SPER COUNTY CAROLINA

JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg. 358 3rd Avenue, Ridgeland, SC 29936 Tuesday, February 18, 2025 MINUTES

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Lisa Wagner, Danny Lucas, Chief Russell Wells, 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.

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 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.

4. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

Chairman Kemp said Item # 8 needed to be removed from the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Item #8: Councilman Rowell

Minutes -02.18.2025

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

	PROCLAMATION	
5. None		
	PRESENTATIONS	

6. Van Henson - Presentation from the SC Counties Workers Compensation Award Presentation.

Mr. VanHenson, Director of Risk Management Services with South Carolina Association of Counties was present for this Award Presentation. He noted that Jasper County had recently been recognized at their Annual Membership Meeting with the Insurance Trust in the category of Best Experience Modifier Rating. He noted that of all of the counties that Jasper County was the second runner-up. With a rating he noted of .73%, the County saved 27% on rating equating to a savings of \$211,000.00. He noted that Council and Staff should be recommended on the work on this. He noted that this showed Jasper County's Commitment to Safety and being good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

7. Earl (Smittie) Cooler – Presentation from the Jasper County 250 Committee.

Mr. Cooler and Ms. DeCourcy was present to review the Jasper County 250 Committee Presentation. They gave background information for new Councilmembers. The discussed the history of Purrysburg, and they discussed Thomas Heyward Jr. and his importance to the County. They reviewed the information for the Premier Grant received from the state and discussed the Strategic Plan that had been given to the County last year. The presentation covered areas such as previous events, the filming with Wide Awake Films, and they also discussed future plans. They noted that so far funding from grants as of 02.01.2025 was at \$276,237.47. For more information on this item please see the meeting video by going to our YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

8. Danny Lucas – Volunteer Park Baseball Fields Update. – This item was removed from the agenda.

9. Chairman Kemp's comments:

Chairman Kemp introduced Councilperson Libby Malphrus from the Town of Ridgeland and Clerk of Court Keith Horton. He noted that the next Jasper County Meeting would be held at the City of Hardeeville City Hall on 03.03.2025. He noted that Dr. Panu of Technical College of the Lowcountry was recognized during Black History Month.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

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 thttps://doi.org/10.2016/jnput.nih.gov/ and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Town of Ridgeland Councilmember Libby Malphrus shared concerns about transparency and discussed a meeting regarding development.

RESOLUTIONS

10. Wanda Giles – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-11 to approve the appointment of Mr. Samuel Lawton to the Jasper County Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Giles was present to review the staff report and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-11 to approve the appointment of Mr. Samuel Lawton to the Jasper County Library Board of Trustees.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

11. Chief Wells – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-12 for the ratification of the contract for acquisition of Coosawhatchie property.

Chief Wells was present to review and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-12 for the ratification of the contract for acquisition of Coosawhatchie property.

Motion to approve: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

12. Wanda Giles – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-13 as per the request of the Lowcountry Council Of Governments for your approval of Rhett Reed, Operations Manager at Builder's First Source to serve as Jasper County's Business Representative as a new member on the Lowcountry Workforce Board.

Ms. Giles was present to review the staff report and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-13 as per the request of the Lowcountry Council of Governments for your approval of Rhett Reed, Operations Manager at Builder's First Source to serve as Jasper County's Business Representative as a new member on the Lowcountry Workforce Board.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

13. Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-03 for a Special Services Contract with Heather Rath Consulting.

Mr. Fulghum was present to review and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-03 for a Special Services Contract with Heather Rath Consulting. He noted that this was on the first meeting of January and that it was pulled off. He noted that this hires her under a Special Services Contract with Heather Rath Consulting. He provided a quick update on her work on the Opioid Settlement Funds, her assistance with Affordable Housing Issues and proposed changes she had requested to the state. He noted that this was an annual contract.

Motion to approve: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

14. David Tedder - Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-14 for the retention of services from Finger, Melnick, Brooks & LaBruce, P.A.

Mr. Tedder was present to review and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-14 for the retention of services from Finger, Melnick, Brooks & LaBruce, P.A. After some discussion, Council decided to table this issue until the next meeting. For more information on this item please see the meeting video by going to our YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

Motion to table this item until the next meeting on 03.03.2025: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

15. Chief Wells – Consideration of Resolution <u>#R-2025-15</u> approving the procurement of temporary housing and equipment storage at the Tillman Fire Station Site on an exigent basis pursuant to Section 2-412 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances and matters related thereto.

Chief Wells was present to review and address the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-15 approving the procurement of temporary housing and equipment storage at the Tillman Fire Station Site on an exigent basis pursuant to Section 2-412 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances. He gave an overview of what had occurred and why this was so desperately needed in order to have covered for the residents in this area. Please see Attachment "A" for additional information.

Motion to approve as an Emergency Resolution: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

16. Jessica Dailey, Lowcountry Council of Governments – 2025 CDBG Needs Assessment Public Hearing.

Jessica Dailey, Lowcountry Council of Governments was present for the 2025 CDBG Needs Assessment Public Hearing. She discussed what this was in reference to through the Lowcountry Council of Governments. She provided insight into the CDBG Program and how it worked covering the various aspects of the program and what this public hearing was about. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed. No motion was made and no vote was taken.

17. Mike Skinner, Treasurer – Consideration of a request to an additional position known as the Deputy Treasurer Assistant to the Treasurer's Office.

Nicole Holt was present to review and address the request for the consideration of a request to an additional position known as the Deputy Treasurer Assistant to the Treasurer's Office. She noted that the request from the Treasurer was for this position was for the pay range to be in the \$40,000.00 to \$42,000.00 annually. She noted that they had put together a job description for this position. She also noted that the Treasurer would fund this position using the decal fund.

Motion to approve with a pay grade of #109: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

18. Lisa Wagner – Consideration of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-02 to adopt Planned Development District Zoning, Planned Development District Standards, and Conceptual Master Plan for a tract of land consisting of approximately 223.70 acres, bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 038-00-08-044, located along Bellinger Hill Road, and known as Daly Organics PDD. (1st reading 12.02.2024; Public hearing 01.06.2025) (Daly Organics PDD)

Ms. Wagner was present to review and address the request for the consideration of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-02 to adopt Planned Development District Zoning, Planned Development District Standards, and Conceptual Master Plan for a tract of land consisting of approximately 223.70 acres, bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 038-00-08-044, located along Bellinger Hill Road, and known as Daly Organics PDD.

She noted that the Applicant was requesting approval of a Planned Development District (PDD) zoning designation for a commercial project, and if approved, will be known as Daly Organics PDD. Included with the Zoning Map Amendment application is a Concept Plan and PDD Standards. The project site consists of a 223.7 acre parcel located along Bellinger Hill Road. The property is currently zoned Rural Preservation and is developed as an existing farm, that includes organic composting and mulching operation. The applicant

proposes adding a bagging facility, which according to the Zoning Ordinance, requires an Industrial zoning designation or a PDD that will allow this type of land use.

She noted that in accordance with Article 8:1 of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, the intent of a PDD is to encourage flexibility in the development of land to promote its most appropriate use; and to do so in a manner that will enhance public health, safety, morals, and general welfare. The PDD regulations are intended to accomplish the purpose of zoning and other applicable regulations to an equivalent or higher degree and are designed to control unscheduled development on individual lots or tracts, promote economical and efficient land use, provide an improved level of amenities, foster a harmonious variety of uses, encourage creative design, and produce a better environment. In view of the substantial public advantage of "planned development," it is the intent of the PDD regulations to promote and encourage or require development in this form where appropriate in character, timing, and location, particularly in large undeveloped tracts. All PDD's shall conform to the Jasper County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Land Use Map (latest edition). According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Rural Transition." The rural transition areas are located in southern Jasper County and will likely be under pressure to develop within the foreseeable future. Development proposals in existing communities, such as Levy-Limehouse, should be respectful and complement the scale and character of the area.

Adjacent Zoning and Land Uses: Figure 1 below shows the project location and Table 1 shows the adjacent land uses and zoning designation:

Table 1. Adjacent Land Uses and Zoning Designations

Adjacent Property	Existing Uses	Zoning
North	Residential	Residential
South	Mining Operation	Resource Extraction
West	Residential and	Residential and PDD
	Vacant	
East	Residential, Small	Residential, Rural
	Campground and	Preservation and
	Mining Operation	Resource Extraction

Ms. Wagner said that the subject property is accessed by Bellinger Hill Road and Bellinger Hill Run. Bellinger Hill Road is a 2-lane state-maintained road, classified as a limited local road. Bellinger Hill Run is a private dirt road. The Daly Organics Concept Plan (Appendix H) illustrates the proposed land use, the general layout, and access point. A Master Plan will be submitted separately and will provide additional information regarding the proposed layout of the development.

The proposed PDD would establish the following:

- Access Points the main access point exists and is located on Bellinger Hill Road.
- Allowed Land Uses rural preservation, general commercial and industrial.
- **Density** 166 acres is designated to remain Rural Preservation, 36 acres is designated as General Commercial, and 21 acres is designated as Industrial.

