



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia**

Present at the meeting included:

Vice Chairman Alison G. Couch
Commissioner Connie M. Melear
Commissioner James E. Allen, III
Commissioner Michael W. Carraway
County Manager Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager Matt Schlachter
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
County Attorney Chris Driver
County Clerk Patrice R. Crawley

Division Directors:

Scott Sterling – Planning Services
Paul Scarbary - Development Services
Kyle Titus - Engineering Services
John Luton - Community Services
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire Services
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services
Stacey Gordon - Water Utility Services
Leanne Reece – Internal Services
County Staff

Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr. was not present.

Members of the Media and Public

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Couch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. INVOCATION

Commissioner Carraway gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Manager Johnson led the pledge to the American Flag.

D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Vice Chair Couch declared a quorum with four Commissioners present.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(E1) May 20, 2025

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Couch presented the agenda.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

(G1) Presentation

(G1a) Columbia County Fire Rescue 2025 Boot Drive Check Presentation to Burn Foundation of America and Columbia County Community Connections

Chief Wallen presented checks to the Burn Foundation of America and Columbia County Community Connections. The money was collected from the 2025 Fire Rescue Boot Drive.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

In accordance with Columbia County Code of Ordinance Section 2-81(6), the following items were voted on collectively. Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Community and Emergency Services Committee

(H1a) Senior Center Donation

Approved the acceptance of a \$375 donation to the Senior Center; 2250301.433019.01717.

(H1b) Animal Services Donations

Approved the acceptance of \$1,600 in donations to the Columbia County Animal Services for the medical care of shelter animals; 2250301.433019.01713.

(H1c) Independent Contractor Agreement with Simic, Goran dba Simke Tennis Academy for the Tennis Fundamentals Program and Tennis Summer Camps

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Simic, Goran dba Simke Tennis Academy for the tennis fundamentals program and tennis summer camps.

(H1d) YMCA Summer Camp Facility Use Agreement

Approved the YMCA Summer Camp Facility Use agreement.

(H1e) Contract Renewal Number 1 with Event Staffing Specialist LLC. for Event Staffing Services

Approved Contract Renewal Number 1 with Event Staffing Specialist, LLC. for event staffing services.

(H1f) Library Services Agreement with the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System

Approved the Library Services Agreement with the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System.

(H1g) Contract Renewal Number 3 with Alex Cooper for Computer Instruction at the Libraries

Approved Contract Renewal Number 3 with Alex Cooper for Computer Instruction at the Libraries.

(H1h) Contract Renewal Number 3 and Amendment Number 1 with Outdoor Augusta, LLC. for Canoe, Kayak and Paddleboard Rentals at Riverside Park

Approved Contract Renewal Number 3 and Amendment Number 1 with Outdoor Augusta, LLC. for canoe, kayak and paddleboard rentals at Riverside Park.

(H1i) Purchase of Scott SCBA Compressor and Fill Station from Breathing Air Systems

Approved the purchase of Scott SCBA Compressor and Fill Station from Breathing Air Systems in the amount of \$81,363.74; 601081.

(H1j) Agreement for the Provisions of Services with Family Connection of Columbia County and Burn Foundation of America

Approved the Agreement for the Provisions of Services with Family Connection of Columbia County and Burn Foundation of America.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Alcoholic Beverage License, Gregory M Parker Inc dba Parker's #132

Approved the Alcoholic Beverage License for Gregory M. Parker, Inc. dba Parker's #132.

(H3) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(H3a) Independent Contractor Agreement with WSP USA Inc. for Geotechnical Engineering Services

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with WSP USA Inc. for Geotechnical Engineering Services in the amount of \$8,700; 5515530.601081.

(H3b) Change Order #006 with Shearer-Mutimer Construction for the Columbia County Racquet Center

Approved Change Order number 6 with Shearer-Mutimer Construction for the Columbia County Racquet Center in the amount of \$169,842 and 106 days added to the contract time; 2102100.544035.2100.31.216.

(H3c) Change Order #007 with Shearer-Mutimer Construction for the Columbia County Racquet Center

Approved Change Order Number 7 with Shearer-Mutimer Construction for the Columbia County Racquet Center in the deduction amount of \$20,008; 3523522.601076.35209.

(H3d) Contract Item Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation for the water and sewer facilities on the SR28 Resurfacing Project

Approved the Contract Item Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation for the water and sewer facilities on the SR28 resurfacing project in the amount of \$41,000; 511.5130.601100.

(H3e) Payment to Cayenta for Annual Subscription

Approved Payment to Cayenta for annual subscription in the amount of \$362,900.24; 511.5100.601090.

(H3f) Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc Proposal for the Emergency Purchase of a Flygt NP 3312 Pump

Approved the Proposal from Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. for the emergency purchase of a Flygt NP 3312 pump in the amount of \$198,949.20; 511.5000.544007.

(H3g) Purchase from Yancey of a Compact Track Loader

Approved the purchase from Yancey of a compact track loader in the amount of \$103,397; 511.5130.601081.

(H3h) "Waze for Cities" Data Sharing Agreement

Approved the Waze for Cities data sharing agreement.

(H3i) Bid# 2025004-BID3313 and Contract# 2025-3234 with Reeves Construction Co. for the Hardy McManus Rd Widening Project, PI# 0013704

Approved awarding bid and contract to Reeves Construction Co. for the Hardy McManus Road widening project in the amount of \$38,165,487.05; 91329.24.015.986.

(H3j) Bid# 2025017-BID3313 and Contract# 2025-3228 with Southern Asphalt for TIA 2, Group 5 Resurfacing

Approved awarding bid and contract to Southern Asphalt for TIA 2, Group 5 resurfacing project in the amount of \$4,030,602.58; 91329.24.015.

(H3k) Bid# 2025014-BID3313 and Contract# 2025-3216 with ER Snell Contractor for LMIG 2025

Approved awarding bid and contract to ER Snell Contractor for LMIG 2025 project in the amount of \$1,553,074.55; 22326.32.015.

(H3l) Renewal Number 1 of Contract# 2024-2834 with International Appraisal & Research Group (IAR) for Appraisal and Acquisition Services related to TIA and GDOT Projects

Approved Contract Renewal Number 1 with International Appraisal & Research Group for appraisal and acquisition services related to TIA and GDOT projects.

(H3m) Contract# 2025-3214 with Thompson Building Wrecking Co. for Property Abatement, Demolition, and Removal Services on Parcels 79, 91, 94 & 95 for the Hereford Farm Road Widening Project

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Thompson Building Wrecking Company Inc. for property abatement, demolition and removal services on parcel 073001, 072D001, 072D037 and 072D038 for the Hereford Farm Road widening project in the amount of \$125,150; 91306.27.050.975.

(H3n) Contract# 2025-3220 with Bluewater Engineering for Engineering Services associated with the Wilkins Rd Improvement Project

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Bluewater Engineering Services, LLC. for the Wilkins Road improvement project in the amount of \$69,400; 3503550.533035.35550.

(H3o) Change Order #2 with Cranston Engineering for Stormwater Management Coordination and Supplemental Design Services for the Horizon-Chamblin Connector Project

Approved Change Order number 2 with Cranston Engineering for Stormwater Management Coordination and Supplemental Design Services for the Horizon-Chamblin connector project in the amount of \$34,710; 28320.38.010.

(H3p) Acceptance of Permanent Utility Easements and Associated Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure for M.P. Maxwell Properties, LLC

Approved the acceptance of permanent utility easements and associated sanitary sewer infrastructure for

MP Maxwell Properties, LLC. as shown on the plat prepared by James Swift and Associates dated February 08, 2024 and revised on March 25, 2025 contingent on staff's inspection and approval of the easements and infrastructure.

(H3q) Abandonment of Permanent Utility Easements and Associated Water Utility Infrastructure for Faith Outreach Church, Inc.

Approved the abandonment of permanent utility easements and associated water utility infrastructure for Faith Outreach Church, Inc. contingent on staff's inspection and approval of the water utility system modifications associated with the abandonment.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) New Business

(I1a) Management and Internal Services Committee

(I1a1) Resolution 25-13 Adopting an Annual Budget for All Funds of Columbia County, Georgia for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution Number 25-13 adopting an Annual Budget for All Funds of Columbia County, Georgia for Fiscal Year 2025/2026. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1a2) Resolution Number 25-17 Authorizing the Approval, Solely for the Purpose of Section 147(F) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, of the Issuance of \$4,500,000 Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount of Revenue Refunding Bonds in One or More Series, Federally Taxable and/or Tax-Exempt (The Series 2025 Bonds) By the Development Authority of Columbia County for the School for Arts-Infused Learning, Inc. (SAIL)

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution Number 25-17. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1b) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I1b1) RZ25-02-01, Rezoning from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to PRD (Planned Residential Development), 4204 Washington Road and off Washington Road, Tax Map 079 Parcels 110 & 110A, 15.44 +/- acres total and currently zoned R-2 (Single Family Residential).

Commissioner Allen made a motion to disapprove the request for a rezoning from R-2 to PRD for property located at tax map 079 parcels 110 & 110A in order to develop attached and detached cottages on the properties. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1c) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(I1c1) Georgia Power Underground Easement for Columbia County Building A

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve the underground easement with Georgia Power for property located on tax map 072045B. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2) Items Added at the Meeting

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Howard Johnson spoke against the Single County Library system.

Karen Lawrence spoke against the current Library Guidelines.

Susan Warren spoke against the Data Center going in Appling.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Personnel

(M1a) Employment Agreement with Steven Prather

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the Employment Agreement with Steven Prather. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2) Property

(M2a) Temporary and permanent easements for Woodbridge Lift Station parcel 071c187.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve the purchase of temporary and permanent easements for Woodbridge Lift Station parcel 071c187 in the amount of \$4,000. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2b) John Shepherd parcel 072B159, Kim Lowery parcel 072B052, Laurie & Neely Lovett parcel 072B051 and Cynthia Mckinley parcels 060004C & 060004B to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$6,000 to John Shepherd parcel 072B159, \$13,500 to Kim Lowery parcel 072B052, \$25,000 to Laurie & Neely Lovett parcel 072B051 and \$205,000 to Cynthia Mckinley parcels 060004C & 060004B to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2c) Jeffrey R. Smith parcel 067C003, Matthew & Christel Black parcel 073004E and Brenda Marshal parcels 067093 & 067092 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.

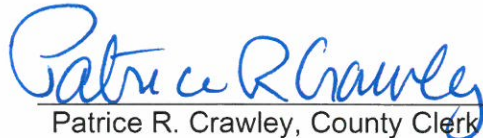
Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$14,700 to Jeffrey R. Smith parcel 067C003, \$5,300 to Matthew & Christel Black parcel 073004E and \$16,700 to Brenda Marshal parcels 067093 & 067092 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Melear made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk