

Pickens County Council
Budget Work Session Report
Monday, March 24, 2025
6:30 PM
Main Conference Room
222 McDaniel Avenue
Pickens, SC 29671

Pickens County Council met to hold a work session to discuss the FY 2026 proposed budget. Chairman Alex Saitta presided with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman
Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman
Claiborne Linvill
Scott Lang
Chris Bowers
Dale Holloway

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
Les Hendricks, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

Chairman Saitta made a motion to add a briefing regarding the table rock mountain fire to this evening's agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

TABLE ROCK FIRE BRIEFING

Administrator Roper briefed Council on the table rock mountain fire.

- As of 3/24, the fire has burned over 1058 acres.
- Engine and brush truck crews are staged to protect property.
- Evacuations remain in effect, no further evacuations are expected.
- Table Rock State Park has closed all trail systems, white oaks campground, lake oolenoy, lake pinnacle, and day use visitation.
- Heavy traffic and smoke along Hwy 11 has caused hazardous driving conditions. Asking the public to avoid the area.
- Grant overlook is closed.
- County recycling center near table rock is closed.
- Statewide burn ban remains in effect.
- Council Questions included:
 - Overtime costs

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The discussion of the FY26 budgetary items included, but not limited to the following:

- Benchmark Fiscal Efficiency Charts
 - General Fund Budget per capita
 - Payroll per capita
 - General Fund Budget in Millions
- Real Property Tax

- Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- Council's Goals
- General Fund Revenue Projection
- Value of a Mil
- Millage Rates
- Discussion on South Carolina House Bills H.3858 and S.317
- Goals for the Budget
 - Building new EMS stations and staffing them
 - Legal effort on a full-time Attorney
 - Rescue
 - # of positions added over the last four budget years compared to actual number of employees for the last four budget years

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis, seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:48 p.m.