

City of Pickens
Budget Work Session
April 13, 2026
4:00 a.m.

The Mayor and City Council convened at Pickens City Hall, 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens, S.C. for a Budget Work Session . Agendas were posted and sent to media on April 9, 2026.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff: Tim O'Briant, Administrator
Chief Beach, Police
Trey Adams, Public Works Director/Utility

(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 Budget Work Session to order and further gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Scipio asked for a special blessing for Council Member Danny Adams and his new marriage. Mayor Scipio also asked for prayers regarding the recent death of former fire Chief David Porter.

DISCUSSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01:

Administrator Tim O'Briant stated he has prepared some data based on the last budget work session. Mr. O'Briant went over the funds that are available from the SCRIA grant revenue within the current year. Mr. O'Briant stated Council could choose to do some of the proposed projects such as the SCADA improvements and the HVAC. Mr. O'Briant assured Council that he has placed the 3% COLA into the current budget.

- City received \$418,000 in unexpected revenue, prompting a positive budget amendment.
- Best practice is to recognize new funds in the fiscal year they are received.
- Previously Proposed Projects (from draft budget)
- SCADA system improvements — \$168,000
- Recreation Center HVAC and facility upgrades — \$250,000
- Fire station siting study — proposed for architectural renderings. \$50,000
- Fuel storage and dispensing tanks/pumps — \$75,000, intended to use surplus FEMA funds

Mr. O'Briant spoke about the realization of having new money in this year's budget and Council has listed many project that can be split between both budgets.

List of projects as discussed:

- Baseball field project
- Fire station siting study
- SCADA system improvements
- Fuel storage upgrades
- SCADA System Urgency
- Public Works and Utilities reported major issues with one water tank's SCADA component. Council tour revealed system is only partially installed; network connections were never completed.
- Completing SCADA upgrades identified as urgent.
- Determine which projects to prioritize.
- Restrooms at the amphitheater
- Purchasing property for parking and other needs

The Mayor stated it was time to decide whether to adopt the full package or defer some items to next year. It is up to Council to decide how they would like to spend the funds on the various projects.

Tim O'Briant also stated he feels it is the consensus of Council not to have a budget amendment and Council would like to see a COLA. That was confirmed.

>>Allie Winter made the motion to allocate funds for the Baseball field and fuel storage, but to wait on other projects. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jonathan Baker.

During discussion Mr. Baker asked about more specifics regarding the donor of the baseball field. Ms. Winter stated there is a list of donations, Lowes building supplies, and other equipment. Mr. Baker stated he just wanted to be clear on budget numbers and gave the example of the recent parking lot being over budget. Mr. O'Briant stated that all contracts and changes will come back to council, as budgeting is the best guess at the time, and projects can be over or under the budgeted amount. Cameron Rivers also stated that the Council does not have to spend any money at this time. It was clarified that it was true. Mr. Rivers also stated we have the option to pay for the new trash truck and get the restrooms needed at the amphitheater.

Mayor Scipio called for the motion.

>>Council Member Allie Winter, Council Member Cameron Rivers, and Mayor Scipio voted in of the motion. Council Member Floyd Rogers, Council Member Jonathan Baker, and Council Member Ray Wilson opposed. Motion failed. (Mr. Baker stated he was not opposed to those projects; he was not on council at the time of these discussions)

>>Council Member Ray Wilson moved to do the Fuel Storage and the Baseball field using the line-item funds from the Teen Canteen Budget. Council Member Allie Winter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor with the exception of Council Member Baker who opposed/abstained due to lack of information. Motion carried 5-1.

Council Member Allie Winter asked for clarification of the municipal Judges' mileage, and some line items in the police department, and the increase in cleaning fees. Finance Director Hess stated the line items are fixed and the cleaning fee is being done weekly instead of bi-weekly. Ms. Hess stated the Judges mileage last week was \$144.00.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Ray Wilson, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter and unanimously passed to begin a stipend for the Judges travel to \$150.00 per month and it can be brought back to Council if adjustments are needed.

Council Member Jonathan Baker would like to look at 1, 2, 2.5 and 3% COLA numbers. Council concurred.

>>Council Member Ray Wilson made the motion to proceed with expending \$50K for the rendering of a new fire station. Motion was seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers.

During discussion, Mr. Baker also wanted to consider other properties. It was confirmed the company would look at other property. Mr. O'Briant stated this would be a good use of extra FEMA funds. Mr. Rivers stated he does not see a reason to make this decision at this time, and this could be a work session item. Mr. Rogers believes that time is of the essence due to a senior member of the State House could help with funding, and that cannot happen until the City has renderings and cost analysis.

>>Mayor Scipio called for the vote. Mayor Scipio, Council Member Floyd Rogers, and Council Member Ray Wilson voted in favor. Council Member Allie Winter, Council Member Cameron Rivers, and Council Member Jonathan Baker opposed. Motion failed.

Presentation regarding water meters:

Public Works Director Trey Adams introduced Mr. Evan Landreth with Sensus Water Meters. Mr. Landreth briefed Council on the reputation and quality of the Sensus Water Meters. Council asked questions about the reading technology and issues as it relates to reading errors. Council also heard about the installation and training process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers and unanimously passed. City of Pickens stood adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Donna Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor, Isaiah Scipio