



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 Third Ave.

Ridgeland, SC. 29936

Monday, October 6, 2025

Minutes

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

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

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 led by the Chairman and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell.

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items:

Approval of Consent Agenda passes all Consent Agenda Items. Consent Agenda Items are not considered separately unless any Councilmember so requests. In the event of such a request the item is placed at the end of the Public Hearings, Ordinances and Action Items.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM:

Approval of the Minutes of 05.19.2025; 05.28.2025; 06.02.2025; 06.04.2025; 06.09.2025; 06.11.2025 and 06.12.2025

This was the end of the Consent Agenda Items.

4. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

Chairman Kemp and Council discussed the addition of adding the Airport and Personnel under the Executive Session.

Motion to approve with an addendum to add the Airport and Personnel to the Executive Session:

Councilman Ceccarelli

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

PRESENTATION:

5. **Kiwanis Club** – John Costas, President of Hardeeville Jasper County Kiwanis Club

President John Costas mentioned that was the President of Hardeeville Jasper County Kiwanis Club. He mentioned that there were 12 clubs in between Charleston and Hilton Head. He introduced the newly formed local chapter, which focuses on children and communities along with youth leadership development. They focus on areas such as childhood health, nutrition, education, literacy, sponsor sports leagues and raising funds for pediatric research. Additionally, they donate books, host reading programs, build little free libraries and tutoring students. Their community service includes acts such as collecting supplies for homeless shelters, partner with food banks and build playgrounds. They coordinate local clean ups, plant trees, and establish community gardens. He noted a successful fundraiser for the Agape Family Life Center and invited the council to assist in expanding the club's presence in Ridgeland.

PROCLAMATION:

6. **Chief Russell Wells** – Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week™, Proclaiming October 5–11, 2025, is "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

Chief Wells presented a proclamation for Fire Prevention Week (October 5–11, 2025), themed "Charge into Fire Safety". The focus is on the safe use and recycling of lithium-ion batteries. Council members discussed the need for better public education on battery disposal to prevent vehicle and facility fires.

7. CHAIRMAN KEMP'S COMMENTS: Chairman Kemp noted that this was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and mentioned some of Council were wearing pink to show their support. He discussed the need for Awareness and mentioned that there were free Mammograms provided from different agencies.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

8. Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance Number #08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:00PM start time on the Sign-In Sheet on the Minutes - 10.06.2025

Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Anthony Cresselli from Hardeeville expressed his discontent with the operations of the Finance Dept. and Finances of the County.

RESOLUTIONS

9. Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-53](#) Resolution of Jasper County Council to Approve the Procurement of Body Worn Cameras and Tasers for the Jasper County Detention Center through a Purchasing Cooperative with Omnia Partners.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the above request. A proposal to was made to procure 35 units for the Detention Center payable over five years. Council members questioned the quantity since currently they only have 18 employees. Councilman Rowell and Council discussed the potential to repurpose 40 surplus tasers that the Sheriff's Office currently had.

Motion to table till the next meeting: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

10. Kimberly Burgess – [Public Hearing](#) and [2nd Reading](#) of Ordinance [#O-2025-28](#) of Jasper County Council to Amend Jasper County Ordinance O-2024-13, the Fiscal Year 2025 Jasper County Budget, to Provide for Amendments to the Budget and to Carryover Approved Lapsing Funds to Fiscal Year 2026; to Amend Jasper County Ordinance O-2025-14, the Fiscal Year 2026 Jasper County Budget, to Provide for amendments to the Budget Resulting From the Carryover of Approved Lapsing Funds From Fiscal Year 2025; to Amend Certain Revenue Items; to Incorporate the Reclassification of Certain Line Items, to Amend for Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures, the Inclusion of Additional Appropriations, and Matters Related Thereto. (*1st reading 09.15.2025*)

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of this ordinance to amend Jasper County Ordinance O-2024-13, the FY 2025 Jasper County Budget, to provide for amendments to the Budget and to Carryover Approved Lapsing Funds to FY 2026; to amend Jasper County Ordinance Number O-2025-14, the FY 2026 Jasper County Budget, to provide for amendments to the Budget resulting from the Carryover of Approved Lapsing Funds from Fiscal Year 2025; to amend certain revenue items; to incorporate the reclassification of certain line items, to amend for Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures, and the inclusion of additional appropriations. The budget amendments were discussed, the lapsing funds carryover for FY2026 and the reclassification of some line items withing the budget. The carryover of the 127,000 for the parking lot and paving, and other carryover items were discussed. The public hearing on this item was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

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Motion to approve with carrying over the \$127,000 for the parking lot and paving plus the \$1,060,400 carryover with the removal of the 3 other items discussed from the carryover items until they get to the third reading.: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Ceccarelli

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

11. Chief Wells – Approval and Acceptance of the Medical Control Physician Contract Renewal for Emergency Medical Services provision as required by statute.

