

City of Pickens
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council convened at Pickens City Hall, 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens, S.C. for a Regular Meeting. Agendas were posted and sent to media on January 8, 2026.

Council Members in Attendance:

Mayor, Isaiah Scipio
Cameron Rivers
Danny Adams
Jonathan Baker
Floyd Rogers
Ray Wilson
Allie Winter

Staff:

Administrator, Tim O'Briant
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Public Works Director, Trey Adams
Chief of Police, Randal Beach
Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
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 Isaiah Scipio called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council Member Floyd Rogers gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SCIPIO:

Mayor Scipio wished everyone a Happy New Year, and expressed gratitude to the citizens, staff, and City Council.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Tim O'Briant reported on the following items to the Mayor, Council, and Public.

- Audit Updates- Mr. O'Briant informed Council that the accountants have been at City Hall, and auditors should be underway by the end of January. The next audit will then begin, and the audits should be completed and up to date by June of 2026.
- Garbage Truck- Council was updated about repairs of a residential garbage truck. Mr. O'Briant stated many thanks to the City of Easley for offering a truck and driver to assist the City of Pickens.

- Legislative Action Day and MEO Institute – Mr. O’Briant announced the upcoming Legislative Day as presented by the S.C. Municipal Association. (January 20 – 21) Also Council Members Rivers, Winter, and Wilson will be graduating from the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government, and Mayor Scipio will be graduating from the Advanced Institute of Government. Council members Adams and Baker will be attending the Institute of Government classes, and Council Member Floyd Rogers will continue attending the Advanced Institute.
- Budget Calendar- Council was provided with a budget calendar for the FY 2026 budget.

Council Member Allie Winter asked if there was further information regarding the S.C. Department of Transportation meeting. Staff clarified that S.C. DOT is working to have a February 25th meeting.

Council Member Jonathan Baker asked about the Finance Report that was in the agenda packet but is not on the agenda for discussion. Mayor Scipio stated this was for information only and would be open for discussion during the work session of 1/26/26.

Council Member Jonathan Baker asked about the procedure regarding “Council Comments” not covered on the December 8, 2025, agenda. Mr. Baker stated that Council did not have the opportunity to speak prior to adjourning and asked why the Council Comments are at the end of the meeting. Mayor Scipio stated he liked to provide Council the opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting in the event something happened during the meeting that Council would like to address prior to adjourning, and sometimes Council will request an item to be on the next agenda or work session. Mayor Scipio stated if the Comments were overlooked on December 8th, he would suggest more time for commenting during this business meeting.

Council Member Floyd Rogers asked the Administrator to verify that when he is reporting about the audits not being completed, it be made clear that this Council and this Administration had nothing to with the audits being incomplete or behind.

Mr. O’Briant stated that it is correct, this Council and this Administration are not at fault for the Audits being behind.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter to approve the minutes of 11/10/2025, December 8, 2025, and December 18, 2025. Motion was seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers and unanimously passed.

- November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting
- December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting
- December 18, 2025, Special called Meeting

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE:

Mayor Scipio opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tempore.

>>Council Member Floyd Rogers moved to nominate Council Member Allie Winter.
>>Council Member Jonathan Baker moved to nominate Council Member Cameron Rivers.
>>Council Member Ray Wilson moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter and unanimously passed. Nominations were closed with Council Member Allie Winter and Council Member Cameron Rivers being nominated to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

>>Mayor Scipio called for the vote on nominee Council Member Allie Winter. (Ms. Winter and Mr. Rivers did not participate in the vote) Council Member Floyd Rogers, Council Member Danny Adams, Council Member Ray Wilson, and Mayor Scipio voted in favor of Ms. Winter.
>>Mayor Scipio called for the vote on nominee Council Member Cameron Rivers. (Ms. Winter and Mr. Rivers did not participate in the vote) Council Member Jonathan Baker voted in favor of Mr. Rivers.

Mayor Scipio congratulated Ms. Winter, as she will serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore for a (2) year term. Mayor Scipio thanked Council Member Cameron Rivers for his service as Mayor Pro-Tem for the past (2) years.

APPROVAL OF THE 2026 CALENDAR:

Mr. Rivers requested clarification that the employee holidays were as posted in the calendar, and no further dates would be added. Mr. O'Briant stated that was correct.
>>Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers to approve the calendar/schedule for 2026. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF ON-CALL ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Mr. O'Briant stated the request for qualifications (RFQ) were sent out and the City received three proposals. Mr. Trey Adams, Public Works Director, stated he would recommend Five One, LLC. As many Council Members know, Cory Cox is the engineer with Five One and he was the former Public Works Director for the City of Pickens and is familiar with the system.

