



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Minutes

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Interim County Attorney Lawrence Flynn, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, Kimberly Burgess, Nicole Holt, Sheriff Chris Malphrus and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

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

Chairman Rowell 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.*

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified. During periods of review, discussion and/or presentations minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased. The recorded version is available online at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA. Closed captions are also available for all of our County Council videos.

Pledge to the Flag and Invocation:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Agenda Item:

1: Mr. Lawrence Flynn - Consideration of Emergency Ordinance # O-2026-04 Approving the Transfer of Custody, Management and Operation of the Jasper County Detention Center to the Jasper County Sheriff Pursuant to S.C. CODE § ANN. 24-5-12, and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Mr. Flynn was present to address and review the consideration of Emergency Ordinance # O-2026-04 Approving the Transfer of Custody, Management and Operation of the Jasper County Detention Center to the Jasper County Sheriff Pursuant to S.C. CODE § ANN. 24-5-12.

Mr. Flynn presented a transition ordinance to move Jasper County Detention Center operations under the authority of the Jasper County Sheriff. While originally planned as a standard ordinance or agreement, personnel changes at the detention center (the loss of the executive and assistant directors) necessitated an expedited emergency process. Under state law, an emergency ordinance requires a supermajority vote and remains in effect for 60 days. This 60-day window allows the county to proceed with the traditional three-reading ordinance process, with the first reading by title only scheduled for January 20th and subsequent readings in February. Council discussed that the Sheriff officially took over operations on Monday, January 12th, at 8:00 AM. To clarify the timeline, Mr. Flynn proposed adding "Subsection D" to Section 2 of the ordinance to formally ratify the takeover as of that specific date and time. In regards to the Budget it was discussed that the Detention center funds will remain in a separate line item from the general Sheriff's budget to ensure clear tracking of expenses. Sheriff Malphrus confirmed that personnel working in both capacities (deputy and detention) would have their time coded appropriately through the ADP system. The Sheriff reported that 15 applications were received within three days of the transition. All current detention staff were sworn in as sheriff's deputies on January 13th, though their duties remain limited by their specific certifications. The Sheriff noted that his team was currently prioritizing facility issues, such as hot water repairs, and is reviewing previously approved resolutions for funds that were never utilized. It was noted that while this meeting was strictly for the ordinance, a placeholder for an executive session has been set for the January 20th meeting to discuss further details regarding the transition.

Chairman Rowell asked if there was a motion to approve Emergency Ordinance # O-2026-04 Approving the Transfer of Custody, Management and Operation of the Jasper County Detention Center to the Jasper County Sheriff Pursuant to S.C. CODE § ANN. 24-5-12, and other matters related thereto, including the added ratification date given at the beginning of the meeting.

Motion to move this ordinance forward : Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Ceccarelli and seconded by Councilman Arzillo to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles, Clerk to Council



W.J. Rowell III, Chairman