

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
March 23, 2023

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 5:30 a.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Rocky Ford, Robby Hollingsworth, Timothy Murphy, Everett Phillips and Ronald Williams

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus (“CM”)
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM)
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Olga Armas

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

Item #4 – 2023R-14, moved to Joel Foreman

Deletions:

None.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the agenda as amended.
SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation

Rocky Ford, Chairman

1) Proclamation No. 2023P-03 – National Healthcare Decisions Day

April 2023 will be proclaimed as “National Healthcare Decisions Month” with April 16th, 2023 being “National Healthcare Decisions Day.” This proclamation is to encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life, discuss end of life wishes with families and observe April with appropriate activities and programs in Columbia County.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Proclamation No. 2023-03. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Proclamation.

Presentation of the Board Requiring Board Vote or Action

Tyson Johnson, Gallagher Insurance

- 1) Presentation on Health Insurance and Insurance Committee Recommendation

As part of the budget process in 2022, the Board recommended staff to proceed with getting bids on health insurance in 2023. Prior to beginning the bid process, Blue Cross Blue Shield provided an estimate for a renewal of the existing policy. Gallagher presented the estimated renewal numbers followed by the Insurance Committee recommendation.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to continue with Florida Blue and not continue with the RFP. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

Joel Foreman, County Attorneys

- 1) Ordinance No. 2023-04 – Adoption Hearing – Smoke-Free Parks for Columbia County

Tobacco Policy Manager for Tobacco Free Columbia addressed the Board and requested its consideration of a model ordinance that would prohibit the use of nearly all tobacco products in Columbia County’s park spaces.

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Ordinance No. 2023-04. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Ordinance No. 2023-06 – Adoption Hearing – Amending Land Development Regulations Article 5 Regarding Subdivision

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

For several month’s staff had been working on changes to the County’s Land Development Regulations (“LDRs”), Relating to the creation of subdivisions, all of which are found at Article 5 of the LDRs. The Planning and Zoning Board

considered the application and proposed changes and approved the same by Resolution PZ/LPA LDR 23-01 on February 23, 2023.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance 2023-063. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Ordinance No. 2023-07 – Amending Land Development Regulations Sections 4.2.39 and 14.7.1 Regarding Special Permits for Borrow Pits

The public hearing opened.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson offered comment.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance No. 2023-07. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution not requiring Public Hearing

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

- 1) Resolution No. 2023R-14 - Resolving Codification Conflict Between LDR Sections 2.1 and 4.2.24

A Resolution was prepared to the Board directing the Municode give effect to the repeal in Ordinance 2018-17 by inserting “cabins” into section 4.2.24. With the correction, the LDRA can continue to follow the published LDRs without having conflicting provisions subject to interpretation. It is clear that by adopting Ordinance No. 2018-17 the Board intended to include cabins, and this Resolution confirms that intent and directs that the code be updated accordingly.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt Resolution 2023R-14. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Resolution.

Consent Agenda:

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) BCC Administration - 2023 Columbia County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan
- 2) BCC Administration - Minutes - 03/03/2022 - Regular Meeting

- 3) BCC Administration - Minutes - 04/07/2022 - Special Meeting
- 4) BCC Administration - Minutes - 06/02/2022 - Budget Workshop
- 5) BCC Administration - Minutes - 06/28/2021 - Special Meeting
- 6) BCC Administration - Minutes - 08/25/2022 - Budget Workshop
- 7) BCC Administration - SHIP Release of Lien - Chelsea Boyette
- 8) BCC Administration - SHIP Release of Lien - Bridget McLaughlin
- 9) BCC Finance - BA 23-43 Bring Forward Remaining Funds from FY 2021-2022 for the Task Order by North Florida Professional Services for Engineering Services to Design the Water Plant at NFMIP - \$53,150
- 10) BCC Finance - BA 23-44 Budget ARPA Funds for Utilities Projects
- 11) BCC Finance - BA 23-45 Friends of the Library Donation - \$8,150
- 12) BCC Finance - BA 23-47 Bring forward Duke Energy Grant Funds - \$14,300
- 13) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 03/01/2023 - \$3,859,630
- 14) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 03/15/2023- \$2,965,643
- 15) Building Department - Building Permit Fee Refund Requested for all Eligible Fees - Permit #43485
- 16) Emergency Management - Approve Contract Z3319 Between Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and Columbia County - Hurricane Ian Reimbursement
- 17) Public Works - Job Description Revision - Traffic Signal Technician II and I, revised to Change the Training and Experience to what is Required for the Position
- 18) Public Works - Utility Permit - City of Lake City for the Bore on SE County Road 252
- 19) Zoning Department - Special Family Lot Permit SFLP2303 - The Byrds Request to Deed 13.39 Acres to their Son, Michael Byrd

20) Zoning Department - Special Family Lot Permit SFLP2304 - John Windham Request to Deed 19.06 Acres to his Daughter, Samantha Pastermak

21) Zoning Department - Special Family Lot Permit - Doris Wright Request Deeding 2.5 Acres to her Step Daughter, Madeline Soto

MOTION by Commissioner William to adopt the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

1) Memorial Marker – Shavar Williams – SW Cypress Lake Road

Staff requested a Memorial Marker in honor of Shavar Williams to be placed on SW Cypress Lake Road.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve request for Memorial Marker in honor of Shavar Williams. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Bid No. 2023-F – Traffic Ops Building – Bid Award and Contract Approval

On March 7, 2023 three (3) bids were received in response to Bid No. 2023-F. Bids were opened and tallied on March 7, 2023; all bids were determined to be qualified meeting all of the required specifications. Staff recommended the Board Award Bid No. 2023-F to the low bidder, Cutting Edge Development, LLC and to approve the construction contract.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to award bid to the lowest bidder and approve construction contract. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

3) DEO Agreement No. G0045 – Funding for Wastewater treatment facility (“WWTF”) at North Florida Industrial Mega Plant (“NFIMP”)

DEO recognized the process undertaken by the County to get the WWTF under construction at the NFIMP. The original DEO grant Agreement included 5% retainage clause should the project not be completed by June 30, 2023. The amendment, if approved, would eliminate the retainage clause.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Amendment No. 3 for DEO Agreement No. G0045. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

4) Moved to Public Hearing with Joel Foreman. Resolution No. 2023R-14 - Resolving Codification Conflict Between LDR Sections 2.1 and 4.2.24

5) Position Descriptions and Pay Grades – Library Branch Manager

Staff requested a revision of Branch Manager I, Branch Manager II, and Branch Manager III position descriptions and pay grades to better reflect the duties and responsibilities of these important Library positions.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to table revision until budget season. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

6) Bid No. 2023-C – ARPA Group 4&5

The County's consultant for the housing program, Guardian CRM, Inc. provided a detailed Bid Tabulation for each of the ten (10) projects in Groups 4 & 5 of the ARPA Housing Rehab Program. The lowest bidder for six (6) homes were from Patriot Response Group, and the lowest bidder for the remaining four (4) homes was from A2B Development, LLC, each one falling within the estimated project cost estimate. Staff recommended the Board award six (6) of the projects in Groups 4 & 5 for Bid No. 2023-C to PATRIOT RESPONSE GROUP, LLC and four (4) of the projects in Groups 4 & 5 to A2B DEVELOPMENT, LLC as per the attached Bid Tabulation.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to award recommendation to Patriot Group Response LLC and A2B Development LLC. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

7) Economic Development Agreement – Project Beehive

Project Beehive wishes to locate in the NFMIP, construct and provide rail services, as well as a transload rail facility. The Board and the EDAB met at a workshop prior to this meeting to review the Agreement. The Company will conduct due diligence related to this project and the County enters into an exclusive partnership with the Company.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Economic Development Agreement for project Beehive. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Richardson Community Center Deed- City of Lake City

The City of Lake City provided the Deed for the Richardson Community Center to the County.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to accept deed from the City of Lake City.

Commissioner Williams amended his motion.

AMENDED MOTION by Commissioner Williams to accept deed from the City of Lake City with the condition that the City agrees to provide \$150,000 per year. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Gopal “Roger” Surti
- Nancy Turner
- Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson
- Clermont Ashby
- Phil Mobley
- Clanita Holton
- Tammy Magsten
- Marilyn S. Byrd

Staff Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Phillips offered comment on flashing stop lights.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Rocky Ford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court