



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP**  
**Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg**  
**358 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936**  
**Monday, May 12, 2025**  
**Minutes**

**Officials Present:** Chairman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Joey Rowell, Councilman Chris VanGeison and Councilman Joe Arzillo

**Staff Present:** County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, County Attorney David Tedder, Tisha Williams, Lisa Wagner, Chief Russell Wells, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham. Others Present: Brittany Ward

**1. Call to Order of the Jasper County Council Meeting by Chairman Kemp**

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order. The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting and the meeting agenda were posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the County Council Building at a publicly accessible place, on the county website, and a copy of the agenda was provided to the local news media and all person's or organizations requesting notification.*

The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell.

**Motion to approve the agenda:** Councilman VanGeison

**Second:** Councilman Rowell

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Code Enforcement:**

Brittany Ward of Finger, Melnick, Brooks & LaBruce was present to address this request. The Jasper County Council had retained Finger, Melnick, Brooks & LaBruce, to review and amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances to address concerns and provide code enforcement with the necessary authority to properly enforce the Code.

Ms. Ward provided a summary of actions and process timeline of actions for Council. The following provided a summary of the dates and actions associated with the Code amendments as follows:

- March 11, 2025: Special Counsel Representation Agreement executed.
- March 31, 2025: Summary of Code sections and associated penalties provided to Administration to review and discuss at follow up meeting
- April 10, 2025: Meeting held with Administration discussing the specific Code sections and receive direction on amendments to meet the needs and goal of the County.

- April 17, 2025: Meeting held with Administration and staff to discuss proposed penalty and enforcement amendments to the applicable Code sections.
- May 7, 2025: Meeting held with Administration and staff to discuss proposed Code amendments, administrative citations, additional penalties, and enforcement of Code.

She noted that the Code has been reviewed by attorneys and identified the sections that currently are, or should be in the future, enforced by Code Enforcement Officers or other authorized Officials. Following the two initial meetings with Administration and staff, the ordinance to establish an Administrative Citation, enforcement, and additional penalties to be incorporated throughout the Code was drafted. The draft Code amendments have been reviewed by the County Attorney and have been discussed line-by-line with amendments, she noted they would continue to be reviewed by attorneys and staff to confirm additional edits or terms that would not be needed. She mentioned that at this time it was necessary to receive feedback and direction from County Council before presenting an ordinance to amend the Code. She gave a summary of proposed code amendments relating to Administrative Citation, Enforcement and Penalties. She noted that the proposed amendment includes the establishment of an Administrative Citation in Chapter 1 of the Code. An Administrative Citation is a civil action (not criminal) that may be issued by Code Enforcement Officers and other authorized Officials to individuals that are determined to be in violation of specific Code sections. Chapter 1 has also been amended to include general penalties such as misdemeanors. Throughout the Code, the individual Chapters and Sections have been reviewed and amended to specifically establish (1) the applicability of an Administrative Citation; (2) the penalties and remedies available to the County during the enforcement process; and (3) the Officials authorized to enforce the Code. The Jasper County Code and the State Code have been reviewed and as a result sections of the Jasper County Code have been removed or amended to comply with the State Code.

#### ○ General Discussion

Councilman VanGeison noted that they had wrapped up the MOU with the Treasurer and that it was a good meeting with everyone in agreement. He noted that this was for the Treasurer and Administration.

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilman

**Second:** Councilman

**Vote:** Unanimous

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm\\_ggXCJIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA)

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
Wanda H. Giles, Clerk to Council

  
John A. Kemp, Chairman