

**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:**

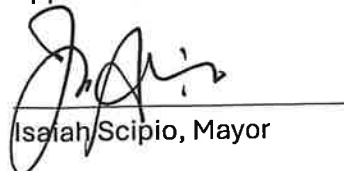
Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member John McManus, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Isaiah Scipio, Mayor