Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
**February 16, 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:

CM Kraus - Utilities Leak Adjustment Request – Three rivers Auto & RV

Deletions:

None

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

**Proclamation**

Ricky Ford, Chairman

1) Proclamation No. 2023-02 National FFA Week – February 18-25, 2023

Future Farmers of America ("FFA") Club offered a presentation.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Proclamation No. 2023-02. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to allow the FFA Group to have their flag flown in the Columbia County Court House. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

Corbett Alday, Guardian CRM

1) Resolution No. 2023R-10 – Second Public Hearing – FY 2022 Proposed CDBG Economic Development Application

This was the second Public Hearing concerning a potential CDBG-ED grant that would expand the Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant from 50,000 GPD to 75,000 GPD.

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve Resolution 2023R-10 and authorize CDBG-ED application for FFY 2022. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Resolution.

Connie Brecheen

2) Ordinance 2023-03 – Zoning Change Request – Parcel # 23-3S-15-00272-001

Zoning Change request to rezone .59 acres, parcel # 00272-001 from Agriculture-3 to Commercial Neighborhood to reopen a self-serve gas station/convenience store.

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve Ordinance 2023-03. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Ordinance.

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

3) Adoption Hearing: Ordinance No. 2023-01 Simulated Gambling Devices Exemption for War Veterans Organizations.

Ordinance No. 2023-01, would create an exemption allowing War Veteran Organizations, like American Legion Post 57, to operate simulated gambling devices that are otherwise legal under state laws pertaining to such

devices. This amendment removes these organizations from the reach of the County's ordinance.

The public hearing opened.

Williams Huggins offered comment.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-01. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Ordinance.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1) BCC Administration - Columbia County SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP)

2) BCC Administration - Florida Department of Health - FY 2022-23 Quarterly Report

3) BCC Administration - Minutes - 05/07/2020 - Regular Meeting

4) BCC Administration - Minutes - 05/06/2021 - Regular Meeting

5) BCC Administration - Minutes - 11/04/2021 - Regular Meeting

6) BCC Administration - Minutes - 02/10/2022 - Regular Meeting

7) BCC Administration - Minutes - 02/17/2022 - Regular Meeting

8) BCC Administration - Minutes - 03/17/2022 - Regular Meeting

9) BCC Administration - Minutes - 04/07/2022 - Regular Meeting

10) BCC Administration - Minutes - 04/21/2022 - Regular Meeting

11) BCC Administration - Minutes - 12/22/2022 - Regular Meeting

12) BCC Administration - Minutes - 01/05/2023 - Regular Meeting

13) BCC Administration - Minutes - 01/19/2023 - Regular Meeting

14) BCC Finance - BA 23-37 - Town of Fort White Budget Jordan Street Project - $408,827

15) BCC Finance - BA 23-38 - State Firefighter Assistance Grant Fund Appropriation - $41,028

16) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 02/1/23 - $2,870,038

17) 9-1-1 Communications Center - BA 23-39 E-911 Board Grant S22-23-01-14 for Participation in Region 3 GIS Project - $277,104.00

18) Emergency Management - Agreement between Columbia County School District and Emergency Management to use the School District Media Center for Citizen's Information Center Training on May 2, 2023

19) Information Technology - Request for Private Road Name - SW Bridle Ct.

20) Information Technology - Request for Private Road Name - SW Oak Hill Ct.

21) Public Works - Utility Permit - ATT - SE Bailey St.

22) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Ace Ln.

23) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray - NW Lake Jeffery St. from SW Madison to NW Wilson St.

24) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray - NW Lake Jeffery Rd. NW Meadowlark Rd., NW Geranium Rd., NW Hibiscus Rd.

25) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray - NW Oakland St. NW Hensley Ave. and NW Bascom Norris Rd.

26) Public Works - Utility Permit -Hargray - SW Bascom Norris Rd. and SW Sisters Welcome Rd.

27) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray - SE Klondike Pl, SE Pueblo Way, SE Custer Way, SE Cheyenne Ct, SE Crow Ct, SE Blackfoot Ct, SE County Club Rd, SE Patience Pl, SE Woodhaven St, SE Piute Way, SE Navajo Ct, SE Fontana Gln, SE Deerwood Gln, SE Fawn Gln, SE Anastasia St, SE Mowhawk Way, SE Apache Way, SE Mojave Way, SE Post Ct, SE Sandia Way, SE Jonathon Way, SE Ferret Pl, SE Cherokee Way, SE Hubble St, SE Forest Ter, SE Travis Gln, SE Bracken Way, SE Hanover Pl, SE Jeremy, Pl, SE Whistle Loop, SE Polk Ln, SE Bream Loop, SE Pebble Creek Ter., SE County Rd 252, SE Holly Ter., SE Mulberry Pl., SE Lemon Way, SE Mimosa Pl

28) Public Works - Position Description Revision - Traffic Signal Technician II

29) Public Works - Requesting Approval of Easement on County Property located at Public Works

30) Public Works - Permission to Enter Private Property - 801 SE Bailey St. for the Purpose of Tree Removal

31) Public Works - Entering Private Property - SW Ramon Ct. - to Repair Damage Caused by County Rd.

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

**Discussion and Action Items**

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

1) Resolution to Approve County Participation in C-Pace (Property Assessed Clean Energy-Commercial)

During the summer of 2022, the Economic Development Advisory Board and Board of County Commissioners expressed their support for making Property Assessed Clean Energy loans available in Columbia County, but for commercial purposes only. The commercial-only variety of this program is shorthanded as "C-PACE".

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt Resolution and authorize the County Manager to sign C-PACE agreements. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Request for Adoption Hearing: Smoke-Free Parks for Columbia County

The Board was recently addressed by Travis George, Tobacco Policy Manager for Tobacco Free Columbia. Travis 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.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to set an adoption hearing for March 16th, 2023 for Ordinance No. 2023-04. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

3) Enforcement of special use permits

Recently, property owners have held events on their property without acquiring a Special Use Permit. This Agenda item will discuss the enforcement of special use permits.

County Attorney offered comment.

Sylvester Warren offered comment.

4) Special Assessment Legal Services – Nabors Giblin & Nickerson P.A

Nabors Giblin & Nickerson P.A proposed to provide legal services on the County's annual fire protection, solid waste, roads and street lightning assessments programs. The fee schedule for these services include a $20,000 lump sum plus an hourly rate schedule for additional services.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Nabors Giblin & Nickerson P.A proposal. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

5) Tourist Development Council Appointments – Mary Fleming and Ricky Jernigan

Tourist Development staff requests the Board of County Commissioners appoint Mary Fleming, Town of Ft. White District 3 Councilwoman, and Ricky Jernigan, City of Lake City District 14 Councilman.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Mary Fleming and Ricky Jernigan to the Tourist Development Council. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

6) 2023 North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity Re-designation

Resolution 2023R-11 is a resolution requesting the re-designation of the North Central Florida Rural Area of Opportunity ("RAO"). As first identified by Governor Jeb Bush in 2003, as well as the continuation of the North Florida Economic Development Partnership ("NFEDP"). As the regional organization identified to work in partnership to promote and improve economic development within the North Central Florida Region.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Resolution 2023-R11. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

7) Standard Utility Rates

The Utility Committee recommends moving toward a unified/standard utility rate for all customers. To accomplish this goal, the Committee discussed setting all Residential Water Rates to match the Fort White Residential rates; increasing Ellisville Commercial rates incrementally till they reach Fort White Commercial rates; and establishing a single schedule of fees moving forward. The County will need to send out notices to customers prior to adoption of any rate increase. Staff is looking for direction.

Discussion ensued. No motion was made.

8) Utilities Leak Adjustment Request – Three Rivers Auto & RV

Travis George offered a comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve a leak adjustment policy and a leak adjustment in the amount of $1,978.35 for Three Rivers Auto & RV. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips.

Motion was amended.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams approve a leak adjustment policy and a leak adjustment in the amount of $1,978.35 for Three Rivers Auto & RV and to not cut off customer's water until water leak is detected. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips.

**Open Public Comments and/or Questions:**

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Ronald Williams II
- Alita Gaskin
- Travis George
- Stephanie McDonald
- Sylvester Warren
- Conrad Wallas

**Staff Comments:**

CM Kraus offered update in how steps are being take it offer better service to the Veterans.

Economic Advisory Committee update was made.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Phillips offered comment on Tustenuggee road.

Commissioner Murphy offered comment on the Hunter project. ACM Kirby provided update on project.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Rocky Ford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court