- Open Space a minimum of 10% open space based on overall commercial highlands will be provided.
- Stormwater Management best management practices will be used in the development to ensure runoff leaving the site meets SC Department of Environmental Services Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and Jasper County standards for water quality.
- Setbacks and Buffers The concept map shows the commercial areas are setback 400' + from Bellinger Hill Road.
- Landscaping Standards A landscape road-side buffer will be provided along Bellinger Hill as required by the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Wagner mentioned that at the January 6, 2025 County Council Meeting, a public hearing was held. Since that meeting a community meeting was held on January 28, 2025 at the Bellinger Hill Fire Department. The PDD Standards have been revised to prohibit additional uses, such as, public utility facilities, call centers, research and laboratories, regional malls, outlet centers, supermarkets, convenience stores, department stores, entertainment centers, medical and health facilities and a note was added to state the allowed uses are limited to the existing farm, including the composting and mulching operation, the proposed bagging facility, and other uses in support of the Daly Organic operations (see pages 13 and 14 of the PDD document). The Daly Organics PDD and Concept Plan meets all of the requirements for a PDD Application and Concept Plan as outlined in Article 8:1.7 of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance. Hussey Gay Bell, engineering firm determined that the current use produces 40 trips a day, which is made up of 30 trucks/day (customers) and 10 cars/day (employees). The future conditions is predicted to produce 40 trucks/day (customers) and 20 cars/day (employees). The Daly Organic property is currently served by well and septic tank. Electric is provided by Palmetto Electric. Telecommunication and fiber are not currently available to serve the subject property.

<u>Planning Commission Recommendation:</u> A zoning designation of PDD does not entitle an applicant or owner of the affected property a right to develop or engage in any land use or land disturbing activity, other than the rights in existence at the time of the Concept Plan approval. To engage in development or any land use or land disturbing activity, a Master Plan and subsequent Development Plan(s) must be approved for the areas to be developed. While the Concept Plan is very generalized, a Master Plan is a more refined document which will be reassessed by the Planning Commission at a future date. <u>The Planning Commission recommends approval of the PDD designation and Concept Map, provided that the PDD Standards limit the uses to only allow commercial and industrial uses that support the Daly Organic Farm, including the existing composting and mulching operation, and the proposed bagging facility.</u>

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

19. David Tedder – Consideration of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #0-2025-03 Approving a Development Agreement for the Daly Organics Development Property consisting of approximately 223 acres, more or less, owned by Bellinger Hill Properties, LLC in the Bellinger Hill Area of Jasper County, South Carolina, Pursuant to the South Carolina Local Government Development Agreement Act and Article IV, Title 20 of the Code of Ordinances of Jasper county, Authorizing the Chairperson of the Jasper County Council to execute

he Development Agreement, and Matters Related Thereto. (This document is included in the agenda e-packet) (1st reading 12.02.2024 and Public hearing 01.06.2025; 2nd Public hearing 02.03.2025) (Daly Organics DA)

Mr. Tedder was present to review and address the request for the consideration of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-03 Approving a Development Agreement for the Daly Organics Development Property consisting of approximately 223 acres, more or less, owned by Bellinger Hill Properties, LLC in the Bellinger Hill Area of Jasper County, South Carolina, Pursuant to the South Carolina Local Government Development Agreement Act and Article IV, Title 20 of the Code of Ordinances of Jasper county, Authorizing the Chairperson of the Jasper County Council to execute the Development Agreement. Truck traffic and hours of operation were discussed in addition to the noise levels.

Motion to table until the 03.03.2025 Meeting: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

20. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax Agreement By and Between Jasper County, South Carolina and Project Salmon, With Respect to Certain Economic Development Property in the County, Providing for the Payment of Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing for Special Source Revenue Credits; and Other Matters Related Thereto. (Project Salmon)

Mr. Tedder was present to review and address the request for the consideration of the 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Tax Agreement By and Between Jasper County, South Carolina and Project Salmon, With Respect to Certain Economic Development Property in the County, Providing for the Payment of Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing for Special Source Revenue Credits.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

21. 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. He reviewed and gave an update on Exit 3, and an update on business license enforcement efforts which have led to shutting down some short-term rental operations due to zoning restrictions. He reviewed correspondence received from Reverend Galloway and his response he sent back to him, then Ms. Burgess presented and reviewed a budget timeline.

CONSENT AGENDA

22. Approval of the Minutes of 01.10.2025 and 01.20.2025

23. Councilmember Comments and Discussion: Councilmember Comments were given but there were no comments that required action.

24. 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 Employee Review
- (5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body Prospect Update

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

Return to Open Session:

Motion to return to regular session: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

24.1 Action coming out of Executive Session

Motion to authorize a performance agreement for the previously County accepted set aside grant from the SC. Department of Commerce in the amount of \$75,000.00 in support of Project Veggie, and authorizing the Chairman of the County Council to execute the performance acceptance documents: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

25. Adjournment:

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes -02.18.2025

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda H. Giles Clerk to Council

John A. Kemp

Chairman



Jasper County Emergency Services 1509 Gray May (9.0.2. 1509) Statement, SC 29936

Office: 843-726-7607 Sac: 843-726-7966



Attachment "A" pg 1 of 2

Chief Russell W. Wells, Director

6, February 2025

To:

Honorable County Council

Cc: Andrew Fulghum, Administrator

Kimberly Burgess, Chief Finance Officer

Re: Tillman Fire Station

Greetings Honorable Council,

The Tillman Fire Station is out of service. Following up on our workshop briefing. Please find attached our humble request to execute emergency acquisition of temporary housing and garage structure for apparatus. The resolution will allow us to execute utilizing existing funds in the Fire Rescue building maintenance line (010-046-5095). We have met internally and discussed the need to restore service to the Tillman Community. We are postponing non-operational repairs to all fire-rescue facilities.

Quick recap. Tillman Fire Station has an estimated \$36,000 structural/cosmetic damage to apparatus bay. Living quarters have toxic mold. The mold has been remediated a couple of times already. To repair the facility would require us to bring up to current codes. This initiative is cost prohibitive.

Our request is:

- Make a purchase of a 3 bedroom/ 2 bath mobile home.
- The mobile home is in Orangeburg at Clayton Homes dealership
- This particular home has the most operational capacity vs all of the others assessed in the markets of Beaufort, Jasper,
 Colleton and now Orangeburg.
- Pull all necessary permits with BPZ
- Utilize County equipment and combination of personnel to raze and remove debris
- Utilize current foundation for the installation of "Temporary carport structure"
- Have the administrator sign all documents necessary for the execution of acquisition and all matters related thereto
- Work on expedited delivery, set up, tie into well/septic and get station operations restored
- Allowing County leadership to elongate time in developing a robust replacement plan with a funding strategy that avoids additional impacts to our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration in our plan to restore services. We will update you on our progress, should your approval be granted.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Wells



Jasper County Emergency Services

1509 Graps May (9.0.2. 1509) Stalpaland, 5C 29936 Office: 843-726-7607 Jac: 843-726-7966



Attachment " A"

Chief Russell W. Wells, Director

6, February 2025

To:

Honorable County Council

Cc: Andrew Fulghum, Administrator

Kimberly Burgess, Chief Finance Officer

Re: Tillman Fire Station

Dear Council,

The Tillman Fire Station has been offline since August 2024. The station was damaged because of Tropical Cyclone Helene. This station received an estimated \$40,000 in structural damages. Additionally, the living quarters has toxic mold intrusion. We have remediated the mold issue in living quarters four times known to us. This station was a pole barn construction with an attempt to establish some degree of living quarters. The amount of damage received and the need to remediate the toxic mold again; the building and fire codes would require this facility to come into compliance with current codes. Therefore, it is impractical and cost prohibitive to invest in attempting to accomplish this task.

We realize the profound need to restore services to the Tillman Community and recognize that the construction of a replacement station costs millions. We have identified an avenue of service restoration; extending time to the County in achieving a robust financial plan to update Fire Stations throughout the County in the most cost effective manner. We humbly request your approval to execute the following plan under the auspices of emergency purchase.

We have visited four mobile home dealerships in the Lowcountry. We have identified a mobile home that will restore housing for personnel as well as identified an enclosed carport for housing apparatus. In the attached documents you will discover the "5410" Clayton mobile home quote from the dealership out of Orangeburg. This particular dealer has on lot ready for delivery the most operationally compliant model. The Oakwood mobile home quote was also included for review but is more expensive. While all of the models we evaluated were in the general area of costs; The 5410 has been the more cost effective solution and operationally compliant model discovered thus far.

The carport has received two quotes so far with largely differing numbers. We can refine further; however, we are established with Jones out of Walterboro. They have provided the more cost effective quote attached.

Plan:

- Pull all requisite permits
- Utilize county resources to demolish the station and haul to appropriate landfill
- Utilize existing foundation for replacement temporary carport structure
- · Acquire the mobile home and install laterally to the carport.

We have reviewed our existing operating budget. Line 010-046-5095 currently has \$349,984 in our building repairs line. We identified the Tillman Fire Station already having a need for roof replacement and Septic system work. Other stations have been slated for painting, drywall, or other non-critical operational repairs. We are confident that we can effectively execute the acquisition of, and restoration of service delivery to our citizens for an amount not to exceed \$220,000 out of this line. We believe that this will need a resolution and budget amendment. Therefore, we have provided a resolution for your consideration and humbly request the administrator be allowed to sign all documents for the acquisition and all other matters related thereto.

This plan will not impact the County's reserve funds; financially impact our residents; and can be absorbed through our current operating budget.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Wells