Special Called Joint Meeting Minutes

City of Jasper & Pickens County

100 Library Lane

Jasper, Georgia 30143

Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call — Chairman Stancil & Mayor Raffield

Meeting was called to order by both the City of Jasper's Mayor Raffield and Pickens County Chairman Stancil. Council Member Tony Davis confirmed a quorum was present for the city and Chairman Stancil confirmed for the County.

II. Invocation

Tax Commissioner Daniel Reeves provided the invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Brandon Hannah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Adopt Agenda with one amendment to appoint a person to serve as City Clerk

- Motion: Council Member Jim Looney made a motion to adopt the agenda with one amendment.
- Second: Council Member John Foust seconded the motion.
- Vote: Passed 5 - 0

V. Appointment of Brandon Douglas as City Clerk — Mayor Raffield

An amendment was made to the agenda to appoint City Manager Brandon Douglas to serve as the City Clerk/note taker for this meeting due to the absence of the City Clerk.

- Motion: Council Member Jim Looney made a motion to approve the appointment of Brandon Douglas as the City Clerk/note taker for this meeting.
- Second: Council Member John Foust seconded the motion.
- Vote: Passed 5- 0

VI. Introductions — Chairman Stancil & Mayor Raffield

- City of Jasper: Council Member Brandon Hannah, Council Member Tony Davis, Council Member Steve Lawrence, Council Member John Foust, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Looney, Mayor Kirk Raffield, City Manager Brandon Douglas.
- Pickens County: County Clerk Lesa Thomason, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Kris Stancil, Post Commissioner Josh Tatum, District One Commissioner Josh Tippens.

VII. Recap of May 5, 2026, Joint Meeting

- Brandon Douglas provided a recap of the previous meeting, which covered the obligation to update the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS). He reviewed the progress on animal control, fire protection, sewer collection, and water supply/distribution.
- Chairman Kris Stancil discussed the impact of population growth on water infrastructure over the last five years. He made a significant announcement that the county has engaged an engineering and legal firm to begin exploring the potential of a consolidated government to eliminate competing government services and confusion.

VIII. Discussion of Service Delivery — Chairman Stancil & Mayor Raffield

a. Animal Control - The City updated its ordinance and provided it to the County for legal review. The County is currently working on identifying the cost impact and a funding formula for sharing animal control services and will send a review back within weeks.
b. Fire Protection - A discussion was held regarding updating service territories due to new stations, such as the Talking Rock station. Both entities agreed to set up a meeting hosted by the EMA Director that includes the Fire Chiefs, 911 Dispatch, and Administration to draft automatic and mutual aid agreements that can be approved without triggering a formal SDS discussion. They also agreed to track water usage for fire services through a centralized form.
c. Sewer Collection & Disposal - Discussed keeping this simple by separating the sewer collection map from the water map to accurately reflect the service areas.
d. Water Supply & Distribution –
    i. Addressed Areas 6 and 7 on the map, where the county currently has water lines and capacity (like off Henderson Mountain Road) but no city customers. The county requested map corrections to allow them to serve those areas without holding up development. The city will review this with their engineers and legal team and take formal action at a future city council meeting.

ii. The county stated they cannot agree to acquire other water territories without knowing the cost. The city agreed to establish and provide a cost formula (e.g., per meter, per mile, line age), starting with Area 2 as a priority for evaluation.

Mayor Raffield asked Chairman Stancil to provide additional information regarding the County's consideration of government consolidation. Chairman Stancil explained that the initiative began as an effort to reduce confusion and eliminate duplication of services between the City and County. He stated that the County had reviewed consolidated governments in other parts of Georgia and had begun a legal analysis in consultation with the local legislative delegation and outside counsel. He emphasized that the evaluation would determine whether consolidation was feasible and beneficial.

Chairman Stancil noted that pursuing consolidation would require state legislation and approval by voters through separate countywide and citywide referendums. If approved, the process would establish a new consolidated government and charter.

Council Member Steve Lawrence asked whether Clarke County had recently reversed a previous consolidation. Chairman Stancil stated that he was unaware of any such action. Mayor Raffield clarified that the reference was to the Chatham-Savannah consolidation, which had raised concerns regarding emergency services and equitable representation.

Mayor Raffield then asked whether Council Members had received any updates regarding consolidation discussions involving the state representative or the County. Council Members indicated that they were unaware of any such discussions.

IX. Adjourn @ 6:49 PM

- Motion: Council Member Steve Lawrence made the motion to adjourn.
- Second: Council Member John Foust seconded the motion.
- Vote: Passed 5 - 0

CITY OF JASPER CORPORATE SEAL GEORGIA

Mayor, Kirk D. Raffield

City Clerk, Lorrie Waters

Attachment "A"

PLEASE SIGN IN

JASPER
Special Called Joint Meeting
City of Jasper & Pickens County
SIGN IN ROSTER
September 24, 2026

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS/OR BUSINESS AFFILIATION
Audra Bailey	3292 Refuge Rd
Barbara Moorman	Hunter's Ridge
Christie Martin	31 Winchester Rdg
Kathy White	141 N. Woods Way
Roy Dobbs	11101 Hwy. 53 West
Gina Johnson	1330 Deer Run Ridge
TRIP SMITH	ATLANTA
GARY COPELAND	FITTS RD
Tracy Jones	53 West Jasper Ga
[illegible]	Jasper Ga
Terry Davis	
Lori Chastain	700 Gordon Rd. Jasper
Samuel Sly	JPC
DAN COY	COUNTY RESIDENT