



**Columbia County Planning Commission Special Called Meeting  
January 29, 2026 at 6:00 PM  
Evans Government Center Auditorium  
Evans, Georgia**

Present at the meeting included:

Chairman Mark Moody  
Vice-Chairman Emory Holloway  
Commissioner Russell Wilder

Scott Sterling, Division Director  
Will Butler, Planning Manager  
Members of the Media  
Members of the Public

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Moody called the meeting to order at 6PM.

**B. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Wilder gave the invocation.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Holloway led the pledge to the American flag.

**D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM**

Chairman Moody declared a quorum with 3 Commissioners present. Commissioners Lester & Cato were absent (60%).

**E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Wilder made a motion to **approve** the January 29, 2026 Agenda. Vice Chairman Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**F. DEBATE AGENDA**

**1. New Business**

a. Public Hearing

1. (F2a1) **Foundations for the Future Comprehensive Plan**

Scott Sterling, Division Director, discussed the process for the update to the Comprehensive Plan, the timeline of events, and what the purpose of tonight's meeting is.

Chairman Moody opened the public hearing at 6:13PM.

Judy Bullard, 3565 Mistletoe Road, spoke about preserving the rural area of Appling.

Lee Muns, 6343 Harlem Grovetown, questioned the validity of Vision 2035 and the Foundations for the Future plan, discussed the construction of the proposed data centers and the impact they would

have on the area, wants a pause on the plan.

Marlena Barger, 2545 Willow Creek Court, questioned the rebranding, brought up the outdoors and its impact on the community, plan not ready for adoption, discussed the environmental impact of development as a whole, Technology & Industrial character area happened too quickly and was designed for data centers, discussed the ownership of data centers, natural resources are our greatest assets, and plan does not balance conservation and development.

Dan Lanning, 825 Rolling Brook Lane, brought up that there is no public comment about the Technology & Industrial Character Area, appears in August, where does the character area end, would like a moratorium, noted that the data center development is immediate, not like residential development, would like a reduction at a minimum.

Cambrey Wood, 473 Cambridge Way, significant change in the Character Areas, no justification provided to explain why it took place, provide a justification for this, publish a final document for review, all comments should be resolved and no action should take place, comments from Vision 2035 and Foundations for the Future, but aren't addressed, plan wasn't coordinated with the two cities, resolve all conflicts with citizens before adoption.

Lindsey Brantley, 6508 Haywood Drive, County has a communication and engagement problem, need a new draft that reflects community, brought up the development process for these rezonings, as well as steering committee, would like the comments from the website.

Sylvia Elam, 4442 Oak Road, discussed the new Technology and Industrial area, requested clarification on the uses already there, closeness of open space areas to these Technology and Industrial areas.

Joanne Murdock, 1547 Swint Road, brought up the Vision 2035 Character Area Map and compared it to the proposed map, discussed the destruction of open space, questioned the appointment of the steering committee.

Dewey Carey, 3118 Dozier Road, discussed the amount of data center development, plan was entirely different from what was seen at the open house, needs to look at how this came to be, plan doesn't protect the citizens, criticized the data center ordinance, Vision 2035 plan was better, Greenpoint needs to remain Greenpoint.

Rachel Dickson, 6160 Old Union Road, go back to original map, community is people, neighbors, and homes, not data centers.

Susan Warren, 5129 North Tubman Road, was not in favor of how the community input was gathered, data centers and quarries in rural areas were not part of the plan.

## **G. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION**

There was no further business to discuss, therefore Commissioner Wilder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14PM. Vice Chairman Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 – 0.

Signature on File

Mark Moody, Chairman

Signature on File

Scott Sterling, Planning Services Director

**The next scheduled Planning Commission meeting is Thursday, February 5th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Building A at the Evans Government Center.**