

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

The Mayor 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 March 21 , 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
Attorney, Daniel Hughes
Chief of Police, Randal Beach

(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. Tim O'Briant gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SCIPIO:

Mayor Scipio thanked all the first responders and citizens as they are dealing with the wildfires in Pickens County.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Tim O'Briant provided the following information to the Mayor, Council, and Public.

- Final Reimbursement and successful completion for the South Carolina infrastructure Investment Program. (SCIP grant) This grant totaled over \$6M in State and Local funds for the infrastructure of water lines in Pickens.
- The City has applied for other grants to assist with infrastructure on Robinson Lane. Mr. O'Briant stated the importance of being able to apply for these types of grants.
- Mr. O'Briant thanked volunteers Susan and Michael Ralston for doing some much needed painting around City Hall.

PRESENTATION FROM PICKENS COUNTY WORKFORCE:

Ms. Stephanie Brewer came before the Mayor and Council to introduce the services that are provided by Pickens County Workforce. Ms. Brewer stated she works as a special education

instructor at the career center. Workforce partners with Vocational Rehabilitation to establish relationships with employers that can employ students who obtain their certificate in South Carolina High School Employability Credentials. She explained the benefits of the program, including liability insurance and job coaching.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT REGARDING PARKING ISSUES ON CITY STREETS:

The attorney, Daniel Hughes, discussed parking issues on Court Street. Mr. Hughes specifically addressed the concerns of a business owner’s concerns about Courthouse employees using the parking spaces. Mr. Hughes proposed an application process for business owners to request reserved parking spaces, or ordinances that deal directly with Court Street. He addressed concerns about enforcement and the need for a formal agreement with the County regarding parking spaces. Council and the Attorney discussed the difference between State, County, and City streets.

Shannon Odum from the solicitor's office provided insights into the parking needs of the courthouse and the pre-trial intervention program. She suggested limiting parking to two hours to accommodate the needs of various businesses and government functions.

>>Tim O'Briant and Mr. Hughes will have discussions with the County to determine the needs of Court Street and produce a formal agreement.

DISCUSSION REGARDING COMPENSATION AND COLA POLICES:

The council discussed compensation and cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) policies, considering the implementation of annual reviews based on the Consumer Price Index . They also reviewed the employee compensation policy and its scope.

>>During Council discussion, Council Member John McManus had edits regarding the last sentence in the COLA policy that should be placed in the Compensation policy. The directive by Council should also be clarified. Council agreed with these edits.

“Additionally, the City Administrator is directed by Council to commission a salary survey every four years to determine the wages paid by similar local government in the region to ensure the City of Pickens remain competitive in the marketplace.”

(this will be in the compensation policy and removed from the COLA policy)

Council Member Allie Winter requested an edit on the Compensation Policy to state “Compensation” instead of “Salary” as not to confuse employees that are paid hourly. Council concurred. Also, there will be a sentence to state the Mayor and Council are not included in this compensation plan.

>>These revisions will be made and sent back to Council at the Work Session of 4/28/2025.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A CONTRACTUAL ISSUE AS ALLOWED BY SECTION 30-4-70 (A) (2):

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter to convene into executive session to discuss a contractual issue as allowed by Section 30-4-70 (A)(2) for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property located in the City of Pickens. Motion was seconded by Council Member Cameron Rivers and unanimously passed.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers and unanimously approved to reconvene back into public session.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member John McManus moved to authorize the Administrator and the City Attorney to negotiate for the purchase of property located in the City of Pickens, by the County Assessor's office as parcel #4181-20-81-5542. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson and unanimously approved.

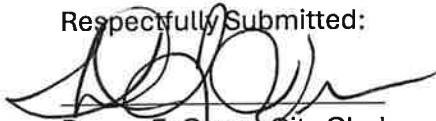
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

- Council Member Ray Wilson stated April 12, 2025, will be a City clean up day for the City of Pickens to spread mulch and pick up debris prior to the Azalea Festival.

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 Ray Wilson, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Isaiah Scipio