



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia**

Present at the meeting included:

Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr.
Vice Chairman Alison G. Couch
Commissioner Connie M. Melear
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
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services
Stacey Gordon - Water Utility Services
Steven Prather – Facility Services
County Staff

Members of the Media and Public

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Duncan 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

Chairman Duncan declared a quorum with four Commissioners present.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(E1) October 07, 2025

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the October 07, 2025 minutes as presented. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Duncan presented the agenda.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

(G1) Declaration

(G1a) Recognizing November 2, 2025, as Retired Educators Day

Commissioner Carraway read the Proclamation recognizing November 02, 2025 as Retired Educators Day.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

(H1) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H1a) FY26 Service Agreement with CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon

Approved Fiscal Year 26 Service Agreement with CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon.

(H1b) Service Agreements with Safe Homes of Augusta and the Hattie Mae and Deborah Marshall Scholarship Foundation

Approved the Service Agreements with Safe Homes of Augusta and the Hattie Mae and Deborah Marshall Scholarship Foundation.

(H1c) Resolution Number 25-32 Appoint the Initial Members of the Columbia County Library System

Approved Resolution Number 25-32 the appointment of the initial members of the Columbia County Library System.

(H1d) Resolution Number 25-33 Establishing the Columbia County Library Fees Fund

Approved Resolution Number 25-33 establishing the Columbia County Library Fees fund.

(H1e) Purchase of Moving Light Fixtures from Quest Productions, LLC. for the Performing Arts Center

Approved the purchase of moving light fixtures from Quest Productions, LLC. for the Performing Arts Center in the amount of \$62,400; 5815810.522100.

(H1f) Fiscal Year 24/25 Required Budget Adjustment for Audit

Approved Fiscal Year 24/25 budget adjustments as presented.

(H1g) 2025 ACCG – Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Employee Safety Grant Award

Approved the acceptance of the ACCG-Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund employee safety grant in the amount of \$8,500; 2250301.433019.10077.

(H1h) Independent Services Contract with Electrical Design Consultants, Inc. for the Columbia County Exhibition Center and Fire Station 16

Approved an Independent Services Contract with Electrical Design Consultants, Inc. for the Columbia County Exhibition Center and Fire Station 16 in the amount of \$33,500; 3503550.601090.35527.

(H1i) Independent Contract with Penn Roofing for the Reroofing of Evans Library

Approved an Independent Contract with Penn Roofing for the reroofing of Evans Library in the amount of \$141,500; 2100.31.214.

(H1j) Change Order #8 for the Columbia County Tennis Court Renovations Project

Approved change order number eight for the Columbia County tennis court renovations project in the amount of \$77,075; 22140.32.015.221.

(H1k) Rejection of the Bid #2025032-BID3289 for the Columbia County Evans Library HVAC Renovations

Approved the rejection of the bid for the Columbia County Evans Library HVAC renovations.

(H1l) Easement with Georgia Power for the Pollard House

Approved the easement with Georgia Power for the Pollard House.

(H1m) Change Order 001 for the Patriots Park Gym Improvement Project

Approved change order number 1 for the Patriots Park gym improvement project in the amount of \$140,888.43; 22450.32.015.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Easement Encroachment Agreement for Tax Map 077G Parcel 828

Approved an Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 077G Parcel 828.

(H2b) Easement Encroachment Agreement for Tax Map 084 Parcel 004H

Approved an Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 084 parcel 004H.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(L1) Priscilla Bence, Karin Parham, Howard Johnson, Michael Welsh, Diane Jarrett, Susan Warren, Alan Wyatt and Marcus Todd

Priscilla Bence shared her thoughts about the library.

Karin Parham shared her concerns over the library governance and policies.

Howard Johnson stated his concerns over data centers and the library.

Michael Welsh stated his thoughts about the library.

Diane Jarrett shared her concerns over the data center and library.

Susan Warren shared her concerns over the data center.

Alan Wyatt shared his concerns over the data center.

Chairman Duncan read a statement concerning the data center.

Marcus Todd shared his thoughts about the library.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Property

(M1a) Daniel Davis parcel 072A004 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$75,000 to Daniel Davis parcel 072A004 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1b) Resolution Number 25-34 parcel 072B046, Resolution Number 25-35 parcel 067012, Declaration of Taking and Order of Condemnation for the Hereford Farm Road widening project.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve Resolution Number 25-34 parcel 072B046, Resolution Number 25-35 parcel 067012, Declaration of Taking and Order of Condemnation for the Hereford Farm Road widening project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1c) BAPS Augusta LLC. parcel 077086B, Gospel Water Branch Community Development, Inc. parcel 077066 and Charles Rikard Jr. parcel 077i027 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Fury's Ferry Road widening project.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$500 to BAPS Augusta LLC. parcel 077086B, \$4,100 to Gospel Water Branch Community Development, Inc. parcel 077066 and \$1,000 to Charles Rikard Jr. parcel 077i027 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Fury's Ferry Road widening project. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Chair Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk