

**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:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Pro-Tem Cameron Rivers