City of Pickens
Regular Council Meeting
October 12, 2026
6:00 PM

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

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff:

Meagan Nations, City Clerk/Human Resources Director
Randal Beach, Police Chief
Trey Adams, Public Works Director
Jonathan Morris, Recreation Director

(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 regular council meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mayor Scipio further gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Allie Winter made a motion to amend the agenda to add the following:

- Executive Session: Personnel – Section 30-4-70(A)(1): Public Works Department
- Executive Session: Contractual – Section 30-4-70(A)(2): Discussion of Proposed Sale on Moorefield Memorial Highway (Tax ID: 4181-2081-5542)

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ray Wilson and carried unanimously (7-0).

COMMENTS MAYOR SCIPIO:

The mayor thanked everyone in attendance and acknowledged the challenges the City has faced during the transition without a City Administrator and Finance Director.

The mayor recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month, honoring those who have lost their lives to breast cancer, celebrating survivors, and offering prayers and support to those currently

battling the disease. He also shared his personal experience with his wife's breast cancer journey and acknowledged the physical and emotional challenges of the disease.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:
Barbara Robinson- Ms. Robinson expressed her concerns regarding the proposed homeless shelter, questioning the organization's move-in timeline, nonprofit registration in South Carolina, and the oversight of its operations and funding. Ms. Robinson also raised concerns about background checks for residents, rehabilitation services, and the proximity of the proposed shelter to a nearby elementary school and surrounding businesses. She questioned the approval of the emergency shelter and its placement within the City limits, expressing opposition to the location and requesting that Council further investigate the matter.

Cheryl Smith- Ms. Smith share concerns regarding neighborhood safety, littering, and potential impacts on nearby residents related to the proposed homeless shelter. She expressed concerns about residents congregating near homes, observing neighbors, and maintaining cleanliness in the area.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:
- **September 15, 2026 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **September 28, 2026 - Regular Work Session**
- **October 5, 2026 – Special-Called Meeting**

>>>Motion was made by Councilmember Floyd Rogers seconded by Councilmember Ray Wilson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION 2026-R10 HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CRUZ ELLENBURG
The mayor recognized the life and memory of Cruz Ellenburg, a Pickens High School student who passed away at a young age. He spoke about the impact Cruz had on the community, extended condolences to the Ellenburg family, and noted the support and recognition Cruz received from the community, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina. The mayor presented a city proclamation honoring Cruz's life and memory.

>>>Motion was made by Councilmember Danny Adams to approve the presented Proclamation. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Allie Winter and carried unanimously (7-0).

REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,000 FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL PICKENS APPALACHIAN FOLK FESTIVAL
>>>Councilmember Allie Winter made a motion to discuss the request for funding in the amount of $5,000 for the 4th Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Danny Adams. Discussion included:

- Council discussed the funding request for the 4th Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival, including the requested $5,000 in funding. Council members expressed concerns regarding the festival being held outside the city limits at Hagood Mill and how

the change in location could impact downtown businesses that benefit from events held within the city. Questions were also raised about the appropriate use of hospitality tax funds, the return on investment for the City, and whether Pickens County had been approached for additional financial support.

- Bryan Owen explained that moving the event to Hagood Mill provided additional space for growth and opportunities to showcase Appalachian culture through demonstrations, historic buildings, blacksmithing, pottery, woodworking, and other activities. They reported an increase in attendance from approximately 1,200 at the first festival to nearly 3,600 the previous year. Additional tourism data from Placer.ai was shared, showing visitor activity at local businesses following the event, as well as attendees traveling from outside the area, including Florida, North Carolina, and Alabama. Discussion also included sponsorship opportunities, vendor fees, advertising, and volunteer support.
- Council discussed the possibility of providing sponsorship funding rather than the full requested amount and encouraged festival representatives to seek additional support from Pickens County.

>>>After more discussion, Councilmember Allie Winter made an amended motion to approve funding for the 4th Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival as a sponsor in the amount of $1,500.00. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cameron Rivers and carried (6-1), with Councilmember Ray Wilson opposed.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Motion to enter in executive session for the following items:

1. Personnel-Section 30-4-70(A)(1):
    a. Public Works Department

2. Personnel-Section 30-4-70(A)(1):
    a. Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee, or an appointment to a public body regarding the Finance Department

3. Contractual-Section 30-4-70(A)(2):
    a. Discussion of Proposed Sale on Moorefield Memorial Highway (Tax ID: 4181-2081-5542

>>>Councilmember Floyd Rogers moved to convene into executive session for the stated purposes. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Jonathan Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilmember Danny Adams to reconvene into Public Session, seconded by Councilmember Ray Wilson and unanimously passed.

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Personnel-Section 30-4-70(A)(1):
    a. Public Works Department – **No Action Taken.**

2. Personnel-Section 30-4-70(A)(1):
    a. Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee, or an appointment to a public body regarding the Finance Department – **No Action Taken.**

3. Contractual-Section 30-4-70(A)(2):
    a. Discussion of Proposed Sale on Moorefield Memorial Highway (Tax ID: 4181-2081-5542 – **No Action Taken.**

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Allie Winter- Councilmember Allie Winter provided clarification regarding the homeless shelter situation and its zoning classification, explaining that, at this time, there are no actions that Council or any of the City's boards can take while the matter is pending a merits hearing. The hearing will allow the City's legal representation and the opposing legal representation to meet and further address the matter. The Council member acknowledged the community's concerns and the many valid questions surrounding the situation, expressing understanding of the community's frustration and asking for patience as the legal process moves forward. They also clarified that these comments reflected their current understanding of the situation and were not intended to provide any additional legal information.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilmember Danny Adams, seconded by Councilmember Ray Wilson and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Meagan Nations
City Clerk/Human Resources Director

Approved:

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Mayor, Isaiah Scipio