

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
August 11, 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 August 8, 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 August 11, 2025, meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Lollis led the invocation, and Mr. Randall Wood, with American Legion Post 11, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

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

1. Andrew Wilson: Mr. Wilson, Coroner of Pickens County, gave an update regarding the coroner's office in Pickens County.
2. Kathleen Campbell: Ms. Campbell addressed Council regarding the Library.
3. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines addressed Council regarding the Library.
4. Virginia King: Ms. King addressed Council regarding the Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- July 7, 2025 – Council Meeting
- July 8, 2025 – EMS Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
- July 21, 2025 – Council Work Session
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

County Administrator Ken Roper gave updates to Council on the following items:

- Assessment notices issued by the Assessor's Office
- Progress on culvert replacements
- The Sustainable Routes project
- The SCAC Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award application, highlighting the joint response to the Table Rock Complex Fire by Greenville and Pickens Counties

Council members also asked questions regarding:

- The roof repairs on the Administration Building
- The Country Creek culvert project
- Feedback on Recycling Centers

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EMS AD HOC COMMITTEE on July 8, 2025

Dr. Dale Holloway, Chairman of the EMS Ad Hoc Committee, gave a brief update on the committee's most recent meeting. He shared that the committee reviewed the procurement process and agreed it should be presented to the full Council for consideration.

The committee also discussed Medic 8, completed a site inspection, and reviewed plans for upcoming renovations. Because of the current workload with the Building Maintenance Department, the committee recommended outsourcing the renovation work. Renovations are expected to be completed by October.

Regarding Medic 1, two building designs were presented to the subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended that the smaller option, a 2,400 sq. ft. structure, be brought forward to the full Council for review.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Work Session on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- Chairman Saitta advised that some Council members attended the South Carolina Association of Counties Conference this past week and asked Councilor Linvill to please give a statement on that conference.

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.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Saitta closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- A) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REGARDING UPDATED LICENSE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNICATION TOWER SITES AT GLASSY MOUNTAIN AND SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN.
 - a. Mr. Roper gave a brief overview of these two tower locations.
 - o Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve these resolutions. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

- A) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS PROJECT EXODUS, ACTING FOR ITSELF OR ONE OR MORE PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY WILL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND PROVIDE CERTAIN CREDITS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY; (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
 - a. Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

- A) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD 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 gavelled into Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on this Ordinance. After seeing no public speakers, Chairman Saitta declared the Public Hearing closed.
 - b. 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) PRESENTATION FROM PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR, STEPHANIE HOWARD

- Ms. Howard gave a presentation to the Council on updates at the County Libraries.

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)

- County Attorney Update
- Boards and Commissions Update

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

- County Council's Role in Appointing and Nominating to Boards and Commissions
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Scott Lang. 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)

- County Attorney Update – **No Action Taken**
- Boards and Commissions Update – **No Action Taken**

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

- County Council's Role in Appointing and Nominating to Boards and Commissions – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:49 p.m.