



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED

# COUNCIL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Minutes

**Officials Present:** Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins, and Councilman Coy Garbade. Absent: Councilman Kemp

**Staff Present:** County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Sauls called the 6:00pm Council Meeting to order. Prior to reading the report of compliance The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.*

**Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Vice Chairwoman Clark.

**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:

- (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 – **Consideration of Special Audit Proposal from The Baird Audit Group, LLC**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES TAKEN BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**Motion to go into Executive Session:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Second:** Councilman Garbade

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Return to Open Session:**

**Motion to return to Regular Session:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Second:** Councilman Garbade

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

- **Action coming out of Executive Session**

**Move to approve the terms of The Baird Audit Group's Engagement Letter dated February 29<sup>th</sup> as a special audit pursuant to section 4-9-150 of the Code of Laws, and authorize the Administrator, with the assistance of the County Attorney, to execute the letter on behalf of the County and take all necessary and desirable steps on behalf of Jasper County to ensure the completion of the audit in a timely manner:** Chairman Sauls

**Second:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Vote:** Unanimously approved by Chairman Sauls, Vice Chairwoman Clark, Councilman Adkins and Councilman Garbade

The motion passed.

Once the Council voted on the above item that came out of Executive Session, Chairman Sauls said he would like to provide a statement on this matter. He noted that the proposed action to bring The Baird Audit Group to perform a special audit is to not embarrass or attack the treasurer or his staff, but to identify ongoing issues in that office that are affecting the ability of the County to track and account for County revenue and expenditures in a timely manner, and also affects the local governments for whom we collect and distribute tax funds. With upcoming bond matters, it is imperative that these matters be addressed, and actions taken to maintain the County's high financial status and the national financial community.

To be clear, this is not an audit where anyone is accused or even suspected of intentional wrongdoing Council has received information that there have been errors and missteps in regard to the receipt and appropriate disbursements of funds provided to the County, both state and local, and desires to obtain the information necessary to address the errors and prevent their re-occurrence.

This engagement of The Baird Audit Group is to ensure that all tax receipts are properly received, deposited, and recorded and that disbursements related to the tax receipts are appropriate, and to determine that the state monies are properly recorded, and disbursements related to these monies are accurately calculated and recorded on the County financial records in the timely manner.

Is the hope that the result of this special audit will be to identify and correct any deficiency that affects the financial matters of the County and ensure that the funds of Jasper County citizens are treated in a financially responsible manner. It is the County Council's duty to oversee this and make sure that office is operating efficiently, effectively, and transparently and we will see that this job is done.

**Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.** There was no need to return to the Executive Session for this meeting. For additional

information on this meeting please visit our website for this meeting's agenda E-Packet or for the video go to [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm\\_ggXCjIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCjIA)

**Adjournment**


**Motion to adjourn:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Second:** Councilman Garbade

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.

**Respectfully submitted:**

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Wanda H. Giles  
Clerk to Council

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L. Martin Sauls IV  
Chairman