

Mayor
ISAIAH SCIPIO
City Council
CAMERON RIVERS, Mayor Pro-Tem
JOHN MCMANUS
FLOYD ROGERS
RAY WILSON
ALLIE WINTER



Administrator
TIM O'BRIANT
City Clerk
DONNA F. OWEN

City of Pickens

www.cityofpickens.com

AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Monday March 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.
CITY HALL
219 PENDLETON STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
3. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SCIPIO:
4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:
5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING, AZALEA FESTIVAL 2025:
6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:
7. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
FEBRUARY 10, 2025 – REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2025 – WORK SESSION
9. APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH:
10. APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPENSATION AND MARKET ANALYSIS FOR THE CITY OF PICKENS AS RECOMMENDED BY EVERGREEN SOLUTIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025:
11. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:
12. ADJOURNMENT:

**City of Pickens
Regular Meeting
February 10, 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 February 6, 2025.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff:

Administrator Tim O'Briant
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Public Works Director, Trey Adams
Lt. Ty Nalley, Police Department

(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 welcomed those in attendance. Representative Davy Hiott gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY MAYOR SCIPIO: SPIRIT OF PICKENS AWARDS:

- Mayor Scipio stated he had (3) "Spirit of Pickens Awards" to present.
1. Representative Davy Hiott. Mayor Scipio presented the award to Representative Hiott for all the work he does in Columbia on behalf of the City of Pickens. Mayor Scipio specifically recognized Mr. Hiott for the funds he secured in refurbishing the City water tower.
 2. Pat Mulkey and Barry Crawford: Mayor Scipio stated both Mr. Crawford and Mr. Mulkey are advocates for the City of Pickens. Mayor Scipio specifically presented them with the award to recognize their efforts working in Western North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Mayor Scipio stated our neighboring State has citizens that have been without water and electricity since September of 2024, and Mr. Mulkey and Mr. Crawford are continuing to work to provide resources in these areas.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Barry Crawford- Mr. Crawford asked Council to begin planning for 2026 being the 250-year celebration of the United States. Mr. Crawford stated this should be a huge event, and planning should begin now for this celebration.

Coretta Arnold-Ms. Arnold inquired about Secona Road warranties regarding repairing property from the installation of water lines. Public Works Director, Trey Adams, addressed that date would be (1) year from completion. Mr. Adams also addressed the concerns with the pump station on Wolf Creek stating the pumps are ordered and will be installed as soon as possible. Mr. Adams also stated that personnel were currently at the pump station at all times.

Pat Mulkey – Mr. Mulkey thanked Council for the recognition of his participation with the Hurricane Helene relief efforts in Western North Carolina. Mr. Mulkey stated his motivation for working is humanitarian and it is the right thing to do.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Tim O’Briant advised Citizens and Council about the following items:

- Mr. O’Briant stated many employees have had flu and other viruses.
- 2023 Audit is underway and on schedule for completion.
- There is an active request for proposals (RFP) to begin the process of bringing building inspections in house. Mr. O’Briant reiterated the County has been providing this service. Council will discuss this transition further during the budget process.
- Council was updated on water line projects on Pendleton Street Extension and Fox Squirrel Ridge Circle.
- Mr. O’Briant stated appreciation to all the departments that have been working on the FEMA reimbursements for hurricane damage. Mr. O’Briant stated FEMA requires very tedious record keeping and staff has done an excellent job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as follows.

- January 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- January 14, 2025- Special Called Meeting
- January 21, 2025 – Special Called Meeting

DISCUSSION REGARDING LEGACY SQUARE:

Mayor Scipio read a draft agreement from Pickens First Baptist Church as it relates to the water fountain that is located in Legacy Square. (entire draft is in agenda packet and on the City Website) Mayor Scipio explained the fountain was a project established by the City of Pickens many years ago but is on property owned by the church. The fountain is no longer a working fountain, and the City of Pickens needs to decide what can be accomplished moving forward to partner with the church regarding the fountain.

>>During Council discussion, Council mentioned many key factors such as:

- Expending funds on property that the City does not own.
- The church can make all the decisions, and those decisions can change as new Deacons take office.

- Legal and liability issues.
- Cost and upkeep of fountain repairs.
- What are creative and esthetic things can be accomplished with the fountain.

The Mayor stated he would like (2) members of Council to meet with the Board of Deacons to share in these concerns, and work with the church for solutions.

Council Member Allie Winter and Council Member John McManus will arrange meetings with the Board of Deacons for further discussion and report back to Council as a whole.

DISCUSSION OF AN ORDINANCE AS IT RELATES TO SIGNAGE:

Mr. O’Briant stated that City Planner Jenifer Vissage is not in attendance, but the Planning Commission has made changes to the temporary sign ordinance due to a Supreme Court ruling that states political signs cannot be treated any differently than other signs. Therefore, the planning commission is recommending political signs be treated like all temporary signs.

