



**Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes for Tuesday, September 19, 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
Chief Jeremy Wallen - Fire Services
Michael Blanchard - Technology 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 Melear 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) September 05, 2023

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 05, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(F1) Addition of Item I3a Appointment of Ricardo Bravo to serve on the Public Facilities Authority.

County Manager Johnson requested to add Item I3a the appointment of Ricardo Bravo to serve on the Public Facilities Authority. Chairman Duncan presented the agenda with the requested addition.

G. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND / OR DECLARATION

(G1) Declaration

(G1a) Proclamation in Remembrance of Deborah Bailey Marshall

Commissioner Couch presented a proclamation to the Marshall family honoring the life and memory of Debbie Marshall.

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 Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(H1) Management and Internal Services Committee

(H1a) Appointment of Kellie Johnson to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board

Approved the appointment of Kellie Johnson to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board with a term ending December 31, 2023.

(H1b) Amendment Number 1 to the CorrectHealth Columbia, LLC for Inmate Medical Services

Approved Amendment Number 1 to the CorrectHealth Columbia, LLC. for inmate medical services in the amount of \$904,005.36; 1011312.533035.

(H1c) Judicial Circuit Accountability Court Contract for Treatment Services with DeVose & Associates

Approved for the Judicial Circuit to enter into a contract with DeVose & Associates for the Judicial Circuit Accountability Court for treatment services.

(H1d) Judicial Circuit Accountability Court Contracts for Transportation Services and Substance-Use Testing with Russell Corley

Approved for the Judicial Circuit to enter into a contract with Russell Corley for the Judicial Circuit Accountability Court for transportation services and substance-use testing.

(H1e) Proclamation in Remembrance of Deborah Bailey Marshall

Approved a proclamation in remembrance of Deborah Bailey Marshall.

(H1f) GDOT FY 2025 5311 Rural Transportation Program Application

Approved the Georgia Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2025 Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program application and contract with authorization for the Chairman to sign the final contract once approved; 1010326.433016.10508.

(H1g) 2023 ACCG – Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Employee Safety Grant Award

Approved the acceptance of the ACCG-Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund Employee Safety Grant in the amount of \$6,000; 2250301.433019.10075.

(H1h) Purchase of 1/2 Ton Trucks

Approved the purchase of thirteen Ram 1500 trucks from Don Jackson Auto in the amount of \$546,000.

(H1i) Cisco Enterprise Agreement Payment Authorization 2023-2024

Approved the payment for the Cisco Enterprise Agreement for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$101,932.16; 1011005.533035.

(H1j) Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Policy 710.10 Data Backup and Renummer 781.10

Approved the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Policy 710.10 Data Back up and to renumber as Policy 781.10.

(H1k) Cisco Smartnet Renewal Payment Authorization 2023

Approved the payment for Cisco Smartnet renewal 2023-2024 in the amount of \$271,240.96; 1011005.533035.

(H1l) C3BU Dark Fiber Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) Agreement with Gentry Fund

Approved an agreement with Gentry Fund for C3BU Dark Fiber Indefeasible Right of Use; 5510401.444.105.

(H1m) Independent Contract with SHI International Corp. for the Information Technology Disaster

Recovery Site

Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with SHI International Corp. in the amount of \$1,119,820.89; 22510.32.029.

(H2) Development and Planning Services Committee

(H2a) Change Order Number 1 with Sommers Construction for 911 Center Addition

Approved Change Order Number 1 with Sommers Construction for 911 Center Addition to deduct \$6,115.84 from the contract sum; 2112313.601076.21101.

(H2b) Arcade Operator's License, Owens Holdings II LLC dba Retro City Arcade

Approved an Arcade Operator's License for Owens Holding, III LLC dba Retro City Arcade.

(H2c) Ancillary Dwelling Variance, 656 Bent Creek Drive, Tax map 059 Parcel 135, 5.63 +/- acres, R-A (Residential Agricultural).

Approved the Ancillary Dwelling Variance for tax map 059 Parcel 135.

I. DEBATE AGENDA

(I1) Unfinished Business

(I1a) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(I1a1) Resolution 23-47 Amending the Residential Street Light Tax Districts - *Second Reading*

Vice Chairman Richardson make a motion to approve the Second Reading of Resolution 23-47 Amending the Amount Levied on Residential Street Light Tax Districts. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2) New Business

(I2a) Development and Planning Services Committee

(I2a1) Ordinance Number 23-03, Text Amendment, Chapter 90 Zoning, Section 90-97 Allowed Uses & Section 90-147 Use provisions - *First Reading*

Commissioner Skinner made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 23-03 Chapter 90 Zoning, Section 90-97 Allowed Uses & Section 90-147 Use provisions. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b) Public Works and Engineering Services Committee

(I2b1) Sale of a portion of John Deere Parkway to Deere & Company

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve selling 9.75 acres, a portion of John Deere Parkway, to Deere & Company for \$669,810.18 as depicted on the plat prepared by Cranston Engineering dated November 07, 2022. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I2b2) Sale of a portion of Evans Town Center Blvd to Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve selling .19 acres, a portion of Evans Town Center Blvd, to Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company for \$115,000 as depicted on the plat prepared by Ayercorp dated May 07, 2021. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I3) Items Added at the Meeting

(I3a) Appointment of Ricardo Bravo to the Public Facilities Authority

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the appointment of Ricardo Bravo with his term ending September 19, 2026 to the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority. Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

J. LEGAL MATTERS

K. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

L. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

(L1) Tyler Christensen to speak concerning speeding on Traverse Trail and the Speed Hump Policy

Tyler Christensen stated his concerns about the speeding on Traverse Trail. A traffic study was done per the Speed Hump Policy but Traverse Trail did not meet the criteria for a speed hump. Deputy County Manager Schlachter reviewed the traffic study data for Traverse Trail and explained the numbers. Mr. Christensen requested that the policy be changed so that a study could be done more often than once a year. His neighborhood is still growing, which will produce more traffic and speeding and could potentially meet the criteria of the policy quicker than one year.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(M1) Personnel

(M1a) Salary and Cell Phone Allowance Adjustment for Amie Wheatley

Commissioner Melear made a motion to approve the salary increase for Amie Wheatley to \$22.28 an hour with an annual cell phone allowance of \$1,440 to go into effect September 24, 2023. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2) Property

(M2a) Connie Wisnieski tax map number 060055, Nathaniel & Monica Edenfield tax map number 060054, Nidhi & Adarsh Gulati tax map number 060045D, tax map number 072B153, tax map 073419 to Connemara Property Owners' Association, Inc. to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road Widening Project.

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve \$5,390 to Connie Wisnieski tax map number 060055, \$14,300 to Nathaniel & Monica Edenfield tax map number 060054, \$3,400 to Nidhi & Adarsh Gulati tax map number 060045D, \$75,800 for tax map number 072B153 and \$76,100 for tax map 073419 to Connemara Property Owners' Association, Inc. to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hereford Farm Road Widening Project. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2b) Roy & Helene Rich tax map number 071011D to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hardy McManus Road Widening Project.

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve \$12,000 to Roy & Helene Rich tax map number 071011D to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Hardy McManus Road Widening Project. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2c) Garry Peloquin Tax Map 077010F to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Fury's Ferry Road widening project.

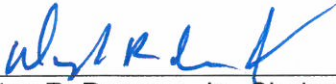
Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve \$59,500 to Garry Peloquin Tax Map 077010F to obtain right of way and/or easements for the Fury's Ferry Road widening project. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(M2d) Resolution Number 23-49, Declaration of Taking and Order by Condemnation for a portion of tax map number 065016F for improving, widening, paving, aligning and maintaining Hardy McManus Road.

Vice Chairman Richardson made a motion to approve Resolution Number 23-49, Declaration of Taking and Order by Condemnation for a portion of tax map number 065016F for improving, widening, paving, aligning and maintaining Hardy McManus Road. Commissioner Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:23 p.m., Commissioner Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman



Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk