

## **Pickens County Council Work Session**

November 17, 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 November 13, 2025.

### Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

### Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Destini Pratt, County Attorney

## **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Alex Saitta called the work session of November 17, 2025, to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Chris Bowers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

## **AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, PROCUREMENT, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS.**

Council wants to focus on modernizing the 20-year-old procurement code to improve transparency, competitive bidding and operational efficiency. Dirk Ishiwata, Project Manager, gave an overview on the proposed changes to the Procurement Ordinance. He stated this proposed ordinance aligns with local, state and federal laws, and benchmark practices from 25 different government agencies to create a compliant, streamlined process.

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

- Discussion on bidding and price discovery
- Discussion on Council re-approval after bidding
- Procurement Review Committee
- Legal Review Requirements
- Bidding Thresholds and Procedures
- Flexible Sourcing options
- Purchasing Card oversight
- Transparency and Vendor notification

## **EMPLOYEES AND COUNTY COUNCILORS CONVERSATIONS AS IT RELATES TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND COUNCIL RULE 3.5.C**

Councilman Dale Holloway and Councilman Scott Lang addressed concerns that employees hesitate to speak with Council members due to fear of getting in trouble.

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

- Discussion on legal framework – SC Code 4-9-660
- Discussion on Council Rule 3.5.C
- Discussion on maintaining proper boundaries on discussions with employees
- Discussion on adding language in Employee Handbook

After much more discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to create a committee, including Dale Holloway and Scott Lang as members, to work with Attorney Destini Pratt on changes for Section 3.5.C in Council Rules. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dale Holloway. The motion failed (3-3), with Councilman Chris Bowers, Councilor Claiborne Linvill, and Vice Chairman Chris Lollis opposed.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

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Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council