Council on the County property reassessment.
2. Eunice Lehmacher: Ms. Lehmacher spoke to Council in favor of establishing paid family medical leave for county employees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to approve the following amended minutes as presented:

- June 2, 2025 - Council Meeting
- June 16, 2025 - Council Work Session
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

The Administrator, Ken Roper, addressed the Council on the following:

- ❖ Public Safety Building Progress
- ❖ Road Infrastructure Updates
- ❖ Sustainable Routes Updates
- ❖ Request to add Personnel Matter to Executive Session

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Work Session on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- Clerk to Council, Meagan Nations, provided an overview to Council and the public on the application process and current vacancies for Boards and Commissions.

Chairman Alex Saitta called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Alex Saitta announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the floor for motion period and new business.

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to add to a Personnel Matter under Executive Session on this evening's agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Saitta closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- A) CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2025-02 APPROVING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PICKENS COUNTY CONSERVATION BANK.
 - a. Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve this resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill.
 - i. Councilman Alex Saitta made a substitute motion to change on page 15, under Conservation Criteria, Environmental Sensitivity, Section C to: *Water quality classification of stream by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services*. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried (5-0).
 - ii. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

A) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADDRESSING CONSERVATION BY AMENDING THE SCENIC HIGHWAY 11 ORDINANCE #617 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR LIMITATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY AND AN INCREASE IN THE NATURAL HERITAGE AREA.

- a. Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

A) THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 663 TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT RESPECTING AN INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK BEING GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- a. Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0).

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

A) UPDATE FROM CLERK OF COURT, PAT WELBORN

- Mr. Welborn gave a presentation to the Council on updates at the County Courthouse.

B) CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CLEMSON UNIVERSITY REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THEIR MUNICIPAL COURT.

- Mr. Roper explained that Clemson University approached the county with a request for Magistrate Michael Baker to serve as a backup municipal judge due to a recent retirement. The South Carolina Supreme Court requires county involvement in such arrangements, including financial handling, if the County agrees. Clemson offered to reimburse the county for costs, and the county would, in turn, compensate the magistrate.
- Discussion included:
 - i. Why Clemson couldn't directly hire and pay judge
 - ii. Financial arrangement
 - iii. Discussion of contract
- After more discussion between Council, Chairman Saitta went into discussion on why he opposes this IGA.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Saitta further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Personnel: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Personnel Matter (*as added during motion period and new business*)

Contractual: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)

- Project Hydro Amendments
 - Project Hawk and Hawk II
 - Project Exodus
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. The motion was carried out unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a ten-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Personnel Matter – **No Action Taken**

Contractual: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)

- Project Hydro Amendments – **Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of FILOT for Project Hydro Amendments. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).**
- Project Hawk and Hawk II – **Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion constitute first reading in title only of Project Hawk and Hawk II. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0).**
- Project Exodus – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:15 p.m.