



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL RETREAT

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg.
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC
29936

Thursday, November 20, 2025
Minutes

Officials Present: Vice Chairman Joey Rowell, Councilman Chris VanGeison and Councilman Gene Ceccarelli
Absent: Chairman John Kemp and Councilman Joseph Arzillo,

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, Kimberly Burgess, Lisa Wagner, James Iwanicki, Chief Russell Wells, Leonard Sansone and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Call to Order of the Jasper County Council Retreat:

The meeting was brought to order. The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was listed on the agenda document as follows: In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified.

Mr. Fulghum opened the retreat with a discussion on strategic planning. Strategic planning was discussed as a work plan for the county to provide a vision and mission statement, goals, with a focus on organizational efforts, and guide decision-making. The County's Projects and Comprehensive Plan was discussed. The proposal to update the Comprehensive Plan in the future was also discussed. A quarterly review of current the Budget was discussed and presented. As of the quarterly financial statement of 09.30.2025 the revenues, expenditures, transparency, and software upgrades were discussed. Revenues including a discussion of upcoming fiscal budget was discussed between Council and Staff.

The Engineering and Capital Improvement Projects were also discussed and reviewed. The active projects including 252 Russell St. The new IT building, located at 252 Russell Street, was noted had been completed under budget. The architectural phase of the Coosawhatchie Fire Station and the Tillman Fire Station replacement were also discussed. The acquisition of new dump trucks and roll off trucks for the Engineering Division to handle solid waste internally was also discussed for operational efficiency. A proposal was made to create an as needed service contract for trades like plumbing and carpentry for projects up to \$25,000 to bypass lengthy formal bidding processes for minor repairs. The Council also discussed using pre-engineered metal buildings such as steel structures for future firehouses and community centers to reduce cost as significantly compared to traditional block construction. The County grants were discussed in areas such as the Airport, Public Safety and Infrastructure.

The following department updates were provided for Airport Operations, Planning and Building Services, Parks and Recreation, Emergency Services, IT and GIS:

Airport Operations were discussed regarding revenue growth, strategic goals and exploring becoming a reliever airport to capture more general aviation traffic.

Planning and Building Services were discussed regarding the Euhaw Overlay District, residential development and the Abbey Glen drainage.

Parks and Recreation were discussed regarding facility improvements such as scoreboards, fencing, and floating docks at Sergeant Jasper park. Community programs were discussed, along with the disc golf course at Sergeant Jasper Park.

Emergency Services was discussed in relation to fleet updates. The arrival of the new fire engines that have been received was noted. A public safety shelter was discussed with plans that are under way to use Polaris tech as a public safety shelter for Jasper County.

Informational Technology (IT) and the GIS system were discussed in relation to infrastructure upgrades to the county e-mail server being 98% complete. The GIS server update was expected by December. Plans were moving forward to digitize records for HR and other departments to save physical storage space.

Council members expressed appreciation for staff's hard work and noted the unprecedented growth that was facing Jasper County, and how that would be a focus in the future. It was mentioned that an upcoming focus would be on the upcoming January budget process and the goal of potentially reducing millage following reassessments. The Council Retreat adjourned.

For more information on this meeting, please visit our YouTube Channel for the video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA. Closed captions are also available for all of our County Council videos. Just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



Joseph Arzillo, Vice Chairman