



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Planning Advance
Minutes for Sunday, November 07, 2021
Hilton Garden Inn Athens Georgia
9:00 a.m.**

Present at the meeting included:

Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr.
Vice Chair Gary L. Richardson
Commissioner Connie L. Melear
Commissioner Dewey G. Galeas
Commissioner Donald Skinner, Sr.

County Manager Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
Deputy County Manager Matt Schlachter
Executive Assistant Janeabeth B. Wells
County Clerk Patrice R. Crawley
Public Relations Manager Cassidy Harris

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

INVOCATION

Chairman Duncan gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL / QUORUM

Chairman Duncan declared a quorum with five Commissioners present.

FUND BALANCE/PROJECT UPDATE

County Manager Johnson gave an overview of the performance of the general fund and projected fund balance was presented.

SPLOST UPDATE

County Manager Johnson explained that the current SPLOST will end at the end of 2022. In order to get the 2023 – 2028 SPLOST on the May ballot, a list of project needs to be completed, meetings with the cities and public hearings held.

LOST UPDATE

County Manager Johnson explained that the current LOST certificate of distribution will expire at the end of 2022. The renegotiation of LOST will begin at the first of next year.

CARES ACT FUNDING

County Manager Johnson stated that the goal was to use the CARES act funding on public safety, water/sewer and broadband projects. Discussion ensued regarding potential projects. The project list will be subject to Commission approval.

AU HOSPITAL UPDATE

County Manager Johnson stated that staff will be meeting with Augusta University to discuss their plans for the hospital in Columbia County. The Commission must approve final funding if there is any excess of SPLOST collections.

PUBLIC SAFETY

County Manager Johnson stated that some concerns have been raised whether or not Gold Cross is fulfilling their contractual duty with the county. Discussion ensued regarding the issues. Staff will be meeting with Gold Cross to discuss the concerns.

GATEWAY SIGNAGE

County Manager Johnson stated that staff has worked with Georgia Department of Transportation on the framework to permit and erect the Columbia County monument signs; one at I-20 at Appling Harlem Road Interchange and the other at I-20 at S. Belair Road Interchange. The Board asked staff to look into different signage options.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:33 p.m. Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Chairman Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 2:56 p.m. Chairman Duncan made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 2:56 p.m. Chairman Duncan called the meeting back to order. Chairman Duncan reported that the Board discussed personnel items with no final actions taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to discuss; therefore, Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 p.m. Chairman Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman

Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk