



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, December 16, 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

Commissioner Jim M. Steed was absent.

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) December 02, 2025

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 02, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(F1) Addition of Item I2a Resolution Number 25-46.

County Manager Johnson requested to add Item I2a to the agenda. Chairman Duncan presented the agenda with the requested addition.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

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) Community and Emergency Services Committee

(H1a) Modify the 2025 Christmas Holidays to Include Friday, December 26th

Approved declaring Friday, December 26, 2025 as a paid County Holiday.

(H1b) Agreement with Open Sky Drone Light Shows for Drone Light Show for 2026 Boom! in the Park

Approved an Agreement with Open Sky Drone Light Shows for a drone light show for the 2026 Boom! in the Park in the amount of \$70,000; 2242200.533080.

(H1c) USA BMX Gold Cup Southeast Finals Host Agreement

Approved the USA BMX Gold Cup Southeast Finals Host Agreement in the amount of \$10,000; 2242200.533080.

(H1d) Donation for the Hazardous Materials Response Team from Piedmont Propane.

Approved the donation of two propane valve fittings for the Hazardous Materials Response Team from Piedmont Propane.

(H2) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H2a) Amendment to the Comprehensive Policy 302.1 - Grievance Procedure

Approved the amendment to Comprehensive Policy 302.1 Grievance Procedure.

(H2b) Clariti Permitting and Licensing Solution Annual Maintenance Payment

Approved Clariti permitting and licensing solution annual maintenance payment in the amount of \$220,754.

(H2c) Dedicated Internet Access Agreement with Cogent Communications

Approved the Dedicated Internet Access agreement with Cogent Communications in the amount of \$10,200; 5515530.533135.

(H2d) Migration of Cityworks Software to a Trimble Software-as-a-Service Platform

Approved migration of Cityworks Software to a Trimble Software-as-a-Service platform in the amount of \$152,359.90; 6516500.533035.35542.

(H2e) Tower Lease Agreement with American Tower for Blanchard Park

Approved the Tower Lease Agreement with American Tower for Blanchard Park.

(H2f) Purchase of Network Equipment from WorldTechIT

Approved the purchase of network equipment from WorldTechIT in the amount of \$54,294.82; 1011005.601081.

(H2g) Change Order 002 for Additional Services with Johnson, Laschober & Associates, P.C. for the Columbia County Fire Rescue Station #2 Project

Approved Change Order Number Two with Johnson, Laschober & Associates, P.C. for the Columbia County Fire Rescue Station Two project in the amount of \$24,945; 22626.32.010.

(H3) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H3a) Alcoholic Beverage License Pham Nguyen Restaurant LLC dba Banh Mi Dang

Approved the Alcoholic Beverage License for Pham Nguyen Restaurant LLC. dba Banh Mi Dang to be effective January 01, 2026.

(H3b) Easement Encroachment Agreement Tax Map 073A Parcel 438

Approved an Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 037A parcel 438.

(H3c) Ancillary Dwelling Variance for Tax Map 018 Parcel 005A

Approved an ancillary dwelling variance for tax map 018 parcel 005A.

(H4) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(H4a) Cranston Engineering Change Order #1 for Reed Creek Streambank Stabilization

Approved Change Order Number One with Cranston Engineering for Reed Creek Streambank Stabilization in the amount of \$54,845; 57037.25.015.697.

(H4b) Independent Contractor Agreement with Hydrologics, Inc. to Pilot a Zero Discharge Flushing Program

Approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Hydrologics, Inc. to pilot a zero discharge flushing program in the amount of \$91,722; 511.5125.601081.

(H4c) Amendment Number 3 to the Master Services Agreement with Paymentus

Approved Amendment Number Three to the Master Services Agreement with Paymentus.

(H4d) Contract #2025-3393 with EnviroHydro, LLC for NPDES Sampling and Reporting on Various County Projects

Approved a contract with EnviroHydro, LLC. for NPDES sampling and reporting on various county projects.

(H4e) Contract #2025-3395 with Peek Pavement Marking, LLC for the FY25/26 Safety Striping Project A

Approved The Fiscal Year 25/26 Safety Striping Project A contract with Peek Pavement Marking, LLC. in the amount of \$73,197.35; 2342710.522137.

(H4f) Lighting Services Agreements with Georgia Power to Upgrade Street Lighting to Various Areas - Phase III

Approved the Phase III Lighting Services Agreements with Georgia Power to upgrade street lighting to various areas in the county in the amount of \$125,228.64.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) New Business

(I1a) Management and Internal Services

(I1a1) Criminal Justice Coordinating Council BJA Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program Q23-8-016

Commissioner Melear made a motion to accept the BJA Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1a2) Acceptance of Columbia Judicial Circuit ARPA Funding Grant CY2026 ARPA 3Y009

Commissioner Melear made a motion to accept the CY2026 ARPA grant for the Judicial Circuit. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1b) Community and Emergency Services Committee

(I1b1) Restructure Fire Services Dispatch

Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve the restructuring of Fire Services Dispatch as presented. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1c) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I1c1) RZ25-12-02, Major PUD (Planned Unit Development) Revision, located at the intersection of Market View Parkway and Washington Road, Tax Map 065 portion of Parcel 674, 1.91 +/- acres out of 26.2 +/- acres and currently zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development).

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve the request for the major PUD revision for property located at tax map 065 portion of parcel 674 to reduce building setbacks to 80 feet from the centerline along Washington Road for a proposed drive-thru canopy. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1c2) Waiver of Distance Requirements for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Parcel 050002E

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve the waiver of distance requirements for the sale of alcoholic beverages on parcel 050002E. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. Commissioner Melear opposed the motion. Chairman Duncan, Vice Chair Couch and Commissioner Carraway voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

(I2) Items Added at the Meeting

(I2a) Resolution Number 25-46 Requesting the Columbia County Legislative Delegation to Sponsor Legislation to Allow Local Governments to Provide Direct Homestead Tax Relief Grants in times of Fiscal Stability

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve Resolution 25-46. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(L1) Howard Johnson, Karin Parham, Susan Warren, Joan Krupsky and Lisa Flecha.

Howard Johnson and Karin Parham stated their concerns about the library.

Susan Warren and Lisa Flecha stated their concerns about data centers.

Joan Krupsky stated her concerns about the library and data centers.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Personnel

(M1a) Personnel A

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the employee contract with Scott Johnson, J. Matthew Schlachter, Glenn Kennedy, Michael Blanchard, Stacey Gordon, John Luton, Steven Prather, Leanne Reece, Paul Scarbary, Scott Sterling, R. Kyle Titus, Jeremy Wallen, Janeabeth Wells and James Paschal. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M1b) Personnel B

Commissioner Melear made a motion to allow Deputy Marshal Richard Brassell to work out of classification as a temporary Chief Marshal at an annual salary of \$63,648 retro back to November 01, 2025. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2) Property

(M2a) Property A

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to accept the donation of a temporary easement on parcel 062041E from Carey Rook for the Horizon South Parkway and Chamblin Road connector project. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2b) Property B

Vice Chair Couch motion to accept the donation of temporary and permanent easement from Columbia County Realty Holding parcel 050045E for the Euchee Creek force main. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2c) Property C

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$72,532 to The Village HOA for tax parcels 078299 and 078298 to compensate for an existing structure located on the Fury's Ferry Road widening project. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2d) Property D

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve \$30,000 to Donald Wenzel 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

The Commission welcomed the Columbia County Youth Leadership attendees.

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Chairman Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk