



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Evans Government Center Auditorium, Evans, Georgia**

Present at the meeting included:

Chairman Douglas R. Duncan, Jr.
Vice Chairman Gary L. Richardson
Commissioner Connie M. Melear
Commissioner Donald Skinner, Sr.
Commissioner Alison G. Couch
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:
Paul Scarbary - Development Services
Kyle Titus - Engineering Services
Scott Sterling - Planning Services
John Luton - Community Services
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire Services
Michael Blanchard - Technology Services
Stacey Gordon - Water Utility 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

Vice Chairman Richardson 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 7, 2023

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 07, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(F1) Removal of Item 12a4 Resolution Number 23-08 to amend the composition of the Columbia County Board of Elections

County Manager Johnson requested that Item 12a4 be removed from the agenda for future consideration. Chairman Duncan approved the agenda with the requested item removed.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

Chairman Duncan welcomed the Columbia County Youth Leadership.

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 Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H1a) Agreement with Georgia Family Crisis Solutions for treatment services through the Columbia Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court and Veteran's Courts Treatment Services

Approved the agreement with Georgia Family Crisis Solutions for treatment services through the Columbia Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court and Veteran's Courts.

(H1b) Statement of Work with CivicPlus, LLC for Municode Supplementation

Approved the Statement of Work with CivicPlus, LLC for Municode Supplementation in the amount of \$4,645.60; 1011001.533140.

(H1c) Appointment of Rickie Dean to the Animal Services Advisory Board

Approved the appointment of Rickie Dean to the Animal Services Advisory Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Michelle Fuller.

(H1d) Annual Approval of Bank Accounts

Approved the list of County Bank Accounts as presented.

(H1e) Memorandum of Understanding with Augusta University / Georgia Cyber Center

Approved the revised Memorandum of Understanding with Augusta University/Georgia Cyber Center.

(H1f) T-Mobile Contract for County Camp Tower Attachment

Approved a contract with T-Mobile for County Camp tower attachment.

(H1g) ESRI Subscription Renewal Payment for 2023-2024

Approved the ESRI subscription renewal payment for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$110,000; 6516500.533035.

(H1h) ArcGIS Urban Online Agreement with ESRI

Approved an Agreement with ESRI for ArcGIS Urban in the amount of \$42,016; 1011511.533035.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Professional Services Contract with Cranston Engineering for the Tennis Court Renovations at Lonnie Morris, Patriots Park, and Riverside Park.

Approved a Contract with Cranston Engineering for the Tennis Court Renovations at Lonnie Morris, Patriots Park and Riverside Park in the amount of \$95,260; 22140.32.010.

(H2b) Columbia County Justice Center Annex Change Order 01

Approved change order number 01 for the Columbia County Justice Center Annex; -\$5,749.93.

(H2c) Award bid and construction contract to Sommers Construction, LLC for Columbia County Sheriff's Office 911 Center Addition

Approved awarding the bid and construction contract to Sommers Construction, LLC for the Columbia County Sheriff's office 911 center addition in the amount of \$485,900; 2112313.601081.

(H2d) Construction Contract with Augusta Quality, LLC for Washington Rd Gateway Landscaping, Bid 2022003-BID3313

Approved awarding the bid and construction contract to Augusta Quality, LLC for the Washington Road Gateway Landscaping in the amount of \$982,839.36; 3503550.601090.35517.

(H2e) Alcoholic Beverage License, Ortiz & Nadhia LLC dba Fuji Asian

Approved the alcoholic beverage license for Ortiz & Nadhia LLC dba Fuji Asian.

(H2f) Resolution 23-07 temporarily halting the requirement for worker's compensation insurance for companies with fewer than three employees

Approved Resolution 23-07 temporarily halting the requirement for worker's compensation insurance for companies with fewer than three employees.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) Unfinished Business

(I1a) Community and Emergency Services Committee

(I1a1) Resolution 23-03 to Amend the Fee Schedule for Savannah Rapids Pavilion -

Second Reading

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Resolution 23-03 to Amend the Fee Schedule for Savannah Rapids Pavilion. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I1a2) Resolution 23-04 to Amend the Fee Schedule for Columbia County Exhibition Center -

Second Reading

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Resolution 23-04 to amend the Fee Schedule for Columbia County Exhibition Center. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2) New Business

(I2a) Management and Internal Services Committee

(I2a1) Canceling the April 4, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve canceling the April 04, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a2) Resolution Number 23-05 Requesting the creation of the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution Number 23-05 requesting the creation of the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2a3) Resolution Number 23-06 to declare the need for a Hospital Authority

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve Resolution Number 23-06 to declare the need for a Hospital Authority of Columbia County. Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

~~(I2a4) Resolution Number 23-08 to amend the composition of the Columbia County Board of Elections - item removed during the presentation of the agenda~~

This item was removed from the agenda during the approval of the agenda.

(I2a5) Ordinance Number 23-01 amending the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County Georgia by adding Section 58-10 Panhandling - *First Reading*

Commissioner Melear motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance Number 23-01 to amend the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County Georgia by adding Section 58-10 Panhandling. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I2b1) RZ23-01-04, Major PUD (Planned Unit Development) Revision, off Columbia Road, Tax map

061 Parcel 081U, 15.9 +/- acres, and currently zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development).

Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for a major PUD revision for property located at tax map 061 parcel 081U to revise the site layout and uses for the subject parcel. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(12b2) VA23-02-01, Variance to Section 90-135 Signs, 140 Cooper Drive, Tax map 083 Parcel 170, 0.53+/- acres, and currently zoned C-2 (General Commercial).

Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the request for a variance to Section 90-135 Signs, located at tax map 083 parcel 170, to permit a freestanding sign to be placed within the visibility triangle subject to the following condition:

Planning:

The sign permit application shall include written approval from the Property Owner's Association prior to approval of the application.

Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(13) Items Added at the Meeting

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Debbie McCord expressed her concerns on changing the composition of the Board of Elections.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Property

(M1a) Regina & William Palomar parcel number 065A001, Richard & Linda Jones parcel number 071F001, Gladys Wallace parcel number 071F034, Ryan Gordon parcel number 071064, Hardy Point Homeowners Association, Inc. parcel number 065A079 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hardy McManus Road widening project.

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve \$61,314 to Regina & William Palomar parcel number 065A001, \$17,635 to Richard & Linda Jones parcel number 071F001, \$28,605 to Gladys Wallace parcel number 071F034, \$14,550 to Ryan Gordon parcel number 071064, \$88,800 and \$98,500 to Hardy Point Homeowners Association, Inc. parcel number 065A079 to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hardy McManus Road widening project. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:16 p.m., Commissioner Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Signature on File

Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman

Signature on File

Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk