

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

February 3, 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 January 30, 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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the meeting of February 3, 2025, to order and welcome those in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Lollis led the invocation and Vietnam Veteran Donald Kleder 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. James Campbell: Mr. Campbell addressed Council regarding animal control.
2. Luke Campbell: Mr. Campbell addressed Council regarding prayers.
3. Jeremiah White: Mr. White addressed Council regarding a fire at his home and a praise report for Emergency Services.

Seeing no other public forum speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- December 2, 2024 Council Meeting
- January 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting
- January 13, 2025, Council Work Session
- January 21, 2025 Council Work Session
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Scott Lang to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

Minutes for February 3, 2025, Pickens County Council Meeting

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Update on brush removal from Hurricane Helene
- Update on washout updates on culverts and bridges from Hurricane Helene
- Update on addressing Illegal Dumping
- Update on Emergency Services Building Construction & livestream

Questions from Council:

- Update on brush grinder
- Update on number of Litter Control Officers and update on their training/certification

COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- The EMS Ad Hoc Committee meeting will meet on Monday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center of the Administration Building.
- Council will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.

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 move Agenda Item 10A to after Executive Session on the agenda this evening. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- a) FIRST READING IN TITLE OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT AND INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK, SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IN OCONEE COUNTY AS PART OF THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 657 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY OF THE PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS "PROJECT PIGEON," APPROVING A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROPERTY CONVEYANCE, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
 - *Moved to after Executive Session during Motion Period and New Business*

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) PRESENTATION OF FY24 AUDIT: Larry J. Finney, CPA, Greene Finney Cauley, LLP.
 - Mr. Finney presented Council the FY24 Audit.
 - After some discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).
- b) CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL RULES.
 - Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council, stated she took Council's corrections and motions from the last meeting, which were approved by Council, and updated the Organizational Rules. She stated she presents the draft document for Council for approval.
 - Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta, seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).
- c) CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OPIOID FUND MONIES FOR JAIL PROGRAM.
 - Mr. Roper gave an update on the Opioid Fund Monies Grant for Jail Program. The plan includes hiring two community paramedics to provide follow-up care for individuals who have overdosed and ensure they receive proper medication and treatment. The initiative also aims to improve collaboration between law enforcement, behavioral health services, and EMS, with a focus on reducing costs related to incarcerated individuals and improving treatment outcomes.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to accept as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- d) CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMERCE PARK WATERLINE.
 - Mr. Ray Farley, Economic Development Director, gave Council a brief update on this grant funding for the waterline at the Commerce Park.
 - Chairman Saitta stated this agenda item will be moved to the Mid-Month Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Councilman Bowers made a motion to move this agenda item to the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Chairman Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

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.

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Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Speedway Project Fee Agreement
 - Project Oler
 - Project Pigeon
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

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

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Speedway Project Fee Agreement – **No Action Taken**
- Project Oler – **No Action Taken**
- Project Pigeon – **Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (5-1), with Chairman Alex Saitta opposed.**

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 657 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY OF THE PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS "PROJECT PIGEON," APPROVING A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROPERTY CONVEYANCE, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- Chairman Alex Saitta gaveled into public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak regarding this Ordinance.
- Seeing none, the Chairman declared public hearing closed.
- Chairman Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council