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Location: City of Hardeeville City Hall

Citizens may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting before the regular meeting starts on the Public Comments Sign in Sheet outside the Council Chambers Doors to address County Services and Operations. Presentations are limited to 3 minutes per person, and total input is limited to 30 minutes. Written comments must be submitted by 1PM on the meeting date by emailing comments@jaspercountysc.gov (Ordinance #08-17)

To participate in a **Public Hearing for a specific agenda item**, email written public comments to comments@jaspercountysc.gov by 1:00PM on Monday, November 17, 2025, or sign in on the colored Public Hearing Sign in Sheet outside the Council Chambers Doors before the meeting starts. Public Hearing comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.

Agenda support (e-packet) can be found at:

<https://www.jaspercountysc.gov/government/council/county-council-agendas-e-packets-and-minutes/>

For more information, call 843-717-3696. Instructions may also be found at the Jasper County website www.jaspercountysc.gov



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

City of Hardeeville City Hall
205 Main Street, Hardeeville, SC. 29927

Monday, November 17, 2025

AGENDA

6:00PM Council Meeting

➤ Please silence your phones during the Meeting

1. Call the Council Meeting to Order by Chairman Kemp

Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act: 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:

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

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.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Approval of the Minutes of 07.10.2025 and 07.14.2025

4. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

PRESENTATIONS:

5. **Andrew Fulghum** – Presentation of Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

6. **Cate Browne** - NorthPoint Development Update and Infrastructure Needs

CHAIRMAN KEMP'S COMMENTS:

Jasper County Council Agency Request

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

7. 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 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.

RESOLUTIONS

8. **Andrew Fulghum** – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-62](#) A Resolution of Jasper County, South Carolina, approving a settlement agreement in Civil Action No. 2023-CP-27-00445.

9. **Andrew Fulghum** – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-63](#) A Resolution of Jasper County, South Carolina, authorizing the County Administrator to enter into an agreement for legal services related to the Ridgeland Claude Dean Airport.

10. **Andrew Fulghum** – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-64](#) A Resolution of Jasper County, South Carolina, authorizing the County to retain legal counsel and approving a Representation Agreement for litigation relating to ultra-processed foods, and authorizing the County Administrator to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the County.

11. **Jim Iwanicki** – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-65](#) A Resolution of Jasper County, South Carolina, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hardeeville for improvements to US 278 between Dolnick Road and John Smith Road, and authorizing the County Administrator to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement on behalf of the County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

12. **Taylor Boykin** – **PUBLIC HEARING ONLY** of Ordinance [#O-2025-32](#) authorizing the execution and delivery of a special source revenue credit agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina and Palmetto Plastics Innovations LLC, a company also known as Project Pilgrimage, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will receive certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto. (*1st reading 10.20.2025*) (*Project Pilgrimage*)

13. **Lisa Wagner** – **Public Hearing** and Consideration of **2nd Reading** of Ordinance [#O-2025-35](#) to amend Article 12:1 of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, Off-Street Parking, to add parking requirements for shell buildings and residential uses, update the Off-Street Parking Design Standards diagram; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. (*1st Reading 11.03.2025*)

14. **Kimberly Burgess** – Consideration of the **1st Reading** of an Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not to Exceed \$150,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of Jasper County, South Carolina Pursuant to the Authority and Direction of the Favorable Results of the Referendum Conducted on November 5, 2024; to Prescribe the Purposes for which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended; to provide for the Payment Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

15. **Jeanine Bostick** – Consideration of a new position titled Voters Registration and Elections IT Systems Coordinator for the Voter Registration Department.

16. **Kimberly Burgess** – **Public Hearing for the Reconsidered Budget Ordinance (Cancelled)**

17. **Kimberly Burgess** – Consideration of the **1st Reading** of an Ordinance of Jasper County Council to Authorize and Ratify the Imposition of New Fees, and Matters Related Thereto.

Administrator's Report:

Councilmember Comments and Discussion:

18. 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 Position**; (2) **Personnel Reviews**

(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 – (1) **Forensic Audit**; (2) **ADP Software Upgrade**

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.**

19. Return to Open Session

20. Council Action to be taken on items as discussed in Executive Session

**Council may act on any item appearing on the agenda including items discussed in executive session.*

21. Adjournment:

Special Accommodations Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities, please contact the Jasper County ADA & Civil Rights Coordinator, **Tisha Williams** in person at 358 Third Avenue, Ridgeland, South Carolina, by telephone at **(843) 717-3690** or via email at jcadministrator@jaspercountysc.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



CITY OF HARDEEVILLE AND JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL JOING WORKSHOP

**Location: Hardeeville Recreation Center
285 John Smith Road, Hardeeville, SC. 29927**

**Thursday, July 10, 2025
Minutes**

Jasper County Officials Present: Chairman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Joey Rowell, and Councilman Joe Arzillo, County Administrator Mr. Fulghum and County Staff.

City of Hardeeville Officials Present: Mayor Harry Williams, Councilmember White, Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Guzman and Councilmember Meersman and City Staff

1. Call to Order of the City of Hardeeville and Jasper County Council Joint Workshop:

Mayor Harry Williams of the City of Hardeeville welcomed everyone to the meeting of Thursday, July 10, 2025, for the Joint Workshop with the City of Hardeeville and Jasper County being held at 285 John Smith Road, Hardeeville, SC. 29927.

Workshop Rules of Order: The meeting operated under reduced rules of order, allowing anyone to speak whenever they had something to say, provided the previous speaker had yielded the floor. Recognition by the Chair he noted, was not required to speak. Mayor Willams expressed hope that the meeting marked the beginning of a new day in Jasper County, where councils could come together regularly to discuss common challenges, goals, and solutions. The Chair stressed the importance of cooperation, communication, and respect, even when disagreeing. The opening remarks concluded with a quote from the movie *Casablanca*: "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship".

Jasper County Presentation:

a. Comprehensive Plan, Transitional Areas, Growth Strategy for Future Land Use

The presentation was introduced by Administrator Andy Fulghum. The presenter for the Jasper County presentation was Ms. Lisa Wagner, Director of Planning and Building Services for Jasper County. Ms. Wagner reviewed information for the presentation at this workshop. The following information was presented:

Comprehensive Plan Summary (Jasper's Journey):

- The plan was updated in 2018.
- **Community Principles included:** protecting and fostering the rural character of Jasper County; stewardship of historic, natural, and cultural resources; reducing litter and blight; supporting economic development (jobs, education, training); prioritizing maintenance of existing infrastructure; and embracing collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- The plan guides growth by focusing on development in places most suitable to serve new needs.

Future Land Use and Urban Transition Areas (UTAs):

- The Future Land Use Map highlighted urban transition areas (the darker yellow areas), which are unincorporated pockets partially or entirely surrounded by the municipality.
- **Policy Recommendation:** For new development, redevelopment, and rezonings within UTAs, the county recommends working with the adjacent municipality for annexation.
- **Recent Update Focus (2023–2024):** A five-year update focused on land use and community facilities, including reviewing land use regulations for the U-Haul Broad River Planning Area (which was under a moratorium).
- **Future Goal:** The county intends to develop a special area plan for the Levy area.

3. Discussion on Annexation, Growth, and Duplication of Services

The County promotes annexation by recommending that any party seeking rezoning, new development, or redevelopment in a UTA speak with the City of Hardyville's planning staff.

Topics of Concern:

- It is "imperative" to work closely to improve service delivery and prevent the existence of "donut holes" (pockets of county territory surrounded by the city).
- Duplication of services is expensive and inefficient. Current "donut holes" are significant, sometimes involving 200 and 300 homes.
- Confusion exists regarding boundaries for service delivery.

Policy Recommendations for Policy Makers (Councils):

- Policy makers need to develop clear policies regarding annexation, "donut holes," and shared services.
- It was suggested that one way to stop unwanted development outside the city is by maintaining the current zoning (e.g., Rural Preservation), preventing development that would require upzoning.
- Past practices in Jasper County sometimes utilized Rural Preservation as a "placeholder" zone to define an area but limit development until an annexation request was made.
- The County Administrator indicated a willingness to strengthen current policy and focus on unincorporated properties within the City's defined growth boundary. Staff may work on tightening transitional zoning and developing safeguards at the administrative level.
- A key suggestion was to eliminate "zone shopping" (where developers decline annexation to avoid city taxes) by requiring joint meetings of both councils to make decisions on annexation requests.

City of Hardeeville Presentation

a. Annexation and Growth Boundary Policy

The presenter for this presentation for the City of Hardeeville was Mr. Matt Davis. Mr. Davis reviewed information for the presentation at this workshop. The following information was presented:

Policy Background:

- Hardeeville adopted its growth and annexation policy in 2021, following its Comprehensive Plan adopted in July 2019.
- The policy seeks to avoid duplication of services, protect economic and environmental areas, and encourage cooperation.
- The growth boundary is defined as a "do not go beyond line," not a "develop to line," meaning areas within the boundary may never be annexed.

Growth Boundary and Annexation Status:

- The boundary is generally defined by the BJWSA canal (North), Highway 170 (East), the New River and 315 (West), and the Savannah Wildlife Refuge/US 17 (South).
- Since 2021, Hardeeville has annexed approximately 31 acres in total, with the Karrh Tract being the largest (about 80% of the total). Two annexations are currently under consideration.

Annexation Law (South Carolina):

- South Carolina state law allows only voluntary annexation. A property owner must make the request, typically via one of three methods (e.g., 100% owner petition or petition for portions).
- Legislation allowing municipalities or counties to involuntarily annex "donut holes" has not passed.

5. Next Steps: Developing Joint Policy on Annexation

Council discussed the path forward for creating a joint policy.

Agreed Actions and Next Steps:

1. **Staff Collaboration:** Staff (Hardeeville and Jasper County) will immediately collaborate on current annexation requests and development issues which about the city. Staff will work on strategies to tighten transitional zoning and policy safeguards.
2. **Joint Resolution:** The crucial first step is to draft and pass a Joint Resolution between Hardeeville and Jasper County, mirroring each other's language to ensure unity.
3. **Inclusion of Ridgeland:** Ridgeland should be invited to participate in the joint resolution process to establish a county-wide growth plan.
4. **Policy Development:** Staff should construct the resolution, incorporating input from both councils regarding necessary details, before bringing the resolution back for debate and passage.
5. **Utility Coordination:** Future joint policy meetings should include utility providers to ensure infrastructure readiness and appropriate timelines.

Discussion of Shared Emergency Services

The discussion focused on the best, most economical, and most efficient way to deliver emergency services. It was agreed that this is a critical topic, given that Jasper County is the fastest-growing county in the nation.

The scope was broadened from fire and EMS to include **all first responders**, specifically law enforcement (police and sheriff's office).

Proposed Process (Staff Data vs. Consultant):

- Council consensus shifted toward utilizing in-house expertise first.
- It was agreed that relying on department heads (Chiefs) to compile data first would be faster and more cost-effective than immediately hiring an expensive consultant.
- The department heads are the experts and know the needs of their services. A consultant might be needed later to analyze the collected data or mediate rough spots.

Required Actions for Department Heads:

- The Chiefs of all three entities (Hardyville, Jasper County, and Ridgeland) will be asked to meet.
- They should produce a joint report detailing areas of current cooperation (e.g., mutual aid) and areas for improvement, including discrepancies between urban and rural fire response.
- **Data Requirement:** The report should provide a "static picture" of current operations, including call volumes, types of calls, and spatial mapping of call volumes (hotspots). This data will help determine the best service delivery model and how shared services will "mesh" with demand.
- **Data Timeline:** The chiefs were directed to study call data covering a two-year time frame (Calendar Years 2023 and 2024), considering the rapid recent growth.

Next Step Timeline:

- The Chiefs are to meet for the first time within 30 days.
- They are to report back to their respective councils with a framework/report within 60 days.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Council members from both entities expressed optimism regarding the new era of collaboration.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn and was seconded.

Vote: All in favor said "I," and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

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.

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council

John A. Kemp
Chairman



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Monday, July 14, 2025
Minutes

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, James Iwanicki, Chief Russell Wells, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Note: The meeting had to be moved to the Mary Ellis Gordon Building because the County Council Chambers and Building did not have electricity, a working elevator, or air conditioning. The meeting start time was delayed 15 minutes to allow people to arrive to the new location.

I. Call to Order and Compliance

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kemp. The Clerk's Report of Compliance was read, confirming that notification of the meeting and agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the county council building, a publicly accessible place on the county website, and provided to local news media and requested parties, in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, Section 30-4-80D, as amended.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed, and an invocation was offered, asking for wisdom and guidance for decisions for the citizens of Jasper County.

II. Agenda Approval

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Workshop Topics: Roads

Mr. Tedder introduced the discussion on county roads, noting that the county road ordinance resulted from major revisions in 1998, 2002, and 2018-19. He noted that in addition to the County Road Ordinances the Attorney General's opinions lay out the constitutional basis for County and local governments to spend money on transportation projects like county roads. He mentioned that the primary rule is that public funds cannot be spent on private roads. This is a constitutional prohibition without exception, even during national emergencies or for public safety needs for ambulances/fire trucks. He noted that another Attorney General opinion provided how a County can accept a private road and make it a public road. In order to accept a private road, the county requires an irrevocable and clear dedication of the roadbed/right-of-way to the county, followed by a clear acceptance of the road by the county. He noted that this was a historical problem statewide. In 1998, under the old zoning ordinances, subdivisions were made where the road was supposed to be maintained by a private entity or there was an alleged dedication to the County. Lawsuits against

developers who were not maintaining the roads and had never set up a private property owners association, caused lawsuits to ensue. The County was held harmless because they were not public roads, under the definition of what a public road was. The County Council back then wanted to give certainty on things so the County Council created a road maintenance list in 1998, giving landowners until 2002 to provide deeds or evidence of county roads; otherwise, maintenance would stop. There were very few roads that were fixed under that system. Needless to say, over the next 20 years the Councils changed and there was mission creep again that led to sporadic maintenance of roads without a proper legal basis. Through a supplemental ordinance process, following lawsuits around 2015-16, it resulted in a master list created by Alliance Engineering who surveyed all roads in the County, noting county roads and other maintained roads that were not county roads. In an effort to provide additional information the following two roads were mentioned Rabbit Cleveland Road and DeLoss Point Road. It was noted that DeLoss Point Road was currently in litigation, but the County was not a party to the lawsuit. It was noted that the road has three portions, including a state-maintained paved section and two other sections. Our records show that sporadic maintenance has occurred on parts of DeLoss Point Road (from the end of the pavement end down to the railroad track), but staff confirmed the county has no right to maintain the east-west connector because there was never dedication to the County and nothing can be found in the minutes on this. For a private road to become a county road, 100% of the landowners must sign off, providing an irrevocable dedication of the right-of-way (requiring a survey), and the road must be brought up to county standards (e.g., proper width, surface structure, and drainage). Acceptance of roads and requirements were further discussed.

The discussion was held regarding using different colored road signs to visually differentiate between county, state, and private roads to better manage this system. Current sign colors were discussed and Mr. Iwanicki noted that they changed the Uniform Manual of Traffic of Control Devices to allow different colored signs about seven to eight years ago. The standard says that the local agency can determine the color, if that helps, but it has to be a countywide thing. It was suggested that green, blue or brown be used as the background color. In looking to give a rough estimate he noted that the two things would be just to change the color of the local road signs under Jasper County was approximately \$120,000; and the cost to replace signs on the private roads would be approximately \$100,000. The distinguishment of signs was further discussed to as to which signs belonged to the County, State or Private Roads in conjunction with a color system. Council requested that staff prepare information addressing the concerns and updating the ordinance to provide for sign colorization options.

IV. Workshop Topics: Records Retention

Kim Burgess presented the county's records retention ordinance, which is based on the South Carolina State Archives and History retention schedule. The State Archives she noted was in the process of updating their schedule, so the new schedule would not be until sometime in 2026. Council discussed issues and options such as offsite storage through an outside agency, archiving, retention, requirements, microfiche and scanning of documents. It was noted that the county was facing severe space constraints for hard copy documents

V. General Discussion and Strategic Planning

Council agreed on the need for future workshops to establish collective goals and strategic planning. It was noted that the Council maintains ad hoc committees, which can be formed by resolution, rather than standing committees, due to the compactness of the council. Council emphasized the need for deeper conversations and meetings with the school board members to collaborate with and address recent issues. As a part of their strategic planning, it was discussed that moving forward they need to work with the other elected officials and municipalities as part of their strategic plan. It was also noted that moving forward, policy writing is crucial for issues such as airport extension, budget process, and growth boundaries. The Chairman proposed initiating a proactive performance audit (a "health check") to identify system weak spots and structural issues, citing recent problems with the school board, Hampton, and Beaufort. Chairman Kemp and staff discussed this process, the need for an RFQ/RFP process to begin in September or October to avoid interfering with the current extensive annual financial audit and how this would work.

The discussion of the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) for the Airport for three areas of general spending, catering/catering receipts, and fuel purchases/sales were going to be audited. The Blue-Sky checking account of the Airport was also discussed. Council requested that the scope of the AUP be extended to cover multiple years, ideally from the start of the Blue-Sky checking account moving forward. Council requested that they be provide the Council with the materials requested for the AUP. Mr. Tedder noted that the Airport Commission currently serves in an advisory position to the administration, which then reports directly to the Council. It was noted that a resolution needed to be prepared to remove an Airport Commission member from Hardeeville who had missed at least three unexcused absences; and also, to replace the At-Large LCOG member. The request was made to ask the Administrator to present Council with a proposed RFP to provide a certain range of outlined audit services for consideration.

VI. Joint Services and IT Update

Chairman Kemp noted that a joint meeting was held on July 13th with Jasper, Ridgeland, and Hardeeville staff focusing on cooperation. The fire entities have 30 days to meet regarding consolidation. The managers of the three entities would be getting together regarding joint service proposal. The planning commissions were scheduled to meet together on August 6th. In regard to the IT outage, Mr. Tedder said he was told that a global Microsoft Outlook software problem occurred Thursday at 11:00. Efforts to restore email were wiped out Thursday night due to a massive electrical storm and power outage. He noted that IT staff continued working, and some emails were received by Sunday night/Monday morning.

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmlqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . There are also Closed Captions available for all of our County Council videos. Just click the "**CC**" button to follow along.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman VanGeison to adjourn and seconded by Councilman Rowell. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council

John A. Kemp
Chairman

AGENDA

ITEM # 5



Government Finance Officers Association
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

9/23/2025

Kimberly Burgess
Director of Administrative Services
Jasper County, South Carolina

Dear Kimberly:

Congratulations!

We are pleased to notify you that your annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 has met the requirements to be awarded GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations, again, for having satisfied the high standards of the program.

Your electronic award packet contains the following:

- **A "Summary of Grading" form and a confidential list of comments and suggestions for possible improvements.** We strongly encourage you to implement the recommended improvements in your next report. Certificate of Achievement Program policy requires that written responses to these comments and suggestions for improvement be included with your 2025 fiscal year end submission. If a comment is unclear or there appears to be a discrepancy, please contact the Technical Services Center at (312) 977-9700 and ask to speak with a Certificate of Achievement Program in-house reviewer.
- **Certificate of Achievement.** A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year. A current holder of a Certificate of Achievement may reproduce the Certificate in its immediately subsequent annual comprehensive financial report. Please refer to the instructions for reproducing your Certificate in your next report.
- **Award of Financial Reporting Achievement.** When GFOA awards a government the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, we also present an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) to the department identified in the application as primarily responsible for achievement of the Certificate.
- **Sample press release.** Attaining this award is a significant accomplishment. Attached is a sample news release that you may use to give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement.

In addition, award recipients will receive via mail either a plaque (if first-time recipients or if the government has received the Certificate ten times since it received its last plaque) or a brass medallion to affix to the plaque (if the government currently has a plaque with space to affix the medallion). Plaques and medallions will be mailed separately.

As an award-winning government, we would like to invite one or more appropriate members of the team that put together your annual comprehensive financial report to apply to join the Special Review Committee. As members of the Special Review Committee, peer reviewers get exposure to a variety of reports from around the country; gain insight into how to improve their own reports; achieve professional recognition; and provide valuable input that helps other local governments improve their reports. Please see our website for [information on completing an application](#).

Thank you for participating in and supporting the Certificate of Achievement Program. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact the Technical Services Center at (312) 977-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Mark Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services



The Government Finance Officers Association of
the United States and Canada

presents this

AWARD OF FINANCIAL REPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

to

Kimberly Burgess
Director of Administrative Services
Jasper County, South Carolina



The Award of Financial Reporting Achievement is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to the department or individual designated as instrumental in the government unit achieving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. A Certificate of Achievement is presented to those government units whose annual financial reports are judged to adhere to program standards and represents the highest award in government financial reporting.

Executive Director

Christopher P. Morill

Date: 9/23/2025