JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Minutes

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Lisa Wagner, Chief Russell Wells, Jim Iwanicki, Nicole Holt, Courtney Thames and Videographer Jonathan Dunham. Others Present: Lawrence Flynn, Pope Flynn Group

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

The Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read 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.

- **Pledge to the Flag and Invocation**

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

- **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman VanGeison
Second: Councilman Rowell
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

- **FY2026 Budget**

Mr. Fulghum provided a recap of a few additional workshops that were planned. He passed out a copy of the 2020 Clemson Study Impact Analysis Report (which was a follow up to the 2006 Clemson Study). He also noted that this was a unique budget this year and discussed the reasons why it was unique to Jasper County. He then passed out the current schedule of council workshops. He noted that there was the workshop today and a one-hour workshop that was planned on 5/19 on the budget. He noted that they were planning to bring a budget to them on May 19th. He mentioned that proposers for funding requests, from the appointed Committee of Councilman Rowell and Councilman Arzillo Would be presented so Council could decide when and how they wanted to meet with the presenters.

Ms. Burgess Passed out the spreadsheet to council on what the presenters were requesting as well as what they have received last year from Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum reviewed where they currently were on the budget and talked about reallocation of the millage rates. He noted that Mr. Lawrence Flynn was there to discuss the allocation of the millage with Council. It was also noted that council had a number of Newly Appointed Constitutional Elected Officials that they may want to bring in and go over the request that they were making for the budget. Chairman Kemp noted that on the upcoming workshop listing that several of the topics needed to be postponed until the budget was finished.

Ms. Burgess noted that they had received all the Departments requests and noted that this was the 4th column over from the right under 2026 Department Requests. Ms. Burgess discussed the current value of a mill and the value of the mill from last year. She discussed the upcoming Fiscal Year in regard to both revenues and expenditures. She reviewed the information for the FY2025/2026 budget year and discussed the financial aspects of the budget.

Mr. Lawrence Flynn of the Pope Flynn Group discussed his presentation (Attachment "A") with Council covering the Bonds, Tax Millage and Plan of Finance. He discussed and reviewed the topics of:

- Revenue Debt
- General Obligation Debt
- Limitations on Property Taxes under Act 388 (S.C. Code 6-1-320)
- Debt Service Millage
- The Tax Year 2024 Millage
- Understanding Your Tax Levy
- Outstanding Debt (GO Bonds)
- Outstanding Debt (Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds)
- Sinking Fund Accumulation
- The Operating /Lookback Millage
- The Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Levy
- How to Calculate the Debt Limit
- Suggested Actions for Council: Pay Lease/IPRB obligations from operating tax levy - Issue short-term GOB (maturing in April 2026), - Proceeds used to (i) redeem balance of 2014 IPRB, which is approximately $1.34mm; and (ii) fund $5mm of necessary county projects.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Arzillo
Second: Councilman Rowell
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA .

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council

John A. Kemp
Chairman

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GROUP

Bonds, Tax Millage and Plan of Finance

Jasper County, South Carolina

May 7, 2025

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General Obligation Debt:

- General obligation debt is defined to mean "any indebtedness which shall be secured in whole or in part by a pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power."
  - May be issued for any corporate purpose.
  - General obligation bonds are typically used for "brick and mortar" projects, particularly where the project does not produce a stream of revenues to support revenue bonds.
  - General obligation bonds are typically repaid from *ad valorem* property taxes, which are exempt from limitations of Act 388.
  - Unless approved by referendum, all general obligation debt is subject to the County's debt limit: 8% of assessed value of all taxable property.

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Limitations on Property Taxes:

- Act 388 (S.C. Code 6-1-320)
  - Limits ability of local governments to increase operating millage rates to the level of CPI + population growth
  - Allows an additional "three-year lookback" to use millage increases that were allowed but not used in prior years
- Debt Service Millage
  - Imposed to pay debt service on general obligation bonds that have been issued
  - Only imposed up to amount needed to pay annual debt service
  - Inadvisable use such millage to make payments on debt other than general obligation bonds

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District's Tax Year 2024 Millage:

Type of Millage	Millage Levy	Estimated Collections*
Operating Millage	138	$43.75mm
Debt Millage	12	$ 3.80mm
Total Millage	150	$47.55mm

* Value of 1 Mill is currently estimated at $317,000

Understanding Your Tax Levy

- $100,000 Market Value / Capped Value of a Home
  - Constitutionally assessed at either 4% or 6% of appraised value
  - Assessed Value is either $4,000 or $6,000
  - Millage Rate – amount of taxes levied per thousand dollars of assessed value
  - 1 mil in this example equals either $4 or $6
  - 138 mils equals either $552 or $828
  - 150 mils equals either $600 or $900

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Outstanding Debt

GO Bonds

- *$5,415,000 GOB, Series 2021 (Courthouse/Airport) [Recently Redeemed]*
- *$1,308,200 GOB, Series 2023 (Marsh Cove Fire Station)*

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	$ 345,000	$ 238,787	$ 583,787
2026	180,000	224,987	404,987
2027	109,906	217,787	327,693
2028	105,953	213,540	319,493
2029	107,036	209,457	316,493
2030-2034	607,805	908,360	1,516,165
2035-2039	1,836,177	500,513	2,336,690
2040-2044	2,265,811	216,372	2,482,183
2045-2049	297,885	80,580	378,465
2050-2053	277,627	25,145	302,772
Total	$ 6,133,200	$ 2,835,528	$ 8,968,728

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Outstanding Debt

Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds

- *$5,540,000 IPRB, Series 2021A/B*
- *$2,255,000 IPRB, Series 2014 (Equipment) [Planned for Redemption]*
- *$5,000,000 IPRB, Series 2022 (Airport)*
- *$8,290,000 IPRB, Series 2017*

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	$ 1,114,834	$ 492,485	$ 1,607,319
2026	1,010,834	449,886	1,460,720
2027	882,013	413,306	1,295,319
2028	918,378	381,991	1,300,369
2029	949,934	349,385	1,299,319
2030-2034	5,058,295	1,191,739	6,250,034
2035-2039	2,890,000	272,074	3,162,074
Total	$ 12,824,288	$ 3,550,866	$ 16,375,154

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Sinking Fund Accumulation:

Aggregate Debt Service - GOBs and IPRBs

FY*	GOBs**	GOB Millage	IPRBs***	IPRB Millage	Total Millage	Total	Annual Levy****	Balance
2026	$ 405,000	1.31	$ 1,461,000	4.71	6.02	$ 1,866,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 1,934,000
2027	$ 328,000	1.06	$ 1,295,000	4.18	5.24	$ 1,623,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 2,177,000
2028	$ 319,000	1.03	$ 1,300,000	4.19	5.22	$ 1,619,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 2,181,000
2029	$ 316,000	1.02	$ 1,299,000	4.19	5.21	$ 1,615,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 2,185,000

* Only showing 4 years
** GOB, Series 2021 recently redeemed from sinking fund balance
*** 2014 IPRB to be redeemed from sinking fund balance
**** 12 Mils @ $317,000

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Sinking Fund Accumulation:

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS	LESS: AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN DEBT SERVICE FUNDS
2015	$ 4,611,277	$ 768,263
2016	5,117,851	1,043,165
2017	5,338,862	1,526,975
2018	5,632,431	1,754,785
2019	5,602,431	2,196,091
2020	6,744,811	2,704,529
2021	6,570,200	3,872,008
2022	6,592,380	4,616,469
2023	6,428,200	5,498,018
2024	6,133,200	6,994,696

Current balance: **$4,696,702**, which incorporates redemption of 2021 GOBs.

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Operating/Lookback Millage:

Jasper County, SC - Millage Calculator

Tax Year	*Millage Rate*	*Millage Rate Increase*	*CPI*	*% Population Growth*	*Allowable Annual Percentage Increase of Millage Rate*	*Maximum Millage*	*Millage Available*
TY 22-23	140.00	0.00	4.70%	4.30%	9.00%		
TY 23-24	140.00	0.00	8.00%	5.20%	13.20%		
TY 24-25	138.00	-2.00	4.12%	4.87%	8.99%		
TY 25-26	0.00	0.00	2.95%	5.87%	8.82%	203.95	**65.95**

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Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Levy:

Type of Millage	FY 2025 Millage	FY 2026 Millage*
Debt Service Millage (GO Bonds)	1.4	5.0
Debt Service Millage (IPRB)	4.8	-
Debt Service Millage (Excess)	5.8	
Total Operating Millage	12.0	5.0
Standard O&M Operating Millage	138.0	138.0
IPRB/Excess Operating Millage	-	7.0
Total Operating Millage	**138.0**	**145.0**
TOTAL MILLAGE	**150.0**	**150.0**

1.4
3.6
4.8
2.2

* *Assumes a new GOB, Series 2025 (~$6.5mm)*

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Debt Limit – How to Calculate:

Fiscal Year	Tax Year	Total AV*
23-2024	2024	$291,958,348

$291,958,348 x 0.08 = $23,356,668 of Debt Limit

$1,308,200 in GO Bonds are outstanding, thus $22,048,468 of capacity remains

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Suggested Actions

- Pay Lease/IPRB obligations from operating tax levy
- Issue short-term GOB (maturing in April 2026), Series 2025 to wash out balance of sinking fund ($4.7mm), and maintain some debt service levy (5 mills)
- Proceeds used to (i) redeem balance of 2014 IPRB, which is approximately $1.34mm; and (ii) fund $5mm of necessary county projects