



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, October 1, 2025
Minutes

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, Kimberly Burgess, 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

Approval of Agenda:

It was stated that the Council would like to amend the agenda to add an executive session for a discussion on the County Attorney.

Motion to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss the County Attorney situation:

Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Workshop Topic: FY2025/FY2026 Budget Amendment

The budget workshop was held to evaluate financial adjustments transitioning from fiscal year 2025 into 2026. Staff detailed the process of managing lapsing funds. A significant portion of the discussion centered on carryover requests for committed projects. Council members debated the necessity of funding non-committed projects. Maintaining a healthy fund balance to protect the county's credit rating while navigating an upcoming property reassessment was discussed in detail.

Mr. Fulghum and Ms. Burgess were present to discuss this workshop topic. They discussed the budget workshop and the fact that it was being held to evaluate financial adjustments transitioning from fiscal year 2025 into 2026. Staff detailed the process of managing lapsing funds. Mr. Fulghum noted that the budget amendment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026 would be considered for a public hearing and second reading the following Monday, the 6th. Miss Burgess presented the details of the budget amendment, covering lapsing funds from FY25, and carryover, reclassification, and additions into FY26.

The staff discussed with Council what was meant by the terms Lapsing Funds and the Cash Carry Forward in regard to the Jasper County Budget. The FY 2025 Budget Amendments were discussed along with the lapsing funds and reduction to the budget through the cash carry forward line item to give the amended total for the FY 2025 budget. The discussion of Carryover Funds for both Committed and Non-Committed Funds was reviewed.

The Committed Projects' total amount was also reviewed and discussed as was the Non-Committed Projects' totals. The Reclassification, Additions and Cash Carry Forward for FY2026 were reviewed and discussed with Council. Chairman Kemp raised concerns regarding encumbrances on the budget performance reports. Miss Burgess confirmed that all encumbrances lapse and should be zeroed out on June 30th.

General Discussion: None

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 – (1) County Attorney

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Motion to return from Executive Session: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

There was no action coming out of Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

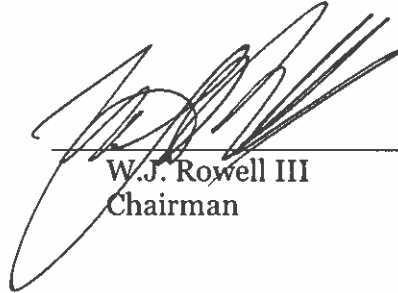
The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

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