

**City of Pickens
Regular Meeting
April 14, 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 March 7, 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
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Public Works Director, Trey Adams
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Recreation Director, Jonathon Morris

(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. Mayor Scipio gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SCIPIO:

Mayor Scipio thanked everyone for their attendance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Citizens Ben Mann, Peter Greenberger, Jessica Merrill, and Rodney Ouzts all spoke to Council regarding their opposition to the proposed annexation and development at Wolf Creek School Road. Citizens conveyed concerns about high-density housing and its impact on traffic, water, sewers, schools, police and fire. Citizens also stated the importance of community character and following the Comprehensive Plan.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Tim O'Briant advised Citizens, Mayor, and Council about the following items:

- Mr. O'Briant discussed recent events such as "Catch a Cop" and a City Cleanup day led by Council Member Wilson.
- Duke Energy awarded the Recreation Department a \$3500.00 grant. This will be used on the Doodle trail.
- Mr. O'Briant reminded everyone about the roll-cart policy, and stated the roll-cart must be closed and cannot be overflowing in order for the trucks to collect as designed.

- Public Works Director, Trey Adams informed Council that the Wolf Creek lift station is complete, and all pumps are in working order.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Finance Director, Mandy Hess went over her report that was provided in the agenda packet to both Council and the public. Ms. Hess gave an update on the following items.

- Pickens Savings and Loan C.D. has been transferred as requested. (current interest rate is 4.52%)
- The T.D. Bank C.D. will mature on 5/1/25. Offer direction if Council would like those funds to be transferred. (Current interest rate is 4.13%)
- Several classes are completed to provide insurance discounts.
- Finance has available a summarized version of the budget. (line-by-line)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

March 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

March 24, 2025 – Work Session

PRESENTATION BY ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Richard Bailey gave a presentation to Council as it relates to the vehicle needs of the Police and Public works departments. The presentation contained fleet profile, planning analysis, maintenance, and fuel support. *(full presentation and video available)*

>Council held discussion regarding local maintenance and fuel. Questions were asked about upfitting vehicles, graphics, and cost associated with needs beyond the contracted number of vehicles. Council was provided with a recommendation for (10) vehicles for the upcoming fiscal year, and a list of South Carolina Counties and Cities that use Fleet Management. Council discussed types of Police vehicles such as Ford, Dodge, and Tahoe. Also studied were resale value of vehicles.

The Finance Director provided there is up front cost. Mr. Bailey stated first year’s cost as of to date is \$205K.

>Council would like to study this further before voting. Mayor Scipio stated this will be voted on during the work session or a special called meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AS IT RELATES TO SELECTION OF FEMA MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

Administrator Tim O'Briant explained to Council how the City obtains reimbursement from FEMA for disasters. Mr. O’Briant stated the record keeping and reporting that is required by FEMA in order to be reimbursed is a detailed and tedious process and takes up many hours. Mr. O’Briant stated that Fire Chief, Chris Elrod, has been responsible for these tasks. However, a request for proposal has been submitted and the recommendation is Royal Engineer and Consultants, LLC. Mr. O'Briant stated that especially after Hurricane Helene, having engineering consultants that were experienced in disaster relief, successful with grant management, and a proven track record is critical for knowing what has been damaged and obtaining the reimbursements.

>Council discussed the need for engineers to assess damages as FEMA will require engineering for certain types of damage.

>Council would like to study this further before voting. Mayor Scipio stated this will be voted on during the work session or a special called meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AS IT RELATES TO BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES:

Tim O'Briant recalled to the Council that the request for proposals have gone out for Building Inspections as the County will no longer be doing municipal inspections. Mr. O'Briant stated his recommendation is BLE.

Mr. O'Briant stated this company has extensive knowledge of local government and in the surrounding areas. The company will provide the City with 25% of revenues from the building permits. Also, their offices are in Greenville, Spartanburg, and Asheville. Therefore, Pickens Residents should have minimal wait times for inspections.

>Council would like to study this further before voting. Mayor Scipio stated this will be voted on during the work session or a special called meeting.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson to enter into executive session for the stated and written purposes.

- FOR DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING WOLF CREEK ANNEXATION AS ALLOWED BY S.C. CODE SECT. 30-4-70(A)(2).
- FOR DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON MOOREFIELD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY AS ALLOWED BY S.C. CODE SECT. 30-4-70(A)(2).
- FOR DISCUSSION OF COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES AS ALLOWED BY S.C. CODE SECT. 30-4-70(A)(1)

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers for 10-minute recess. All voted in favor. Council had a recess before returning to executive session.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion was made by Council Member John McManus, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter, and unanimously approved to reconvene into Public Session.

ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Mayor Scipio stated there will be a "Town Hall" meeting on 4/23/2025. Notice and agenda will be provided. (rules of 24 hours in advance prior to speaking)
- Motion was made by Council Member John McManus to proceed with the purchase of property as stated as parcel #4181-20-81-5542 at the price of \$125K. Motion was seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers. Mayor and Council voted in favor. Council Member Cameron Rivers was the exception who opposed. Motion carried.
- Administrator O'Briant will administer the employee raises.


COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Ray Wilson. Mr. Wilson stated planting will take place this week for the (7) flowerpots on Main Street.

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 Allie Winter, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Isaiah Scipio, Mayor