>>During discussion, Mr. O’Briant stated the City Attorney did have further questions regarding some of the section numbers not being up to date, and he would revisit the ordinance prior to a first reading. Mr. McManus asked how to look at the correct code. It was explained that sometimes there is lag time between when ordinances are sent to municipal code and when they are published. Council Member Allie Winter also inquired about the timing of events and gave the example of elections and run-off elections. Council also discussed the sections about what information is allowed on the signs, as well as the number of signs allowed.

>>Mr. O’Briant stated he would get these concerns back to the City Attorney before first reading.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

- Mayor Scipio stated he would like to reschedule a meeting to discuss the compensation study. It was decided to place the compensation study on the work session for 2/24/2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member John McManus, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Isaiah Scipio, Mayor

**City of Pickens
Work Session
February 24, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor Pro-Tem and City Council convened at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. for a Work Session. Agendas were posted and sent to media on February 20, 2025.

Council Members in Attendance:

Absent: 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
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Chief of Police,
Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
Front Office Manager, Kayla McJunkin

(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 Pro-Tem Cameron Rivers called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council Member John McManus gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

>Mayor Pro-Tem Rivers made note that Mayor Scipio is sick and unable to attend this evening.

Administrator Tim O'Briant read a statement from Mayor Scipio that stated the Mayor's displeasure in not being able to be in the discussion as it relates to the pay study. Mayor Scipio asked that his opinion about the study be read into record: *"I would like to see us implement the recommendations for our employees that were given by Evergreen Solutions. I feel that any raises given need to be given on July 1st, 2025, after discussing this with our Finance Director Mandy Hess, she feels it would be more fiscally responsible to start fresh with a new budget. I know this is a Council decision, I just want you to know where I stand, and I know I am only one vote. Again, thank you for your commitment to the citizens of Pickens."*

DISCUSSION REGARDING PARKING ON COURT STREET (Council Member Winter)

Council Member Allie Winter requested to bring this issue up as a matter of discussion for a solution regarding business owners not having parking at their place of business. Ms. Winter stated she thought if it was a City owned street, the City should be able to assist with this problem. She asked that Barry Crawford be allowed to make a brief presentation. Mr. Crawford had a drawing of Court Street showing where he will be

opening an Airbnb at 107 Court Street. Mr. Crawford also included addresses and businesses of 105, 111, and 113 Court Street. Council was informed that Mr. Crawford did have signs for his property that a previous administration gave him permission to put in place, however he has not strictly enforced the towing of vehicles that continue to park. Also, there are other businesses that are having the same problem. Mr. Les Hendricks, with Hendricks Law Firm, stated he thought signs would be effective in conjunction with a City Ordinance. Mr. Hendricks stated the parking for courthouse employees at these business locations have become convenient, but with more commerce parking is now problematic. >>During Council discussion, several items were brought up for discussion.

- Legal questions about signage and towing enforcement on public property.
- Questions regarding courthouse employee parking.
- Questions regarding other city streets demanding reserved parking.
- Meters for parking.
- Certain timeframes for parking (such as Main Street)

Administrator Tim O'Briant will communicate with the City Attorney and report back to Council.

DISCUSSION REGARDING BANNERS FOR BUSINESSES: (Council Member Wilson)

Council Member Wilson requested to discuss the banner program that currently is on Main Street that promotes the businesses on Main Street. Mr. Wilson stated he has had other businesses that are not directly on Main Street that would like to have banners. Mr. Wilson pointed out this program was initiated by a committee that is no longer active. These banners were ordered and several of the businesses are no longer in place. Councilman Wilson would like to reactivate this program and extend the banners beyond Main Street. Currently Mark Gillispie, a volunteer and citizen of the City, is willing to promote and talk to businesses about this program.

>>During Council discussion, several points were brought up for discussion.

- How to reactivate the program and keep banners updated.
- Costs associated with extending the banner program.
- Seasonal banners.
- Possible annual fees associated with the program.
- Banner programs for community events.
- Maintenance and fee issues.
- Comparisons to other communities.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SIGN ORDINANCE:

Administrator Tim O'Briant, stated this ordinance is going back to the Planning Commission for further review. The Ordinance will come back to Council at a later date.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AS IT RELATES TO COMPENSATION AND MARKET ANALYSIS AS ALLOWED BY SC CODE SECTION 30-4-70 (A) (1):

Council Member Floyd Rogers moved to convene into Executive Session for the stated purpose. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter and unanimously passed.

RECONVENE BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson, and unanimously passed to convene back into Public Session.

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Rivers called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Mayor Pro-Tem Cameron Rivers

CITY OF PICKENS
SOUTH CAROLINA PROCLAMATION
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

- WHEREAS,** South Carolina's 1.1 million children residing in the diverse communities across our state, including Pickens City, are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of our great state; and
- WHEREAS,** Childhood trauma, including neglect and abuse, is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and
- WHEREAS,** Childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** Protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, mental and behavioral health, law enforcement agencies, and families; and
- WHEREAS,** Communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that build strong children and strengthen families; and
- WHEREAS,** We acknowledge that we must work together as a community in partnership to build awareness about child abuse and neglect and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children, youth and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and
- WHEREAS,** Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** In fiscal year 2023-2024, there were 7,498 substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations with 13,397 children in South Carolina, and 134 investigations with 241 children in Pickens County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Isaiah Scipio, Mayor, of the City of Pickens in the great state of South Carolina do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the City of Pickens and all South Carolinians to dedicate themselves to protecting the quality of life for all families and children so that we end child neglect and abuse.

City of Pickens Compensation and Classification Table

Classification	Grade	Recommended Minimum	Recommended Midpoint	Recommended Maximum
ADMINISTRATOR	124	\$ 116,464.30	\$ 139,757.16	\$ 163,050.02
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF	FD4	\$ 71,070.00	\$ 77,965.65	\$ 84,861.30
ASSISTANT JUDGE	111	\$ 58,552.46	\$ 69,677.43	\$ 80,802.39
ATHLETIC COORDINATOR	104	\$ 40,251.12	\$ 47,898.83	\$ 55,546.54
CLERK TO COUNCIL	108	\$ 49,864.07	\$ 59,338.25	\$ 68,812.42
CORPORAL	PO2	\$ 50,478.24	\$ 55,375.95	\$ 60,273.66
CORPORAL	PO2	\$ 50,478.24	\$ 55,375.95	\$ 60,273.66
CORPORAL	PO2	\$ 50,478.24	\$ 55,375.95	\$ 60,273.66
CORPORAL INVESTIGATOR	PO2	\$ 50,478.24	\$ 55,375.95	\$ 60,273.66
CORPORAL K-9	PO2	\$ 50,478.24	\$ 55,375.95	\$ 60,273.66
FINANCE DIRECTOR	119	\$ 89,859.67	\$ 106,933.01	\$ 124,006.34
FIRE CAPTAIN	FD3	\$ 61,285.00	\$ 67,231.25	\$ 73,177.49
FIRE CHIEF	119	\$ 89,859.67	\$ 106,933.01	\$ 124,006.34
FIRE LIEUTENANT	FD2	\$ 47,132.80	\$ 51,705.91	\$ 56,279.03
FIRE TRAINING OFFICER	FD3	\$ 61,285.00	\$ 67,231.25	\$ 73,177.49
FIREFIGHTER	FD1	\$ 45,320.00	\$ 49,717.23	\$ 54,114.45
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FIREFIGHTER	FD1	\$ 45,320.00	\$ 49,717.23	\$ 54,114.45
FIREFIGHTER	FD1	\$ 45,320.00	\$ 49,717.23	\$ 54,114.45
FRONT OFFICE MANAGER	108	\$ 49,864.07	\$ 59,338.25	\$ 68,812.42
GROUND S LABOR	101	\$ 34,278.40	\$ 40,791.30	\$ 47,304.19

City of Pickens Compensation and Classification Table

GROUNDS LABOR	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
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GROUNDS LABOR	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
GROUNDS SUPERVISOR	107	\$	47,264.53	\$	56,244.79	\$	65,225.04
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	107	\$	47,264.53	\$	56,244.79	\$	65,225.04
MASTER PATROL	PO2	\$	50,478.24	\$	55,375.95	\$	60,273.66
MASTER PATROL	PO2	\$	50,478.24	\$	55,375.95	\$	60,273.66
MASTER PATROL	PO2	\$	50,478.24	\$	55,375.95	\$	60,273.66
MASTER PATROL	PO2	\$	50,478.24	\$	55,375.95	\$	60,273.66
MUNICIPAL JUDGE	113	\$	65,170.35	\$	77,552.72	\$	89,935.08
PATROL OFFICER	PO1	\$	48,101.00	\$	52,768.05	\$	57,435.11
PATROL OFFICER	PO1	\$	48,101.00	\$	52,768.05	\$	57,435.11
PATROL OFFICER	PO1	\$	48,101.00	\$	52,768.05	\$	57,435.11
PATROL OFFICER	PO1	\$	48,101.00	\$	52,768.05	\$	57,435.11
POLICE CHIEF	119	\$	89,859.67	\$	106,933.01	\$	124,006.34
POLICE LIEUTENANT	PO4	\$	66,491.65	\$	72,943.08	\$	79,394.51
POLICE LIEUTENANT	PO4	\$	66,491.65	\$	72,943.08	\$	79,394.51
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DIRECTOR	119	\$	89,859.67	\$	106,933.01	\$	124,006.34
RECORDS CLERK	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
RECREATION DIRECTOR	117	\$	80,734.64	\$	96,074.22	\$	111,413.80
SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
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SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
SANITATION WORKER	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
SERGEANT	PO3	\$	56,446.06	\$	61,922.80	\$	67,399.55
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City of Pickens Compensation and Classification Table

STAFF SERGEANT	PO3	\$	56,446.06	\$	61,922.80	\$	67,399.55
STREET/SANITATION SUPERVISOR	110	\$	55,499.96	\$	66,044.95	\$	76,589.95
TERMINAL AGENCY COORDINATOR	102	\$	36,163.71	\$	43,034.82	\$	49,905.92
UTILITY CLERK	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
UTILITY CLERK	101	\$	34,278.40	\$	40,791.30	\$	47,304.19
VICTIM ADVOCATE	106	\$	44,800.50	\$	53,312.59	\$	61,824.69