Chief Wells reviewed this request with Council for consideration of the acceptance and approval of the Medical Control Physician Contract Renewal for Emergency Medical Services provision as required. He noted that this was for the Med Control Physician who administers the overseeing of the medical work they do. He noted that she does provide of training to them at their monthly training sessions, and that this was an annual contract.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

12. Kimberly Burgess and Chief Wells - Consideration and Acceptance of Proposal for the Replacement of Garage Doors at Fire Station #30 located at 1511 Grays Highway.

Ms. Burgess and Chief Wells were present to review, address and discuss this request. Ms. Burgess noted that Jasper County had advertised for the supply and installation of three (30) commercial-grade garage doors with automatic openers with a bid due of Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The scope of work provided for a turnkey delivery which required that the project must be delivered as a turnkey installation, fully operational and accepted by Jasper County upon completion. Two bids were received timely. However, only Contract Building Systems, LLC, met the turnkey delivery requirement. Staff recommend that the Council accept the bid submitted Contract Building Systems, LLC for replacement of three (3) garage doors at Jasper County Fire Station #30, 1511 Grays Hwy., Ridgeland, SC, and to authorize the County Administrator to execute documents necessary for this project.

Motion to approve and authorize the Administrator to make the purchase: Councilman Ceccarelli

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

13. Administrator's Report: Mr. Fulghum reviewed the information from his report. There were no Action Items requiring a vote from the Council in the Administrator's Report

14. Councilmember Comments and Discussion: Councilmember Comments were given but there were no comments that required action. However, Vice Chairman Rowell made a statement for the record in the

minutes. Vice Chairman Rowell noted that he would like to make a statement for the record. He noted that, from the last Council Meeting to this one today (10.06.2025), some things had went out with him, dealing with his position on Council, his position at his job, and day-to-day matters. He said he would like to put one thing out there again for the record: that he had recused himself from any voting or engagement in any contractual agreements (Fire Service Contracts) that would affect any of that. He said he had not been in any of those meetings that any of the leadership had been to. He stated that he was trying to ensure that he stayed 100% above board in everything he does, both ethically and morally. He noted that something caught him off guard, and the community came to his rescue very quickly, quelling it. He said he would remain unapologetic regarding his fiscal responsibility for the County. He noted that anything they can do to bring tax relief to the citizens he is for. He noted that they were seeing a lot of projects, mainly down south, and there are a lot of things coming forward. There will be a lot of tax revenue, and anything that can bring tax relief to County Citizens is something Vice Chairman Rowell said he is 100% for. Just for the record, he noted that he is not, and will not be, part of those talks and/or agreements.

15. Executive Session SECTION 30-4-70.

(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body – Treasurer and County Attorney

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – Baske v Jasper County et. al; Tax Map # 087-00-04-001; Forensic Audit; FAA

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS. PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Return to Open Session

Motion to Return to Open Session: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

15.1 Action coming out of Executive Session:

There was no action that came out of Executive Session.

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video. During meetings and / or workshops periods of review, discussion, presentation, comments, and other sections the minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased. The recorded version is available online at our YouTube Channel video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmlqqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA. Closed captions are also available for all of our County Council videos. Just click the "CC" button to follow along.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

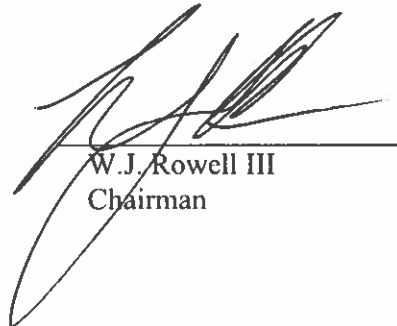
Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



W.J. Rowell III
Chairman