Mr. O'Briant stated this is to accept the proposal and a contract will be signed later. This is not for specific projects and would be as needed for certain engineering projects that require the expertise of an engineer. (stormwater reviews, grants, etc.)

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter to approve on call engineering services with Five One, LLC. Council Member Danny Adams seconded the motion.

During Council discussions, Council Member Jonathan Baker asked if Council would receive a copy of the contract. Mr. O'Briant stated the contract would be a separate issue this will be voting on excepting the qualifications from Five One, LLC. Mayor Scipio stated Council will receive a copy of the contract. Council Member Danny Adams asked if the City of Pickens had the maps and designs from the previous engineering group. It was clarified that the City is in possession of those maps. Council Member Floyd Rogers questioned the fact that Mr. Cox with Five One, LLC was a previous employee and the lead engineer for the City, therefore, this may need to be addressed by the City Attorney. Mr. Rogers stated this could potentially be a conflict or an ethical issue.

Administrator O'Briant stated he would view Mr. Cox experience as a positive but agreed this can be an issue the attorney can address.

Mayor Scipio asked Council if they would like to table this item.

>>Council Member Floyd Rogers made a motion to table this issue. Motion was seconded by Council Member Cameron Rivers and unanimously passed.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: discussion of employment, as it relates to the contract of the Administrator, and appointment of City Clerk and City Attorney as allowed by S.C. CODE OF LAWS, SECTION 30-4-70 (a) (1)

Mayor Scipio called for a motion to enter into executive session for the stated purposes.

Council Member Baker requested that it be stated who will be present in executive session. Mayor Scipio stated only Council Members will be present. Council may request that someone could be called in if Council has questions, otherwise, this will be Council only.

>>Council Member Allie Winter made the motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the contract of the Administrator, appointment of City Attorney and City Clerk. Motion was seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers and unanimously passed.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter, and unanimously passed to reconvene into Public Session.

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Appointment of City Attorney – Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers to extend the City Attorney’s contract for (1) year. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter. Council Members Winter, Rivers, Adams, Rogers, and Wilson voted in favor. Council member Baker abstained from the vote due to insufficient information. Motion carried.
- Contract of City Administrator- Motion was made by Council Member Johnathan Baker to extend the Administrator’s contract for (1) year and hold the pay grade as is. Motion was seconded by Council Member Cameron Rivers. Council Members Rivers and Baker voted in favor. Council Members Winter, Adams, Rogers, and Wilson opposed. Motion failed with a 4-2 vote.
Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers to extend the City Administrator’s contract for (2) years and hold the pay grade as is. Motion was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter. Council Members Winter, Adams, Rogers, and Wilson voted in favor. Council Members Rivers and Baker opposed. Motion carried with a 4-2 vote.
- City Clerk- Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams to appoint Donna Owen as the City Clerk. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson and unanimously passed.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Cameron Rivers – Mr. Rivers stated that he appreciated the last (2) years serving the City and Council as Mayor Pro-Tem, and further stated this was a great experience. Council thanked Mr. Rivers for serving a (2) year term in this capacity.

Council Member Jonathan Baker - Mr. Baker - requested to read a statement into the record. Mr. Baker read the following statement.

“Mr. Mayor, I need to place a procedural concern on the record regarding the executive session held on December 18, 2025.

“Immediately prior to entering executive session, I raised a Point of Order requesting that the presiding officer state the specific purpose of the executive session as closely as possible to a lawful exception. The stated purpose was overly vague, and I now have additional information related to that concern.”

“I also raised a Point of information requesting clarification as to who was expected to be present in executive session. Not all individuals who attended were clearly identified on the record, which raises concern as to whether executive session attendance was properly limited.”

“During that executive session, statements, allegations, and accusations were made directly against me that were criminal in nature, including claims of unlawful entry into a judge’s office and references to alleged video evidence, despite no law enforcement authority being present.”

“I object to council engaging in discussion, evaluation, or characterization of alleged criminal conduct. Council does not possess investigative or adjudicative authority in criminal matters, and such allegations must be addressed through proper lawful channels with full due process.”

“Executive session is not a forum for conducting what amounts to an informal hearing, presenting witnesses or witness statements, or making accusatory claims against a member.”

“Had this matter been handled through appropriate legal channels, I would not have needed to later provide verified proof and alibi of my whereabouts, which I did provide after the fact.”

“I am also concerned that inaccurate claims arising from this discussion are now being repeated publicly, including statements suggesting I am under investigation. I have confirmed directly that this is not the case.”

“I am placing this on the record to object to the process, to preserve my rights, and to state clearly that allegations of criminal conduct should not be discussed or implied by council outside of lawful procedures.”

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson, and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Donna Owen, City Clerk

Approved:


Mayor, Isalah Scipio