

**City of Pickens
Regular Meeting
January 13, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council convened at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. for a Regular Meeting. Agendas were posted and sent to media on January 10, 2025.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Mayor, Isaiah Scipio
- Mayor Pro-Tem Cameron Rivers
- Council Member, Floyd Rogers
- Council Member, John McManus
- Council Member, Ray Wilson
- Council Member Allie Winter

Staff:

- Administrator Tim O'Briant
- Police Chief, Randal Beach
- Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
- Finance Director, Mandy Hess
- Public Works Director, Trey Adams

(The minutes are a synopsis of the meeting, and they are not a verbatim discussion. full viewing and recording of the meeting is available on the City of Pickens Web-page and Facebook. Also, the full agenda packet with all departmental reports are available in the City Clerk's office).

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Scipio called the meeting to order and requested Chief Randal Beach to give the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Scipio thanked all citizens in attendance for being involved in local government. Mayor Scipio stated he was thankful and humbled to be the Mayor of Pickens. Mayor Scipio informed the citizens that he will be doing a "State of the City" report in February.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Pat Mulkey-Mr. Mulkey has been extremely active in the Hurricane Helene relief efforts in Western North Carolina. Mr. Mulkey thanked many people for their assistance. Mr. Mulkey stated that the citizens of Pickens should be grateful and thankful for their resources. Mr. Mulkey thanked the Mayor and Council for putting infrastructure as a priority.

Edwina Lone- Ms. Lone, inquired about the siren at the water tower. Staff informed her it was being worked on. Ms. Lone stated she attended a council meeting about (3) months

ago, and a lady from Liberty asked that Council wait 30 days before making decisions about the water contract. Ms. Lone stated she thinks council should bring more items to the attention of the people and make sure the people are well informed, and the elected officials should know what the people expect.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Tim O'Briant stated the majority of his report is regarding the up to date financial reports that are enclosed with the agenda packet.

- Mandy Hess will check on the maturing CD’s that are located at Pickens Savings and Loan.
- 2023 Audit is underway.
- Council would like to make sure that businesses are paying hospitality tax, business licenses, and utilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 9, 2024 – Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously approved.

January 6, 2025- Motion was made by Council Member John McManus, seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson, and unanimously approved.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11, TO AMEND DIVISION 3 (MEETINGS) OF Article II (MAYOR AND COUNCIL) OF CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CITY OF PICKENS CODE OF ORDINANCES:

Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter and seconded by Council Member John McManus to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 224-11.

>> Council held much discussion regarding the seven pages of research that Council Member Floyd Rogers placed in the agenda packet. Mr. Rogers stated he was not opposed to the ordinance, and he believes in decorum and balance in every meeting, however he does not want it to be so structured that it limits freedom of speech. Mr. Rogers stated he would like to see this ordinance be stronger and give the presiding officer more authority to maintain order.

Council Member Allie Winter asked if the attorney has responded about council members absences.

Mayor Scipio asked if Council would like to start over with another draft. Ms. Winter stated she thought the ordinance was good, and she thought the meaning of order, decorum, and debate are similar to the items in Council Member Rogers’ document.

Mayor Scipio called for a vote and stated if Council wants further amendments that can discussed at a future work session.

The vote that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-11 was approved with Council Member Allie Winter, Council Member John McManus, Council Member Cameron Rivers, Mayor Scipio, and Council Member Ray Wilson voting in favor. Council Member Floyd Rogers opposed. Motion carried 5-1.

APPROVAL OF THE GREENVILLE WATER CAPACITY BUY IN AND SUPPLY AGREEMENT:

Tim O'Briant stated the contract is before Council for approval.

>>During discussion Council members concluded the meeting with Greenville Water and the attorneys were extremely helpful. Mr. Rogers discussed the point of the 60 days and buying additional capacity. Mr. O'Briant stated in order to keep the integrity of the contracts with other customers, Greenville water needed to keep the 60 days. Council Member John McManus stated he thought the contract has been properly vetted and discussed. He also stated he thought Greenville water has been accommodating to the City of Pickens to allow (3) options of termination without penalty. Council Member Floyd Rogers stated he thought it was a fairly common contract and written to favor the business of Greenville Water.

Mayor Scipio called for a motion.

>>Motion was made by Council Member John McManus to approve the Greenville Water contract as presented. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter. Motion carried with all members voting in the affirmative with the exception of Council Member Floyd Rogers who opposed. Motion carried 5-1.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Council Member Ray Wilson to appoint Caroline Rogers to the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter and unanimously passed. Ms. Rogers will fill the unexpired term of Council Member Ray Wilson.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Council Member Allie Winter thanked the Police, Public Works, and Fire Departments for the demanding work during the snowstorm. Ms. Winter also thanked Council and Citizens for the many phone calls, emails, and text as it relates to this decision regarding Greenville Water. Ms. Winter stated she appreciated every call.

Mayor Scipio thanked Council and staff for the work as it related to the Greenville Water Contract. Mayor Scipio stated he has never been untruthful about this contract. He brought all the information to Council, and Council voted to withdraw from Joint Regional Water. Mayor Scipio stated he was not going to undermine a decision that Council had made. Mayor Scipio stated he was a commissioner on the Joint Water Board for 8 years. As Mayor, he feels the right contract has been voted on in order to bring clean safe water to Pickens at the present time.

Council Member Floyd Rogers stated he has truly struggled with the Greenville Water Contract and the controversial issues with Joint Regional. Mr. Rogers stated he appreciated the last meeting with Greenville Water. Mr. Rogers stated he was upset to the point of resignation. Mr.

Rogers stated he has been in deep thought and feels more at peace, and thanked members of Council for their patience and looks forward to the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

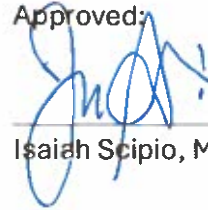
Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Cameron Rivers and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 7:05

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Isaiah Scipio, Mayor