

DeKalb County Government

*Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030*



Summary

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

9:00 AM

Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium

Board of Commissioners

*Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Presiding Officer, District 4
Comm. Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Deputy Presiding Officer, District 7*

Commissioner Robert Patrick, District 1

Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2

Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3

Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5

Commissioner Edward "Ted" Terry, Super District 6

Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7

Staff Present: Michael Thurmond, Chief Executive Officer, Zachary Williams, Executive Assistant/
Chief Operating Officer, Barbara Sanders- Norwood, County Clerk, Viviane Ernstes, County Attorney

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available (1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage, and (2) on DCTVChannel23.TV.

Public Comment may be submitted by sending an email no longer than one page to PublicComment@dekalbcountyga.gov which must be received between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Only those emails received during the allotted time may be read aloud and broadcast. Emails received outside of the allotted time will be included in the Public Comments record for the next meeting after the receipt of those emails. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email at any time for public comment, you agree to have your name, address, and email broadcast on the teleconference (Zoom) and entered in the record/minutes. Abusive, profane or derogatory language will not be permitted. The Public Comment segment will not exceed 30 minutes and individual emails will be read by the Clerk for no more than 3 minutes each. The County reserves the right, at the County's sole discretion, to (1) add your email to the record/minutes without reading any of it into the broadcast or (2) add your email to the record/minutes and read all or a portion of your email into the broadcast.

A. INSPIRATIONAL

Pastor Kenneth L. Samuel
Victory for the World Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Larry Johnson
District 3

B. PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Response - CEO Michael Thurmond

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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1. Eric J. Johnson, 4342 River Vista Road, Ellenwood, DeKalb County, Georgia 30294
Wali Kareem, 4606 Lake Vista Cir Ellenwood, GA 30294
Melanie Johnson, 4544 River Vista Rd. Ellenwood, GA 30294
Randall and Monica Cobbs, 4423 Postwood Lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Jackson Family, (no address)
Charles Sperling, 4694 River Hill Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
Earl Dwayne Banks, 4611 River Hill Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
Victoria Pryor-Holeman, 4609 Lake Hill Trail Ellenwood, GA 30294
Dalonda King, 4651 River Vista Trail Ellenwood, GA 30294
Ms. Syretta Mason-Davis, 4628 River Hill Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
Monique Josey, 4581 River Hill Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
Darryl Josey, 4581 River Hill Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
David and Kawanna Findlay, 4666 Lake Vista Circle Ellenwood, GA 30294
Olivia Maupin, River Vista Estates HOA Board of Directors, 4511 River Vista Road Ellenwood, GA
Anthony West, 4714 River Side Point Ellenwood, GA 30294
Jeffer Connell, 4550 Lake Hill Trl Ellenwood, GA 30294
Melvin E. Ushery Jr., 4650 Lake Hill Trl Ellenwood, GA 30294
Ricardo Newman, 4833 Silverbush Lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Wilbert & Sheila Jackson, 4640 Lake Hill Trail Ellenwood, GA 30294
Toronto & Perlina Thomas, 4447 Postwood Lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Carolyn L. Canty, River Vista Estates HOA Board of Directors, 4463 Postwood Lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Allen Douglas, 4811 Silverbush lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Carlton P. Bell, 4316 Tumbling Lane Ellenwood, GA 30294
Qasim T. Challenger, 4297 River Vista Road Ellenwood, GA 30294

- Dear DeKalb Commissioners, we would like to thank you for allocating time out of your schedule to address and resolve the resurfacing and paving issues within River Vista Estates, that were not properly constructed by the original developer in 2005. As a River Vista Estates Homeowner and tax payer, I am urging the Commissioners to unanimously approve the Public Works - Roads & Drainage Item Number 2020-1616, which would finally fix the improperly developed roads in our community. River Vista Estates is a well-manicured established community of single family homes located on River Road in Ellenwood, DeKalb County, Georgia. Currently, River Vista Estates has 281 lots that currently has 253 single family homes featuring expansive 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes that are priced from \$350 - \$500 thousand dollars. Additionally, 20 new homes are in various stages of construction. River Vista Estates Homeowners are proud and avid voters, who paid approximately \$1,145,760 in property taxes in 2020, thereby driving the DeKalb County Tax Commission to establish a community valuation of over \$90 Million. Our community streets are plagued with numerous pot holes, huge depressions, wash outs, unevenly paved streets and other problems, which routinely cause damage to our vehicles and adversely affects our property values. We recognize the Commissioners' efforts to address and resolve constituent issues and hope you will work to resolve our dilemma. We look forward to your unanimous approval.

2. Steve Goodsell, 3715 Northside Parkway, 100 North Creek, Suite 130 Atlanta, GA 30327 - I own a number of lots in River Vista. The condition of the road in front of the lots is unacceptable. There is no excuse

for a neighborhood to not have safe and passable streets. None of us in the neighborhood are responsible for what is happening with the roads – that is on the county. It is the county’s responsibility to fix it. Please take up that responsibility and deal with it. Thank you for your attention to this matter

3. Ellie Thaxton, 775 Northern Ave, Clarkston GA - Dear CEO Mike Thurmond and Dekalb Board of Commissioners, My name is Ellie Thaxton, and I live at 775 Northern Ave, Clarkston GA (unincorporated Dekalb). I have been working alongside several nonprofits helping tenants to apply for rent assistance with the Dekalb Citizens Assistance Program. Though the local nonprofits have been faithful to administer the money Dekalb allocated to them for rent assistance, they are having to turn away hundreds of people on the brink of homelessness because of lack of funding. In fact, as of the end of November, 6100 evictions are still pending in Dekalb that were filed between March to November. The majority of these eviction cases involve Black and immigrant tenants, most commonly single mothers of small children. Though federal rent relief is coming, this funding will be too little and too late for most of the thousands of families still under eviction. Dekalb has done many great things to try to fight COVID and build back the economy, but by not passing adequate funding to stop evictions, we’re afraid you are defeating your efforts in many ways. It is possible that thousands of folks will become unsheltered when the CDC moratorium expires at the end of the month. These citizens will lose their jobs, their children will stop schooling, many children will go into foster care, and citizens will die from exposure to COVID, or the cold. The increased costs to the county on policing, social services, rehousing, and more, will be greater than the cost of allocating rent assistance now. While Gwinnett has spent over \$13 million in rent assistance, according to a recent post by Commissioner Bradshaw, Dekalb has allocated only around \$5 million. CEO Mike Thurmond stated that the county still has CARES Act money that has not been spent. We nonprofits are coming to urge the CEO’s office to allocate \$12 million of the remaining CARES Act funding towards rent assistance now (an average of \$2000 for each of the 6000+ tenants facing eviction). Please, hear us nonprofit leaders and community advocates who stand ready to help these tenants if provided the funding. We must take an aggressive approach and work together to prevent evictions as in the examples of Gwinnett County and the City of Atlanta. We will be following up by email. We look forward to working with you

4. Stephen Binney, (no address) - Happy New Year Commissioners, I want to welcome Mr Patrick and Mr. Terry to the Dekalb County Commission. I look forward to your fresh ideas to make our County a better place to live. Dekalb County governance sometimes has a way of assimilating its commissioners into its system of secrecy and old habits. I hope you will work towards evolving our current system into a more open and efficient type of government. On today's agenda is an item transferring over 320 thousand dollars from 2001 Park Bond funds to the new Community and Senior Center to be built off Elam Rd. I ask all Commissioners along with the legal, parks, and accounting departments to take a closer look at this transfer of funds. First off, does a Community and Senior Center meet the legal definition of a park. More important however are the rules and guidelines attached to the 2001 Park Bond. On March 20, 2001, DeKalb County voters approved the issuance of \$125 million in general obligation park bonds for the following types of projects in unincorporated DeKalb County: land for additional parks and natural areas, preservation of green space, protection of clean water, improvement of existing parks, and development of new park facilities. Use of bond funds, as specified in the 2001 bond referendum are to be used in the following ways. At least 70% dedicated to land acquisition for parks and green space. No more than 30% dedicated to park improvements and developing new facilities Since Dekalb County already owns the land on Elam Rd this money would not qualify under land acquisition

costs. There was one phase of improvements and developing new facilities approved in September 2001 with a phase two to be following shortly thereafter. I believe all of the improvement money has already been spent and the county needs to confirm if it has been or not. The fact that Dekalb County passed another Park Bond in 2005 with an allocation of 70% towards improvement and developing tends to back up that all the improvement funds from 2001 had already been allocated and spent. I support the new Senior Center but I want our County funds to be spent legally and in the way promised to Dekalb County voters, even if it was 20 years ago. Also on today's agenda, the defaulting of 38 developers on their infrastructure commitments will end up costing Dekalb County over 2 million dollars in the future. If developers can't keep the promises they make to Dekalb County, they should not be allowed to develop in the County. Thank you for your time and consideration

D. 10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING

The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing during its Regular Business meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available (1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage, and (2) DCTVChannel23.TV. The public is invited to watch the broadcast on DCTV's UStream link (<https://video.ibm.com/channel/dctv-channel-23>), or join the meeting using the Zoom link (<https://dekalbcountyga.zoom.us/j/7753778046>), or by telephone (602-333-0032 or 888-270-9936, conference code: 217687). For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. The Board will provide 15 minutes of time for citizens to speak in favor of an agenda item, and 15 minutes for citizens to speak in opposition. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Citizens may also email documents for inclusion into the official record by submitting such materials by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the public hearing to PublicHearing@dekalbcountyga.gov.

Finance

[2020-1552](#)

Commission District(s): All

Home Rule Ordinance to amend the Pension Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, 1962 Ga. Laws 3088, as amended, to provide for an increase in monthly pension benefit amount to specified eligible retirees, joint annuitants and beneficiaries.

Approved to adopt for the first hearing, and deferred to the next meeting, until January 26, 2021

Watershed Management

[2020-1518](#)

Commission District(s): District 3

Sewer Petition- Creekwood Terrace (Decatur, Georgia)

Approved

E. APPEALS

NONE

F. APPOINTMENTS

ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

Board of Commissioners - District 4

[2021-2002](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Norman Powell to the Animal Services Advisory Board.

Approved

[2021-2006](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

To record the reappointment of Christopher Richard to the Airport Advisory Board.

Approved

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Commissioners

[2020-1649](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of Minutes for the January 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Approved

[2021-2005](#)

Commission District(s): All

A Resolution Reaffirming the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners' Committees

Approved

Board of Commissioners - District 4

[2021-2001](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Transfer \$324,720 from 2001 Park Bond Funds account 100629.80314.541100.05.600012 and to set-up a new District 4 Development account for the District 4 Community and Senior Center.

Approved

H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Board of Commissioners

[2020-1650](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Nomination of a Presiding Officer

Approved

[2020-1651](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Nomination of a Deputy Presiding Officer

Approved

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

[2020-1617](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2020

Approved

[2020-1618](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020

Approved

District Attorney

[2020-1638](#)

Commission District(s): all

Creation of a Director and Deputy Director of Operations and Special Projects in the District Attorney’s Office

Deferred, until February 23, 2021

[2020-1639](#)

Commission District(s): all

Creation of two Victim Advocates in the District Attorney’s Major Case Unit

Deferred, until February 23, 2021

Executive Assistant - Chief Operating Office

[2021-2011](#)

Commission District(s): Districts 2 & 6

Authorize the amendment of the real estate exchange agreement to extend the closing date to a date not to exceed June 30, 2022. The County will exchange the Dresden Tag Office site, located at 1358 Dresden Drive, Brookhaven, Georgia for the property located at 3653 Clairmont Road, Chamblee, Georgia which includes a building that will be renovated prior to the exchange so it can serve as the new North Tag Office

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

Public Works - Roads & Drainage

[2020-1615](#)

Commission District(s): County-Wide

Reimbursement for Traffic Signal Equipment Relocations, Upgrades, Recycling and Damage

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1616](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

Acceptance and Appropriation of Surety Bonds Proceeds

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to ERPS Committee

[2020-1574](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

CA - Cooperative Agreement for False Alarm Billing and Tracking Services (Revenue Sharing Contract): for use by the Department of Police Services (PS). Consists of the management of false alarms in accordance with County Ordinance O.C.G.A 36-60-13. Awarded to: Superior, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$400,000.00.

Deferred to the next meeting, until January 26, 2021

[2020-1630](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

LB - Invitation No. 20-101291, Biohazardous Car Cleaning Services for Police Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Police Services. Consists of the cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of police vehicles as needed. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: DOKUN Technologies, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$167,508.00.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

[2020-1561](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

AP - Conventional Truck with Above Frame Outside Rail 30 Ton Rolloff Hoist, CNG Engine: for Public Works-Fleet Management to be used by Public Works-Sanitation. Consists of the purchase of one (1) additional truck with above frame outside rail 30 ton rolloff hoist, CNG driven used to haul construction and demolition debris from commercial and residential sites to the landfill. Awarded to MHC Kenworth, Atlanta. Amount Not To Exceed: \$220,647.00.

Approved

[2020-1632](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CA-SVI Heavy Duty Air & Light Specialty Support Vehicles: for use by Public Works-Fleet Management to be used by Fire Rescue Services. Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let HGAC Cooperative Contract No. FS-12-19 to purchase two (2) SVI Heavy Duty Air & Light Specialty Support vehicles for the purpose of filling SCBA bottles and carrying the rehab equipment to support fire ground suppression efforts. Awarded to: Super Vacuum Mfg. Co. Inc.: Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,399,824.31.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

[2020-1199](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101230 Electrical Switchgear Inspection and Repair (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of providing inspection and repair of switchgear equipment at water and wastewater treatment plants. Recommend award to the sole bidders who are responsive and responsible: Cleveland Electric Company and Brown Electrical Services, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,854,000.00.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1290](#)**Commission District(s): All**

SS - Sludge Dewatering Screw Press System for Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP) (Sole Source): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of the purchase of two (2) sludge dewatering screw presses to dewater Pole Bridge AWTP's aerobically digested waste to an acceptable concentration. This request seeks approval of the sole source with permission to execute the terms and conditions in a form acceptable to the County Attorney or her designee. Awarded to Process Wastewater Technologies, LLC (PWTech). Amount Not To Exceed \$1,584,280.00.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1387](#)**Commission District(s): All**

REN - Conventional Grass Seeding (Annual Contract 2nd Option of 2 Options to Renew): Contract No. 1144824 for the use by Public Works - Sanitation. This contract consists of the purchase of grass seeding services as a means of erosion prevention and odor control at the Seminole Landfill. Awarded to K2R Legacy Group, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$150,000.00.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1567](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 for Contract No. 1216193 Cooperative Purchase off Augusta, Georgia Utilities Department Contract No. 17-167: for use by the Utilities Customer Operations (UCO). This contract consists of the provision of revenue audit services for commercial water accounts. This request is to remove the amount not to exceed for the contract. Awarded to Utility Revenue Management Company, Inc. Revenue Generating.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1573](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1093417 for Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Stream Crossings (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). This contract consists of inspections and assessments of sewer stream crossings. Awarded to River to Tap (R2T), Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$437,600.00.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

[2020-1611](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101220 Consent Decree - Proactive and Reactive Assessment and Cleaning for Gravity Sewer Lines (PRAC) [Multiyear Contract with 1 Option to Renew]: for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists primarily of providing sanitary sewer assessments that include: assessments of gravity sewer pipes with diameters from 8” to over 36”; tiered assessments of pipes with diameters from 8” to 18”; and TISCIT assessments for pipes larger than 18”. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: Metals & Materials Engineers, LLC; Video Industrial Services, Inc.; Woolpert, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed \$18,053,892.50.

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), and return to the Board on January 26, 2021

2021-2033

Commission District(s): All

Add an item

Approved

2021-2034

Commission District(s): All

AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$246,000.00 FROM THE CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE (CTCL), COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT.

Approved

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD**Board of Commissioners**[2020-1589](#)**Commission District(s): District 5**

A Resolution of The Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia to the Georgia General Assembly Urging the Assembly to Take Legislative Action to Curb Dangerous and Unlawful Street Racing and Reckless Driving Exhibitions

Approved the substitute

Purchasing & Contracting*Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee*[2020-1529](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 2 to Contract Nos.: 1025662, 1023197 and 1031586 for Architectural and Engineering Design Services (Multi-year Contract): for the Departments of Facilities Management (FM) and Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). These contracts consist of the provision of architectural and engineering design services for various projects. Awarded to Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., Brown Design Group, Inc. and Pond & Company. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$950,000.00.

Approved**J. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD****K. EXECUTIVE SESSION****POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN COUNTY SERVICES.**

DeKalb County Government does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities or exclude them from participating in or receiving benefits of its services, programs, or activities, based on disability. Janet Essix, DeKalb County Government's Employee Relations Manager and ADA Coordinator, is designated to coordinate the County's compliance with Part 35 of the Department of Justice regulations regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. Janet Essix may be contacted at 1300 Commerce Drive, 1st Floor, Decatur, GA 30030, 404.371.2309, to request information about access for persons with disabilities to County services, programs and activities, or to discuss a grievance regarding an impediment to such access. Ten days' notice is requested for special accommodations.