



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
With the Airport Commission
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Minutes

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Leonard Sansone, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

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 Baylor O'Cain.

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Mr. Fulghum gave an overview as to where they were. He noted that a new council member, Mr. Ceccarelli, was now on board and that he had been reviewing years of airport history to prepare for current discussions. He also noted that policy that the Council had deferred Resolution # R-2025-47 to discuss at this workshop. Mr. Fulghum noted that Mr. Dean had a response to the proposed resolution which he read or the record discussing some of the following information points such as FAA Mandates, Reversionary Provisions; Hangar Ownership: Counter Lease Terms and similar issues.

Council members expressed concern that current lease payments were insufficient to cover airport expenses such as grass cutting, insurance, and maintenance. The airport budget was discussed, and council members emphasized their obligation to ensure the airport becomes more self-sufficient and fairer to the county's residents. Concerns were raised regarding the ethics of the Airport Commission which are composed largely of hangar owners advising the Council on lease terms that directly benefit them. After some discussion, the Council and Commission agreed to draft three formal questions to be sent to the FAA to get a "bright line" written response regarding reversionary mandates and lease renewal legality.

The County staff will provide the current lease ordinances and Resolution R2025-47 in Word format to the Airport Commission. The Commission will make "red line" adjustments to propose terms they find acceptable. The Airport Commission would be providing the Council with a list of rental rates they believe are fair and comparable to regional standards. The Council indicated a need to "tidy up" existing and expired contracts, possibly by reviewing them in small batches.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Ceccarelli

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



Chairman, Jasper County Council