



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Thursday, October 30, 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, James Iwanicki, Chief Russell Wells, Jeanine Bostick 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 led by the Chairman and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Ceccarelli

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Workshop Topics:

o **Capital Improvement Plan and Budget**

Staff presented a comprehensive overview of the county's capital assets and immediate needs. They provided an asset overview, noting that Jasper County manages over 65 buildings totaling 271,000 square feet, and discussed the replacement value and total contents value. They discussed the Maintenance needs of the existing buildings over the next five years and what that would entail. Current Projects were discussed along with the budgeted repairs for the current year for parking lot improvements. Long-term identified facility needs across the County were also discussed. Staff recommended a project list prioritized by available funding, which was also discussed. Staff also discussed the airport terminal, acquiring property for Public Defender space, architectural services for the Coosawhatchie Community Center, and renovations to the main government building. The County Council discussed priorities and reached a general consensus on several key items regarding the Airport, Coosawhatchie Projects, A-Tax Projects, the main Government Building, and necessary Courtroom needs.

Departmental Space Reallocation for Voter Registration & Assessor were discussed. A significant portion of the workshop focused on resolving space issues for Voter Registration. Staff suggested moving Voter Registration to the Weathersby building (\$250,000 upfit). Jeanine Bostick, Director of Elections and Voter Registration, noted that the Weathersby space was too small for their 250+ machines and growing number of registered voter rolls. Council agreed to use funds to perform light improvements to the current Voter Registration office to make it more tenable. The Assessor's Office could eventually move to the Weathersby building once the library vacates, freeing up parking at the main government campus.

○ **General Discussion**

In regard to the Animal Shelter, it was noted that the transition to county employees under the Sheriff is ongoing. The county is working with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry to establish a donation fund. A virtual meeting will be scheduled to discuss potential litigation regarding Ultra-Processed Foods. It was noted that the Council must reconsider the recent budget amendment to hold a separate, legally required public hearing specifically for fee schedules as per South Carolina Code.

Upcoming Dates:

- Joint meeting with municipalities regarding shared services: December 3rd.
- County Christmas function: December 10th.
- Executive Session: November 4th at 3:00 PM.

○ **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the workshop adjourned.

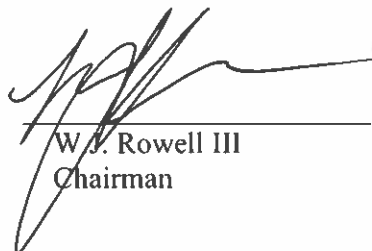
For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video. During meetings and / or workshops periods of review, discussion, presentation, comments, and other sections the minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased. The recorded version is available online at our YouTube Channel video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

Closed captions are also available for all of our County Council videos. Just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



W. J. Rowell III
Chairman