



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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 Jim M. Steed
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
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire 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

Chairman Duncan 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 five Commissioners present.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(E1) January 06, 2026

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 06, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting 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

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 Steed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H1a) Annual Approval of Bank Accounts

Approved all bank accounts that were presented.

(H1b) ESRI Subscription Renewal Authorization of Payment

Approved ESRI subscription renewal authorization of payment in the amount of \$170,000; 6516500.533035.

(H1c) Patriot's Park Gym Renovation Project Change Order 002

Approved Change Order Number 2 for Patriot's Park gym renovation in a deduction of \$26,517.44; 22450.32.015.

(H1d) Professional Services Contract with Booker + Vick Architects for the Renovation of G1 for the Department of Revenue.

Approved a Professional Services Contract with Booker+Vick Architects for the renovation of G1 for the Department of Revenue in the amount of \$47,500.

(H1e) Independent Contract with Two State Construction for the Replacement of the Hazmat Building at Fire Station #7

Approved an Independent Contract with Two State Construction for the replacement of the hazmat building at Fire Station Number 7 in the amount of \$99,959; 2102100.544035.

(H1f) Independent Contract with Sommers Construction Company for Repairs to the Columbia County Maintenance Department Building

Approved an Independent Contract with Sommers Construction Company for repairs to the Columbia County Maintenance Department Building in the amount of \$134,112; 2102100.544035.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Easement Encroachment Agreement, 5113 Washington Road, Tax map 065 Parcel 898, 0.98 +/- acres

Approved an Easement Encroachment Agreement for tax map 065 898.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) New Business

(I1a) Management and Internal Services Committee

(I1a1) 2026 Board and Committee Appointments

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to approve the reappointment and appointments as listed on the recommendation sheet with the addition of Jon Migas for a one-year term on the Tree Advisory Board. 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

(L1) Brenda Heidman, Daniel Lanning, Howard Johnson, Marlena Bergeron and Bob Anderson

Brenda Heidman, Daniel Lanning and Marlena Bergeron spoke against data centers. Bob Anderson spoke

on the quality of life in rural areas. Howard Johnson read a statement from Karin Parham and they both have concerns about the library shelving policy.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

N. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk