

Columbia County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Special Joint City/County Meeting

Minutes of  
**April 18, 2023**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a special scheduled meeting in the Richardson Community Center at 5:30 p.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

City Officials in Attendance: Mayor Stephen M. Witt, Jake Hill Jr., Todd Sampson, Chavella Young, Ricky Jernigan, Todd Kennon, Gerald Butler, Audrey Sikes

**Agenda:**

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

**Discussion and Action Items**

1) City/County Consolidated 911 Dispatch

Representatives of the City, County and Sheriff's Office have been meeting to discuss consolidating 911 Dispatch. The two Fire Chiefs, the Lake City Police Chief, and the 911 Center Director have expressed support for consolidation of this service as a means to improve response time to emergencies. This item seeks the support of the full County Commission and the City Council for the consolidation efforts.

The following County and City members offered comment:

- Columbia County, Sherriff Mark Hunter
- City of Lake City, Chief Gerald Butler

- County Fire Rescue, Chief Jeffrey Crawford
- City of Lake City Fire Rescue, Chief Dwight Boozer
- 911-Director, Tom Brazil

Sylvester Warren offered comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve 911 Dispatch Consolidation with the City. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

## 2) County Operated Animal Enforcement

Columbia County has committed to providing the enforcement of Animal Control "in-house" in fiscal year 2023-2024. This item would discuss any potential impacts of this decision on the City of Lake City.

Discussion was limited to an announcement by Commissioner Ford that the County would be interested in assisting the City with animal control through a mutual aid or Interlocal agreement.

## 3) Richardson Center Licensing Agreement

To discuss City and County operations at the Richardson Center and implementing the standard County Community Center agreement

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth for the County to take ownership of the Richardson Center and Accept/Record the Deed. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Murphy voting in opposition.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams that the County CO-Sponsor the grant with the City. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

City Councilman Todd Sampson said that the City allocated approximately \$50K for the City's recreation activities at Richardson for this Fiscal Year and may possibly offer as much as \$100K for the next Fiscal Year.

The following members of the Richardson Center Committee offered Comment:

- Tammy Magsten
- Ronard Johnson
- Phil Mobley

The following citizens offered comment in regards to the Richardson Center:

- Pamela Green
- Glenel Bowden
- Sylvester Warren
- Chief Butler, City of Lake City Chief
- Kyle Green
- Monty Ashby
- Harold Perry

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

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Sylvester Warren
- Glenel Bowden
- Ronard Johnson
- Vanessa Jorge
- Tammy Magsten
- Joshua Garner
- Shalea Jernigan
- Tony Johnson
- Cara Donahu

**Staff Comments:**

None.

**Commissioner Comments:**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Rocky Ford, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

---

James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court