

City of Pickens
Regular Meeting
February 9, 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 February 5, 2026.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

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. Fire Chief Chris Elrod gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SCIPIO:

Mayor Scipio thanked staff and especially fire and police for taking diligent care of the citizens during the recent ice/snowstorms. The Mayor also expressed gratitude to the council members who volunteered at the shelter.

Mayor Scipio thanked Council Member Ray Wilson for spearheading the beautification project of the flower planters on Main Street.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION FOR PICKENS COUNTY DECA STUDENTS, ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS:

Council Member Allie Winter moved to approve the Proclamation for the Pickens County DECA students with their efforts for Alzheimer's Awareness. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson and unanimously passed.

Mayor Scipio presented a Proclamation to Caton Taso, a Junior at D.W. Daniel High School. Mr. Taso represents the Pickens County DECA Chapter.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

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

- Ice/snow – Mr. O’Briant reiterated what Mayor Scipio stated regarding the recent storms. Mr. O’Briant invited Council to join him and department heads in the morning (2/10/ 26) to discuss the storm event and after-action thoughts.
- Audit Updates- Mr. O’Briant updated Council that the audits are progressing and accountants and staff are still on track to complete as soon as possible.
- Public Parking – the parking lot beside Domino’s is being worked on with hopes of completion in the spring.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

(Typically-a work session item, on the agenda due to January cancellation)

Council went over several revenue and expense items and thanked Ms. Hess for adding the extra quarterly reports.

Mr. Rivers inquired about the enterprise expense. Ms. Hess stated those are public works and police only.

Council held discussions on why the city’s municipal fine revenue is far below the \$120,000 that was budgeted, with council members questioning whether low collections stem from limited police enforcement, the municipal judge’s discretion, or unrealistic revenue expectations. Staff explained that fine revenue is reduced significantly because the state and victim-advocate programs take substantial portions before the city receives its share. Council members agree that the issue should be discussed further with both the police chief and the municipal judge during a future work session. They also review overtime procedures—still requiring prior approval and sometimes offset by county reimbursements—Again, Council thanked staff for providing clear year-to-date information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Baker, and unanimously passed to approve the January 12, 2026, minutes Regular Meeting.

PRESENTATION FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ACTIVITY REGARDING NEW BUSINESSES:

Dave Michael, President of the Greater Chamber of Commerce came before Council and gave a presentation about the past and future of the Chamber and its impact on the community. Council also discussed the A-Tax funds that have been awarded from Pickens County.

DISCUSSION OF COURT STREET PARKING/TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY REGARDING COURTHOUSE PARKING:

Council has held many discussions as it relates to a request for assistance with parking on Court Street. Council discussed that they need to address all of the parking and not just in a particular area. Mayor Scipio stated for Council to express how they would like to address this, and the Attorney can provide an ordinance moving forward.

During discussion, Council Member Adams stated the property owners know how the parking is distributed with each building. Mr. Adams stated caution when you are making rules for one and not all. Mr. Adams stated the citizens are not utilizing the many parking areas that are already in existence. Mr. Baker stated caution about using Legacy Square because that lot does not belong to the City. Mr. Baker also stated the one-way street makes sense to him (Court Street). Council also discussed (2) hour parking on all streets. Council discussed Code Enforcement enforcing the (2) hour parking. Council held discussion as it relates to residential parking. Council also revisited AI/Camera to assist with enforcement. Staff was instructed to gather all relevant information, have the attorney present at the next meeting and finalize an ordinance or amend an existing ordinance. And solve the recurring parking issue near the courthouse. Also, look into the designated parking on the courthouse side. Implement two-hour parking. Council Members all stated they are ready to finalize this issue.

APPROVAL OF ON-CALL ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: (Tabled on 1/12/26

>>Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Danny Adams to remove this item from the table. Motion was unanimous.

Mr. O'Briant explained that the City has always had on call engineering and it was time to place this item out to bid. The prior engineering firm did not engage. Therefore, staff is recommending with (2) of the companies Five One and McAdams. This will eliminate any concerns about only having one company. As Council is aware, Five one, LLC is a former employee and designer of many of the City's infrastructure. The attorney has stated this is not a problem and having (2) firms will be a solution to any concern. Also (2) firms will be good as the City has different engineering needs. Mr. Baker also stated a need to know about baseline budgeting for engineering services.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers to approve both Five One, LLC and McAdams for on call engineering.

DISCUSSION/ACTION AS IT RELATES TO THE MECHANICAL ISSUES OF THE GARBAGE TRUCKS:

Public Works Director Trey Adams wrote a detailed memorandum and went over the details of the issue of the garbage truck maintenance, and the emergency need for this purchase. Mr. Adams stated one truck is under warranty, but this warranty is still being discussed and is not resolved. Finance Director Mandy Hess and Mr. Adams went over the finance options for this purchase. Ms. Hess stated she agrees the City needs a truck, but does not think the City should pay cash, and a finance option would be her recommendation. Once funds are released from the state, Council could look at a payoff. Ms. Hess reminded Council that staff has worked tirelessly to have reserve funds that meet requirements 24% and 16%. This is a best practice. Mr. Baker asked about the resale and also asked about outsourcing garbage pick-up. Mayor Scipio stated that outsourcing was tried one time but could certainly be revisited. Sanitation employees could be used for a stormwater department.

RECESS:

>>Council Member Allie Winter moved for a (5) minute recess. Council Member Floyd Rogers seconded the motion and was unanimously passed. (7:42 p.m.)

>>Motion to reconvene was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously passed. Council reconvened from recess at (7:48 p.m.)

Council continued discussion regarding the truck. Mr. Baker stated he would like to look at several options, including buying a cheaper truck. Council asked about the garbage days and to include Saturday as a possibility.

Mayor Scipio stated we do need to decide, and we can look at outsourcing during the budget meetings. Council Member Cameron Rivers discussed the interest rates and also questioned the funds in the Local Government Fund (LGIP). Mr. Rivers wanted it to be clear that it may be recommended that we not use the LGIP funds, but it is not mandatory that Council cannot use those funds. Mr. O'Briant stated that was correct. Mr. Baker inquired about the repair bill. Mr. Adams stated the PTO would be about \$8k but was not sure about the down time. Ms. Winter stated the City should repair the truck and purchase a new truck. Mr. Rogers also stated that the City had land that could be sold to help offset this cost.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter to lease/purchase the Peterbilt truck at \$341,000 and pay 7-year lease at \$4950.19 per month. Ms. Winter made this motion as it relates to the emergency procurement code. This contract is with NCL Government Capital. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ray Wilson. Mr. Rogers stated this can be paid off. Ms. Winter stated she would like to see the other truck repaired. Motion carried with all members voting in favor with the exception of Councilman Baker who opposed. Motion carried 6-1.

--Mr. Adams will email the warranty to Council.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Jonathan Baker- Mr. Baker request the following be read and placed on the record: *Just wanted to put it on the record again just for some clarification here to make sure you know it is on the record. Previously I've made some requests for some records and some information in reference to an executive session on December 18th, 2025. And I'll read a note from part of my request: as a council member, I'm requesting records and clarification regarding executive session on December 18th, 2025. All reports, injury information, or investigation related to this matter. This request is made in my capacity as a city council member seeking information necessary to fulfill my official duties. This request is not submitted as a formal FOIA request. Specifically, I wanted to point out the fact this request is not submitted as a formal FOIA request.*

So, I had some questions and one of a few of my responses I'll read. One of them was: 'Police investigative matters are generally not subject to FOIA unless...' This is not a FOIA request that I've made. And some of this information was then directed—mind you, this is my second request for the same information—because it was directed secondary again here. 'The police department can provide some information for some of these questions' was some of my responses. And then another response was: 'Please communicate with council colleagues for any communications that they may have shared.' And another response is: 'This is a council matter outside of my purview. Please address requests to mayor and council.' I have forwarded all of these questions and concerns over to all council members and the mayor, and I have not received any updated information.

Mayor Scipio stated he will email Mr. Baker and get back with him regarding this concern. Council Member Danny Adams stated he would be glad to talk to Mr. Baker anytime.

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 Danny Adams, and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:



Donna Owen, City Clerk



Mayor, Isaiah Scipio