



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, June 11, 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, Danny Lucas, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

The workshop was called to order at 10AM by Chairman Kemp. *The Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read as follows for the record. 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.*

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

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

3. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

Motion to approve: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

Jasper County School District Budget

Ms. Burgess noted that she had met Dr. Wack, and he said that their 3rd reading was taken off their agenda and it would not be until 06.23.2025. They said they could not take this meeting with Council until after June 23rd. Chairman Kemp noted that he wished they had still came to talk with Council since they had set aside this time for them. Mr. Tedder stated that they had put in a base budget for them for the millage at the current levels. He said that they do have the opportunity to amend the budget after June 30th and explained how that worked. He noted that the law was clear that Council sets the millage and the school board just has to work with what they are provided.

FY 2025-2026 Budget

Vice Chairman Rowell discussed the Discretionary Fund and its use. He also mentioned that they had discussed and needed a Deputy County Administrator for more of the day-to-day operations. He later noted that this would

probably be a 3rd quarter hire. He also noted that they wanted to look into the arrangements with the vehicles. Councilman VanGeison noted that he wanted the departments to look at their budgets to see what they could reduce in it to show a more accurate reflection of what they really needed. He noted that Council did not want to cut the wrong or necessary things that they may need. He also noted that he would like to add \$350,000.00 to the budget for a Forensic Audit. He noted that maybe down the road they could put money aside yearly and have a Forensic Audit every 10 years. Ms. Burgess discussed the Annual Financial Audit and a Forensic Audit and explained the differences in the two types of audits. Councilman VanGeison asked about the grant funds. She noted that the Annual Audit did include grants. Councilman Arzillo noted that he believed that there were places to cut money so it could be placed in an Emergency Fund. Mr. Fulghum noted that they would go through and find a couple of options for the \$350,000.00. Chairman Kemp noted that they wanted an independent person to do the Audit, like a wellness check of the audit. The Fire Department's budget was discussed, as was the lapsing funds. Council said they wanted to be able to see where the money goes to or moves to. Ms. Burges discussed the reprioritizing of funds and how the budget amendments worked. Council reviewed other items in the budget with staff, and how some things were arranged, and staff clarified those things. Mr. Fulghum noted that the School Board could be present between the 23rd and the 30th at Council's preference on the date.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

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.



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



John A. Kemp
Chairman