

Pickens County Council Worksession

January 21, 2025

6:30 p.m.

County Council met in a worksession, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Alex Saitta presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on January 16, 2025.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the work session of January 21, 2025, to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilor Claiborne Linvill led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

Chairman Alex Saitta stated we will be going through the Organizational Rules to make any changes Council seems necessary.

The Clerk to Council presented grammatical errors that she had found within the rules, and also stated that she met with the Administrator and Legal Counsel, to go over Council Rules.

Council made the following changes to their rules:

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to change Rule 2.1 (a), in the last sentence, to say “Any vacancy in the Chair shall be filled by the assumed Vice Chair for the unexpired portion of the term.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to change Rule 2.1 (b), in the last sentence, to say “Any vacancy in the Vice Chair shall be filled by the assumed Vice Chair Pro-Tem for the unexpired portion of the term.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilor Linvill made a motion to remove from Rule 2.3, “provided however that Council may delegate this authority to the Chair and/or County Administrator.” Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to change Rule 4.1, to say, “The Council shall hold a regular meeting at least once each month in accordance with the schedule adopted by Council. Special meetings, or work sessions, may be called by the Chair, acting Chair, or majority of the Council, but they shall not be held unless all members are notified at least 24 hours in advance of such meeting. A majority of the members of Council shall constitute a quorum.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to add “Councilor” to Section 4.4 (b) and (c). Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to update Section 4.4 (d) to read, “Requests to be heard: Should any person, group or organization request to be heard upon any matter at any meeting of Council, they should request the Clerk to Council to place the matter on the agenda for the meeting by 12:00 Noon at least nine (9) days prior to the day of the meeting, upon placement of this item on the agenda by the Chairman. This requirement may be waived only by unanimous consent of all members present in cases of great urgency. The matter shall be presented in writing and every member of Council provided with a copy prior to the commencement of the meeting.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to update Section 4.4 (f) to read, “Council to conduct a public forum: The Council will host a public forum during the first regularly scheduled meeting of the month. Public Forum will be limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair. Also, the entire public forum will not exceed 30 minutes, unless extended in the discretion of the Chair. Further, Paragraph E of this section shall not be construed to prevent any citizen from speaking freely during his/her allotted 3 minutes.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion for the first sentence in Section 5.7, Public Hearings, to read: Public hearings, upon giving fifteen (15) days’ notice of the time and place of such hearing which shall be published in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the County and on relevant County Social Media pages, shall be held after second reading, but not prior to first reading of Council action to.” Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to add, “Must be, or must have been, a resident of Pickens County.” in Rule 5.9, #3. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to remove the last sentence in Section 5.12. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to update Rule 6.1 to read, “The Council may have special committees which may be appointed from time to time by the Chair with the consent of one half (1/2) of the additional members of the Council. Each standing committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Council. Each Committee shall elect its own Chair.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to remove the last sentence in Rule 6.3. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

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- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to remove “standing” in the second sentence of Rule 6.4. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to update Rule 7.1(a) to read: “Any individual desiring to apply for appointment, or reappointment, to a county board or commission shall contact the Clerk to Council for an application or can apply online through the County website. The Clerk to Council will retain all such applications for consideration of Council as vacancies occur on boards and commissions.” Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to add “Any Adult resident of Pickens County...” to the first sentence in Section 7.1(b). Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

EMERGENCY RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Chairman Saitta stated Council will review three applications this evening.

Pickens Senior Center

Chairman Saitta gave Council a brief overview of the requests from the Pickens Senior Center. He stated this application was in the 2024 requests, but the committee did not recommend funding due to lack of information. The clerk reached out to the Senior Center to gather more information.

- After discussion between Council, Chairman Saitta made a motion to fund the Pickens Senior Center at \$25,000 from District 3 Recreation Funding. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

City of Pickens

Chairman Saitta stated this application will be referred to the Recreation Committee, to include in the 2025 Recreation Funding Applications for Council to review later this year.

Clemson Child Development Center

Councilor Claiborne Linvill reviewed the application request with Council in detail. Staff, Council and the Director of the Clemson Child Development Center briefed Council on the application.

- Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to fund this grant request from District 1 Recreation Funding. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta.
 - Discussion on being a private school
 - Discussion on the application
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion failed (1-5), with Councilor Claiborne Linvill in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Saitta further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

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- Boards and Commissions Applications
 - Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Boards and Commissions Applications:
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to appoint the following citizens to the following boards. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Name	Board	Seat
Jan Petersen	Assessment and Appeals	n/a
Kary Kern	Public Service Commission	District 1
Giles Blumer	Recreation Funding Advisory Board	District 4
Roger Owens	Recreation Funding Advisory Board	District 5
Gary Stancell	Six Mile Rural Water	n/a

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to nominate Luke Cambell to the Bethlehem Roanoke Water Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis. The motion passed (5-1), with Councilor Claiborne Linvill opposed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Vice Chairman Chris Lollis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council