

Pickens County Council Work Session

August 18, 2025

6:30 p.m.

County Council met in a work session, in the Main Conference Room of the County Administration Facility, with Councilman Alex Saitta presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were emailed to members of council and local news media on August 14, 2025.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Kim Wunder, Contract County Attorney

Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator

Austin Cassell, Environmental Enforcement Manager

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the work session of August 18, 2025, to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Chris Lollis led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF PRESENTATION ON ABANDONED VEHICLES, POOLS, OVERGROWN VEGETATION, TRASH AND JUNK IN YARDS, AND PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES.

Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:

• Trash and Junk in Yards

- Assistant Administrator, Allison Fowler, stated staff recommend following Anderson County's ordinance but would like to put a time limit on it, as well as adding an agricultural exemption for pieces/parts of farm equipment.
- After some discussion between Council and staff, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adopt the following language for trash and junk in yards, *"No person shall permit trash, garbage, litter or solid waste which is not in a litter receptacle or is left exposed to the elements and visible from any public road or adjoining private property to remain on the property for a period in excess of 30 days."* Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang.
 - After more discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a substitute motion to change the wording to *household trash, litter or solid waste*. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (5-1), with Vice Chairman Chris Lollis opposed.

• Junk Vehicles

- Austin Cassell stated staff recommend all junk vehicles be out of site from the roadway unless it has a current license plate. If a limit is desired, staff recommend limiting it to 2 vehicles per parcel to follow Anderson County. Mr. Cassell stated staff recommends changing the language from allowing 5 vehicles to 2 vehicles if they are visible from the roadway. He added that

these vehicles must be covered with a proper car cover (tarps are not permitted) or stored inside a fully enclosed building.

- After some discussion, Chairman Saitta made a motion to adopt the associated definition of junk, without the word trash. The motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (5-1), with Councilman Bowers opposed.
- Chairman Saitta made a motion to change Section 10-76 (c) from 180 days to 30 days. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang. The motion failed (3-3), with Councilman Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and Councilman Dale Holloway opposed.
- **Abandoned Vehicles**
 - After more discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta moved to maintain the limit at five cars, requiring that any junk vehicle be kept out of sight from the road rather than covered with a tarp. The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.
- **Overgrown Vegetation**
 - Mr. Cassell stated there is no language in the Pickens County Code of Ordinances to address overgrown vegetation. Staff recommends a limit of 15 inches for vegetation (grass or weeds) with an agricultural exemption for farmland and hay for livestock. This exception would have to be tied to parcels that are deemed agricultural by the Pickens County Assessor.
 - After discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta moved to recommend 15 inches for vegetation as staff recommended. The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.
- **Abandoned Pools**
 - Mr. Cassell stated Staff recommend that a pool shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, in good repair. If a pool is not in operational order, it must be drained and covered for life safety purposes.
 - After discussion, Chairman Saitta moved to approve staff recommendations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers.
 - Councilman Chris Bowers made a substitute motion to change in the last sentence, include it must be drained or covered for life safety purposes. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried (4-2), with Councilman Dale Holloway and Vice Chairman Chris Lollis opposed.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to move forward with first reading in title only of this Ordinance with the proposed changes.
- Attorney Kim Wonder stated the Ordinance was not noticed on the agenda, and therefore she would suggest not moving on first reading due to this reason.
- First reading will be on the agenda for the September 2nd Council Meeting.

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS WITH NON-PROFITS AND MUNICIPALITIES

Administrator Ken Roper gave an overview of the existing agreements and contracts with non-profits and municipalities. Council and staff reviewed the following non-profits and municipalities.

- Hagood Mill
- Ponderosa Park – Town of Six Mile
- Dacusville Recreation Department

- Dacusville Community Center
- Pickens County Performing Arts Center
- Clemson Paw Partners
- Town of Central Fire
- City of Easley Fire

Administrator Roper stated he would like to take a new path forward on reviewing these agreements over the next few months, which will include:

1. Administrator to gather information and relay information to affected Councilors
2. Discussion with agreement parties and Councilors
3. All parties come to an agreement
4. Updated written agreements presented to full Council

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)

- **County Attorney Update**

Personnel and Legal: Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and (a)(2)

- **Legal Advice and Discussion of the Appointment of a Person(s) to a Public Body Regarding the Pickens County Library System**
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis. The motion was carried out unanimously (6-0).

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)

- **County Attorney Update** – Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to extend a 1-year contract to Candidate A. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Personnel and Legal: Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and (a)(2)

- **Legal Advice and Discussion of the Appointment of a Person(s) to a Public Body Regarding the Pickens County Library System** – Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to task the attorney to draft a letter to send to Dr. Wilson and the Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Minutes for August 18, 2025, Pickens County Council Work Session

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council