



**Management and Internal Services Committee Meeting  
Minutes for Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 8:30 AM  
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia**

Present at the meeting included:

Alison G. Couch, Chairman  
Connie M. Melear, Vice Chairman  
Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Member  
Commissioner Michael M. Carraway  
Commissioner Jim Steed  
County Manager Scott Johnson  
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy  
Deputy County Manager Matt Schlachter  
County Attorney Chris Driver  
County Clerk Patrice R. Crawley

Division Directors:

Leanne Reece - Financial Services  
Kyle Titus - Engineering Services  
Scott Sterling - Planning Services  
John Luton - Community Services  
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire Services  
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services  
Steven Prather – Facility Services  
County Staff

Members of the Media and Public

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Couch called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.*

**B. INVOCATION**

*The invocation was held at the prior meeting.*

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*The Pledge of Allegiance was held at the prior meeting.*

**D. ROLL CALL / QUORUM**

*Chair Couch declared a quorum with three members of the committee present.*

**E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(E1) February 10, 2026**

*Vice Chair Melear made a motion to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes of the Management and Internal Services Committee. Member Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**(F1) Item I2a IGA with Ga Department of Public Safety, Ga State Patrol, for landscape and janitorial services**

*County Manager Johnson requested to add Item I2a. Chair Couch presented the agenda with the addition of the requested item.*

**G. PRESENTATION**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

**I. DEBATE AGENDA**

**(I1) New Business**

**(I1a) County Manager**

**(I1a1) Independent Contractor Agreement with Christopher Caudell to serve as a Staff Attorney for the Columbia Judicial Circuit**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda an Independent Contractor Agreement with Christopher Caudell to serve as a staff attorney for the Columbia Judicial Circuit.*

**(I1a2) Juvenile Court Independent Contractor Agreement with Brendan Fleming to Serve as an Independent Prosecutor for Children in Need of Services**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda the Juvenile Court Independent Contractor Agreement with Brendan Fleming to serve as an independent prosecutor for Children in Need of Services.*

**(I1b) Deputy County Manager**

**(I1b1) Agreement Renewal Number 2 with EyeMed Vision Care for Employee Vision Insurance**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda an Agreement Renewal Number 2 with EyeMed Vision Care for employee vision insurance.*

**(I1b2) Renewal with New York Life for Basic Life Insurance**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda Renewal with New York Life for basic life insurance.*

**(I1c) Financial Services**

**(I1c1) Resolution 26-04 to Amend the Jabez S. Hardin Auditorium Fee Schedule and Authorize the General Manager to Negotiate the Facility Use Agreement and Fees**

*Karin Parham would like to add a no-fee charge for groups that put on free events for the community. Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Debate Agenda Resolution 26-04 to Amend the Jabez S. Hardin Auditorium Fee Schedule and authorize the General Manager to negotiate the Facility Use Agreement and Fees.*

**(I1c2) Revised Rental Contract for Hardin Auditorium**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Debate Agenda the revised rental contract for the Hardin Auditorium.*

**(I1c3) Proclamation Designating April as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in Columbia County**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda Designating April as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in Columbia County.*

**(I1d) Technology Services**

**(I1d1) WebEx Telephony Payment Authorization**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda the authorization of the WebEx Telephone Payment in the amount of \$140,410.20.*

**(I1d2) Renew Maintenance and Support with Ciena for Network Equipment and Services**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda the Renew Maintenance and Support with Ciena for network equipment and services in the amount of \$100,888.81; 5515530.533035.*

**(I1e) Other Committees**

**(I2) Items Added at the Meeting**

**(I2a) Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol for Landscape and Janitorial Services**

*Approved forwarding to the March 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda an Intergovernmental Agreement with Georgia Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol, for landscape and janitorial services.*

**J. LEGAL MATTERS**

**K. STAFF REPORTS**

**(K1) Financial Services**

**(K1a) Year to Date Budget Report**

*Finance Director Reece presented the year-to-date budget report.*

**(K1b) SPLOST Update**

*Finance Director Reece presented the SPLOST update.*

**(K1c) Investment Report**

*Finance Director Reece presented the investment report.*

**L. COMMISSIONERS' AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Couch adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.*



Alison G. Couch, Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk