



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, February 17, 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 Glenn Kennedy
County Attorney Chris Driver

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
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 Steed 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) February 03, 2026

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 03, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Duncan presented the agenda.

Chairman Duncan gave a statement about Trader Joes coming to Columbia County.

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) Amendment Number One to the Event Staffing Specialist, LLC. Contract

Approved Amendment Number One to the Event Staffing Specialists, LLC. Contract.

(H1b) Information Technology Equipment Lifecycle Replacement with Dell Computer

Approved the Information Technology equipment lifecycle replacement with Dell Computer in the amount of \$232,935; 1011005.601081.

(H1c) Independent Contractor Agreement with Summit Solutionz NV, Inc. and Setting the Budget for the Video Wall and Technology Lifecycle Project for EMA

Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Summit Solutionz NV, Inc. for the Video Wall and Technology Lifecycle Project for EMA and set the project budget for \$711,548.69; 3503550.601090.35560.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Granting City of Harlem a Permanent Access Easement to Campbell's Way Parcel 031 094

Approved a Permanent Access Easement to the City of Harlem parcel 031 094.

(H2b) Initiation of Text Amendments to Chapter 90 Zoning Article III Commercial, Industrial, Professional, Special, Planned Unit Development and Planned Development Districts, Section 90-97 Allowed Uses Article IV Supplemental Requirements, Section 90-135 Signs and 90-147 Use Provisions of Columbia County Code

Approved the initiation of text amendments to Chapter 90 Zoning Article III Commercial, Industrial, Professional Special, Planned Unit Development and Planned Development Districts, Section 90-97 Allowed Uses Article IV Supplement Requirements, Section 90-135 Signs and 90-147 Use Provisions of Columbia County Code.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) Unfinished Business

(I1a) Community and Emergency Services

(I1a1) Ordinance Number 26-01 Amendment to the Code of Ordinance of Columbia County Chapter 14 Animals Section 14-1, 14-4, 14-5 and 14-14 - *Second Reading*

Commissioner Steed made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance Number 26-01. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2) New Business

(I2a) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I2a1) Resolution 26-06 Adoption of Foundations for the Future Comprehensive Plan

The consultant with Houseal Lavigne gave an overview of the plan. Citizens Rachel Dickson, Ronald Gilchrist, Cambrey Wood, Lee Muns, Daniel Lanning and Joanne Murdock stated their concerns with the plan.

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution 26-06 the adoption of the Foundations for the Future Comprehensive Plan and authorize the transmittal of the Plan to the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to include a modification of the character area map to represent greenspace and commercial uses South of I-20 and East of Hwy 221, as conditioned in the Pumpkin Center data center rezoning. Chairman Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a2) Automatic Forfeit Extension for MCM 100 LLC dba Harlem Wine & Spirits

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve April 16, 2026 as the new automatic forfeit extension for MCM 100 LLC dba Harlem Wine & Spirits. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I3) Items Added at the Meeting

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(L1) Catherine Minor, Howard Johnson, Karen Parham and Susan Warren

Citizen Catherine Minor requested plant surveys and rescues of the data center sites. Citizens Howard Johnson and Karin Parham stated their concerns about the library. Citizen Susan Warren stated her concerns about data centers.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Property

(M1a) Frank & Laura Pizzi parcel 067 1408 for moving expense payment.

Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve \$29,118.88 to Frank & Laura Pizzi parcel 067 1408 for moving expense payment. Vice Chair Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Commissioner Carraway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk