

DeKalb County Government

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



Summary

Tuesday, May 25, 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

Administration: Michael Thurmond, CEO, Zachary Williams, Executive Assistant/ Chief Operating Office, 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

Denny Shortal
Former Mayor of Dunwoody, GA
Brigadier General USMC (Retired)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
Super District 7

B. PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Response, Public Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy- CEO Michael Thurmond
National Internal Audit Month - Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7
Asian American Heritage Month - Commissioner Ted Terry , Super District 6

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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.

1. Stephen Binney, (No Address) - Good Morning Commissioners, Do you feel disrespected today? You should. The county does a private internal audit and doesn't deem you worthy enough to receive the information or your impute important enough to help fix the problems. Mr Thurmond abuses you like an unloved spouse and ignores you like an unwanted child. You were elected to fight for the voters of DeKalb County not surrender to the whims of CEO Thurmond. Mr Thurmond you are nothing more than a big almost-bad wolf. You huff and you puff but all you blow is smoke and mirrors. The reports were not a personal attack on you. No one suggested that. Then you wave your hand and state that nobody at this table was here in 2016. Viviane Ernstes and Cathryn Horner were both working for the county in 2016 and Zach Williams was the COO in 2016 when this ordinance was written. Even the current Watershed Management Director, Reggie Wells, was an assistant manager at Watershed in 2016. Then last week here comes Mr Zach Williams to the rescue. He said and I quote, "We take this very personal, we recognize that the most important in our most valuable assets. Besides our team. It's our reputation. And I mean the County's record". This County has the record and reputation as being one of if not the most corrupt and sloppy county in the entire state of Georgia. If that is one of our most valuable assets then we are a very poor county. Then we are told that when prime contractors use the same sub-contractor the bids are often identical. If that is the case, why not deal directly with the sub-contractor and save money. I see only one same sub-contractor listed on today's 2514 Watershed contract extension. What I do see is RENEE GROUP listed as a Prime Contractor. They are a company located in Doraville with 6 full-time employees that was formed in 2016 as a front. Why? Mr Wells is brought on to tell us that identical bidding is so common it has happened 26 times in the past. I submit that 26 identical contract bids is the very definition of bid rigging. Not the other way around. Then we blame the mail man. The auditor doesn't understand our bidding process, then why did you hire them in the first place. The auditor didn't wait for our response. The auditors waited for a year and a half and got no response at all, except to be fired when the information got out. Admit it, this information was never going to be released to anybody. And now the solution you propose is to allow the same foxes that are currently in charge of the hen house to be the team in charge of enforcing those rules. Thank you for your time and consideration, Stephen Binney

2. Paul McLennan, (851 Alberson Ct. Decatur, GA 30033) - TO: DeKalb Board of Commissioners, Please take action and move forward on a resolution to remove the weapon of war and symbol of white supremacy in the Decatur square. Next month will be the one-year anniversary of taking down the Lost Cause monument. Please finish the job you started and remove the genocide cannon now. Thank you.

3. Chris Kanne, (No Address) - Please remove the cannon. Symbols of oppression and intolerance do not belong in our city. We want to embrace diversity and kindness. I want to be proud of my city. Please remove the cannon.

4. Susan Firestone, (1227 Church Street Unit E, Decatur, GA 30030) - Commissioners, I urge you to immediately remove from the square in Decatur the cannon that was used in 1836 as part of efforts to kill and forcibly remove the sovereign Muscogee Creek people from their homelands. This cannon was erected as a symbol of white supremacy and destruction of native peoples. It was mounted in the historic DeKalb County courthouse square by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the same group that erected the now-removed Confederate monument. This symbol of violence and racism has no place in our public square. It is not representative of the diverse inhabitants of DeKalb County and dishonors the indigenous people whose land it stands on.

5. Good Morning Commissioners: DeKalb County is the 4th largest county in Georgia. Police and fire are basic government services. Every time, violence occurs, it erodes the public confidence in our police to protect and serve. I am concerned about the crime levels in DeKalb, and how the police respond to residents and how crime scenes are treated in different parts of the county. If we cannot be safe in our homes and communities, then all the other things that the government does to improve the quality of life is not very meaningful. There is one thing I do know and that is the justice is better served because of technology, like the video cell phone, body cameras, business cameras and tag readers. I support the increase in the number of police officers and the increase in pay for officers with the expectation residents would receive better service in return. DeKalb County should focus on increasing the number of police officers in the department and make sure that training is provided so that the quality of policing does not suffer. DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond has made public safety a top priority after years of neglect with the support of the DeKalb Board of Commissioners. The DeKalb Board of Commissioners should increase the police department budget and have some standards and quality of service throughout DeKalb County in terms of public safety. We must invest more in tag readers, body cameras, and training. As part of the County business license process, businesses that have parking and walk-in customers should be required to have surveillance cameras. These cameras should be available for the crime victims to view. Those businesses that have repeat incidents should be required to have security at night and should have property signage and lighting. The county spends a lot of money on persons who commit crimes and very little on the victims of crime. The police department should have a robust tracking system so that crime victims can be updated about their cases. Since we know that many of the crimes are committed by juveniles and young adults, the department needs to be more proactive in addressing some of the root causes of crime. Police should work with schools to reduce that level of bullying, gangs, drugs, and dropouts in public schools. We need to get the repeat offenders off the streets. The police need to be proactive, visible, and use more technology to help prevent and solve crimes. We need the county to invest more in tag readers and public surveillance cameras and to increase the number of police officers on patrol to help protect and serve the citizens of DeKalb. Thank you Ed Williams

6. Josh Linman, (4437 Debracy Place Tucker, GA 30084) - My name is Josh Linman, I am the pastor at Common Table, a Decatur church community near the old courthouse square. I am also a Dekalb resident living in Tucker. I strongly urge the removal of the cannon on the old courthouse square that celebrates the genocide, oppression, and forceful removal of indigenous peoples from this area. This monument does not belong in a public square but in a museum where people can be properly informed of it's appalling heritage rooted in racism and hatred. Sincerely, Josh Linman

7. Natsu Taylor Saito, (2198 Venetian Dr. SW Atlanta, GA 30311) - To the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners: I write to urge you, again, to remove the cannon that sits just outside the DeKalb County Courthouse and commemorates the "Indian War of 1836." This monument characterizes the forced removal of members of the Muskogee Creek Nation from their homelands, and their subsequent slaughter, as a "war" that, presumably, "we" won. As such, it glorifies and thereby perpetuates a history of genocide. It also sends a resounding message to the tens of thousands of American Indians who live in Georgia today, a message that says, "you no longer exist," or "you do not belong here." A message to Indian children that their histories, cultures, and identities have no place in DeKalb County. I appreciate your recognition of the need to remove symbols celebrating the Confederacy and hope that you will recognize--as did the Daughters of the

Confederacy--that the elimination of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of African peoples are inextricably linked "causes." If, as a society, we wish to proceed in unity we will have to be honest about our histories. Removing this cannon--a symbol of violence, conquest, and racialized hatred--would be a good step in that direction. I hope that you are willing to take this step toward racial justice and, ultimately, healing. Thank you.

8. Kavita Rajanna, (128 Parkwood Lane, Decatur GA 30030) - Hello, I'd like to share the following comment: A canon celebrating the forced removal of indigenous people from their land should not stand in downtown Decatur. There should be no monuments to settler colonialism in this town or county. There needs to be a reckoning with Decatur's racist history. In addition to taking the cannon down, the county needs to apologize to the indigenous people who were killed, maimed, and run off their land. Dekalb also needs to review the stolen land that was given to white settlers in the 1800s. We are all standing and living on stolen land. We must consider land-back options and other ways of financially repairing the damage done to indigenous communities. It is beyond time for Dekalb County to acknowledge this reality. Kavita Rajanna Thank you, Kavita

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, May 25, 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.

Planning & Sustainability

[2020-1175](#)

COMMISSION DISTRICT(S): 3 & 6

Section 27-3.39.3 (Permitted Uses and Structures -Bouldercrest Overlay District Land Use Table), Section 27-9.1.3 (Definitions), Section 27-3.39.8 (Supplemental Regulations-Bouldercrest Overlay District).

Deferred for 30 days, until June 22, 2021

Public Works - Transportation[2021-2447](#)**Commission District(s):** 2 & 6

Traffic Calming Petition - Adelia Pl & Rogeretta Dr between Biltmore Dr and Houston Mill Rd. No Cost to County.

Approved[2021-2526](#)**Commission District(s):** 3 & 6

Traffic Calming Petition - Boulder Vista Dr between Barbara Ln and Bouldercrest Rd. Cost to the County is \$9,935.00.

Approved[2021-2559](#)**Commission District(s):** 3 & 7

Traffic Calming Petition - Lindsey Drive & Lindsey Lane between Glenwood Road and Wesley Chapel Road. No Cost to County.

Deferred for 30 days, until June 22, 2021 for Public Hearing**E. APPEALS**

NONE

F. APPOINTMENTS**Chief Executive Office**[2021-2585](#)**Commission District(s):** All

To Appoint Commissioner Robert Patrick (District 1) to the Development Authority of DeKalb County.

Approved

[2021-2613](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

To Appoint Commissioner Edward “Ted” Terry (District 6) to the DeKalb Community Service Board

Approved

ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

Board of Commissioners - District 6

[2021-2590](#)

Commission District(s): District 6

Recording of the Appointment of Benjamin Bell to the District 2 Community Council

Approved

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Commissioners

[2021-2564](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of Minutes for the May 18, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Approved

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

[2021-2591](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2021

Approved

Human Services

[2021-2546](#)**Commission District(s): All**

Acceptance of an Additional \$234,006.05 in CARES Act Funds from the Atlanta Regional Commission for the Provision of Congregate Meals to DeKalb Seniors during the Ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic- At No Cost to the County

Approved and allow the Law Department to correct the entities to reflect the contracting party as DeKalb County Georgia

Police Services[2021-2555](#)**Commission District(s): All Commission Districts**

Grant Acceptance - US Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service (USSS)
FY 2021 Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF), \$3,000.00.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to PECS Committee

[2021-2576](#)**Commission District(s): 3 & 6**

CO - Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 1233520 for Glen Emerald Lake Dam Repair (365 days): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). Consists of the rehabilitation of the dam located at Glen Emerald Lake Park. Awarded to: Reeves Young, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$61,250.00.

Approved

H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS**Board of Commissioners**[2021-2598](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts DeKalb County No Net Loss of Trees Policy

Deferred for 45 days and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on July 13, 2021

Board of Commissioners - District 4

[2021-2595](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Implementation of an ordinance to allow for a framework for the County to consider public private partnerships as contemplated by O.C.G.A. Sections 36-91-110 through 36-110-119.

Deferred for 45 days and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on July 13, 2021

Public Safety - DEMA

[2021-2554](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Accept a COVID-19 Public Assistance Grant from FEMA as a pass through via GEMA for expanded vaccine operations in the county. DeKalb has been obligated up to \$9,587,753.82 for the significant expansion of Emergency Protective Measures.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to ERPS Committee

[2021-2509](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract Nos.: 973430, 973431, 973442, 973429 for Towing and Wrecker Services: for use by Police Services (PS), Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue Services and Public Works - Fleet Management (FM). These contracts consist of the towing, removal, storage and impoundment of wrecked or disabled vehicles for private citizens in the six (6) DeKalb County service areas and includes towing services for County-owned vehicles. Awarded to: Brown & Brown Wrecker, Statewide Service South, Inc., South DeKalb Towing and Transport, Inc. and S&W Services of Atlanta, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$20,000.00/month.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to FAB Committee

[2021-2505](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

SS - Utility Billing Software Maintenance and Support (Sole Source): for use by the Department of Finance. Consists of maintenance and support of the software system (CPAK) utilized to process utility billing for various County departments. Awarded to AdaptToSolve, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$743,675.00.

Deferred for 2 weeks and assigned to the Finance, Audit & Budget Committee (FAB), and return to the Board on June 8, 2021

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

[2021-2466](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

AP-Landfill Compactor Tractor: Invitation No.: 19-101135 for Public Works-Fleet Management to be used by Public Works-Sanitation. Consists of the purchase of one (1) additional landfill compactor tractor used to reduce the size of material waste through compaction. Awarded to Yancey Brothers Co. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,149,535.00.

Approved

[2021-2500](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

REN - Decals for County Vehicles (Annual Contract - 2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): Contract Nos.: 1167962 and 1167964 for use by the Departments of Police Services (PS) and Fleet Management (Fleet). These contracts consist of providing the production and installation of vinyl decals for County vehicles. Awarded to AKO Signs, Inc. and Fru-Art Company, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$70,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2506](#)**Commission District(s): All**

REN - Inspection and Maintenance of Fire Suppression System (Annual Contract - 2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): Contract No. 1167719 for use by the Department of Facilities Management (FM). This contract consists of providing equipment inspection and repair services for the County's existing fire suppression systems. Awarded to Alliance Fire Protection Services. Amount Not To Exceed: \$90,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2556](#)**Commission District(s): All**

SS - Voting Equipment: for use by the Department of Voter Registration & Elections (VR&E). Consists of the purchase of ballot adjudication workstations and scanners. Awarded to: Dominion Voting Systems Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$312,695.00

Approved

[2021-2575](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

LB - Invitation No. 21-101358, Renovation and Development of the 178 Sams Street Facility (165 days): for use by Facilities Management (FM). Consists of the renovation and development of the buildings located at the 178 Sams Street Facility. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Hogan Construction Group, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$6,102,336.000.

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting - to PECS Committee

[2021-2412](#)**Commission District(s): All**

REN - Feed, Hay and Shavings for Little Creek Horse Farm and Park (Annual Contract - 2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): Contract No. 1167347 for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). This contract consists of the purchase and delivery of feed, hay and shavings to Little Creek Horse Farm and Park. Awarded to: The Stock Market. Amount Not To Exceed: \$200,000.00.

Deferred 2 weeks and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board June 8, 2021

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

[2021-2514](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 3 for Contract Nos.: 1063844 and 1063841 and Change Order No. 4 for Contract Nos.: 1063831 and 1068774 Annual Water & Sewer Construction (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). These contracts consist of primarily providing installation and repair of water and sewer pipes in various sizes. This request is to increase the contract term through September 30, 2021 to Contract Nos.: 1063844 and 1063841 as well as increase funding and the contract term through December 31, 2021 to Contract Nos.: 1063831 and 1068774. Awarded to GS Construction, Inc., SD&C, Inc., Granite Inliner, LLC and The Renee Group/CamKen Consulting (RGI/CamKen JV). Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$2,919,395.00.

Approved

[2021-2518](#)**Commission District(s): 3 and 6**

LB - Invitation No. 21-101352 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works - Sanitation. Consists of collecting, handling, packing and lawfully transporting household hazardous waste. Recommend award to the sole bidder who is responsive and responsible: MXI Environmental Services, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed \$125,000.00.

Approved

Solicitor - State Court

[2021-2571](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Request for Additional Fleet - Solicitor General's Office (One Chevy Traverse - \$27,220)

Deferred 2 weeks and assigned to the Finance, Audit & Budget Committee (FAB), and return to the Board on June 8, 2021

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

Board of Commissioners

[2021-2400](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia Expressing Condemnation of Hate Crimes, Misogyny and Discrimination Targeting Members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities.

Deferred for 2 weeks and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on June 8, 2021

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2021-2369](#)**Commission District(s):** Districts 2 and 6

Resolution Conveying the Policy of the DeKalb County Governing Authority Concerning Property Tax Abatement for the Manor Druid Hills Apartment/Hotel/Medical Office Project in the City of Brookhaven

Deferred for 2 weeks and assigned to the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), and return to the Board on June 8, 2021

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

[2021-2449](#)**Commission District(s):** All

Approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of April 6, 2021

Approved

[2021-2530](#)**Commission District(s):** All

Approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of April 20, 2021

Approved

[2021-2550](#)**Commission District(s):** All

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2021

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

[2021-2095](#)**Commission District(s):** ALL

CA - Cooperative Agreement for Desk/Cubicle Office Furniture: for use by the Department of Voter Registration and Elections (VRE). Consists of piggybacking off the competitively let Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-001-SPD-0000100-0002 for the purchase and installation of desk/cubicle furniture. Awarded to: 5-Star Office Furniture, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$135,136.75.

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.