



AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL CALLED
VIRTUAL MEETING WILL BE
CONDUCTED WITH THE JASPER
COUNTY COUNCIL.

Meeting Date: Monday, January 20th at 3PM

Watch Live via YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA

Instructions may also be found at the Jasper County website
www.jaspercountysc.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (843) 717-3696



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY
SPECIAL CALLED
VIRTUAL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Monday, January 20, 2025
Agenda

3:00PM

- **Call to Order by Chairman Kemp**

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

**While the S.C. Freedom of Information Act does not strictly apply for Emergency Meetings (§ 30-40-80(A)), for the public benefit and out an abundance of caution, County Council used its best efforts to inform the public via physical posting of the agenda as early as possible, publishing of the agenda on the County website, and the furnishing of the agenda to all news media and persons requesting notification.*

- **Pledge to the Flag and Invocation**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Chief Russell Wells – Winter Storm Update**
- **David Tedder – Resolution # R-2025-03A - Resolution/Proclamation Declaring State Of Emergency In Jasper County Due to the January 21-24 2025 Winter Storm**
- **Adjourn**

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF JASPER
RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION NUMBER #R-2025-03A

**RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN JASPER COUNTY DUE TO THE JANUARY 21-24 2025 WINTER STORM**

WHEREAS, Jasper County Ordinance Section 9-55 grants the County Council the power to meet the imminent threats of public health, welfare and property conservation and the dangers to the county and its residents resulting from disasters and emergencies of any origin, and may issue proclamations and regulations concerning emergency relief and related matters which during an emergency situation shall have the full force and effect of law, and

WHEREAS, a state of disaster emergency pursuant to Ordinance 9-55 may be declared by the county council at a regular scheduled, special called or emergency meeting if it finds a disaster has occurred, or that the threat thereof is imminent, and extraordinary emergency measures are deemed necessary to cope with the existing or anticipated situation; and

WHEREAS, once a state of emergency has been declared, Section 9-55 provides that the County Council may:

- (1) Suspend existing laws and regulations prescribing the procedures of conduct for county business if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay the necessary action in coping with the emergency;
- (2) Utilize all available resources of county government as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster emergency;
- (3) Transfer the direction, personnel or functions of county departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of facilitating or performing emergency services as necessary or desirable;
- (4) Compel performance by elected and appointed county government officials and employees of the duties and functions assigned in county disaster plans;
- (5) Contract, requisition and compensate for goods and services from private sources;
- (6) Direct and compel evacuation of all or parts of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the county if such action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;
- (7) Prescribe routes, models of transportation and destinations in connection with any evacuation;

- (8) Control egress and ingress to and from a disaster area, with the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of the premises therein;
- (9) Suspend, or limit, the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and combustibles;
- (10) Suspend, or limit, nonemergency activities and prohibit public assemblies; and

WHEREAS, On January 20, 2025, Henry D. McMaster, Governor of the State of South Carolina, issued an Executive Order declaring that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina in the areas including Jasper County as a result of the impending adverse weather conditions, including extremely cold sub-freezing temperatures, freezing rain and snowfall, and the accumulation of ice from the Winter Storm to begin impacting the State on January 21st (“Winter Storm”). Governor McMaster directed that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local and state levels to protect against the possible effects of the Winter Storm. It is possible the Governor could issue several subsequent Executive Orders relating to and regarding the dangers posed by Winter Storm, including the possible mandatory closure of certain roads and bridges in areas including Jasper County.

WHEREAS, County Council, in response to the Governor’s Executive Order, called an emergency Council meeting, as allowed by law, to be held on January 20, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. local time, providing as much notice as available in light of the emergent situation and the need to take preparatory actions, with email notification going to the news organizations and regular agenda email list, for consideration of a Resolution/Proclamation regarding the Executive Order and the emergency situation presented by Winter Storm; and

WHEREAS, County Council makes the following findings:

1. The Winter Storm is a large polar vortex event potentially creating a disaster scenario as envisioned by the above noted Ordinances, due to the accumulation of snow and ice accompanied by sub-freezing temperatures in Jasper County Zone the possible closure of roads and bridges, including the I-95 and Highway 17 routes which traverse Jasper County, potentially creating dangerous travel conditions on these routes and the roads and highways leading off these routes, particularly Highways 278, 462 and 321;
2. The Winter Storm is expected to move through or near Jasper County and South Carolina beginning on Tuesday afternoon, January 21, 2025 bringing high winds, possibility of snow and freezing rain, downed power lines and other weather related events impacting not only the driving conditions on the above-mentioned routes and areas, other roads and areas in Jasper County on Tuesday, January 21st through Friday, January 24th , 2025, affecting all portions of the County;

3. The Winter Storm creates an imminent threat to the life, health, safety and welfare of the entire geographic area of Jasper County and its residents; and
4. Emergency measures are necessary in order to cope with the existing and anticipated dangers presented by the Winter Storm; and
5. It is prudent to authorize the Administration to take appropriate measures to maintain and provide for potential reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for eligible expenditures should all or a portion of Jasper County be declared a Disaster Area.

THEREFORE, JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARES AND PROCLAIMS A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALL AREAS OF JASPER COUNTY DUE TO THE DANGERS PRESENTED BY THE WINTER STORM. COUNCIL AFFIRMS THE DUTIES, OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY JASPER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 9 OF THE JASPER COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES;

THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL LAST UNTIL 12:01 A.M. JANUARY 25, 2025 UNLESS RESCINDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL BEFORE THAT DATE OR BY THE GOVERNOR;

FURTHER, JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE COUNTY TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM FEMA FOR STORM RELATED DAMAGES, AS WELL AS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER AGENCIES, STATE OR FEDERAL, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR STORM DAMAGE MITIGATION/REIMBURSEMENT;

FURTHER, DUE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR THE LOSS OF COMMUNICATION AMONGST THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY, IN THE EVENT A QUORUM OF COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO BE CONVENED PHYSICALLY OR TELEPHONICALLY, AND IMMEDIATE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THIS PROCLAMATION, THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS HEREBY DELEGATED IN SUCH SITUATIONS THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUCH FURTHER PROCLAMATIONS AND DIRECTIVES CONCERNING PUBLIC SAFETY, DISASTER RELIEF AND RELATED MATTERS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT THE MEASURES NECESSITATED BY THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.

SIGNATURES FOLLOW

This Resolution/Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 20TH
DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

John Kemp
Chairman, Jasper County Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

David L. Tedder
County Attorney

ATTEST:

Wanda Giles, Clerk to Council