

DeKalb County Government

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



Summary

Tuesday, May 11, 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: 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

Pastor Quincy L. Carswell, II
The Covenant Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ted Terry
District 6

B. PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Response - COO Zachary Williams
COVID Vaccination Report

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. Latonia Willis, 11 Tree View Dr., Lithonia, GA 30038 - Good morning Commissioners and Thurmond's Administration, last week, the citizens of DeKalb County heard from another whistleblower who slipped Channel 2's Richard Belcher a copy of a disturbing audit report with findings of bid rigging, millions in overbilling and possible complicity by watershed personnel. The independent forensic accountant in the news story described the audit report as "one of the most egregious" audits he has seen. Nevertheless, the County's attorney, Terry Phillips, tells Richard Belcher these are old audits, and old issues that have been completed or in the process of being completed. Question, how old are the audits and what are the years? Why am I not surprised? Keep in mind the first whistleblower was a female named Theresa Slayton. In early 2018, the former senior purchasing official shined light on the problems in the County's purchasing and watershed departments; then fired. Slayton's lawsuit claimed illegal practices of collusion, bid rigging, violations of the Open Records Act, contractors overbilling of invoices, and more. Then, the administration attempted to assassinate her character to the public. Relatedly, these are identical accusations made in the latest audit report shared by another whistleblower. Oh, let us not forget the Hartman Firm audit report was hidden until Channel 2 received a draft copy. Then, the CEO has the audacity to call out Stacey Kalberman and John Greene relating to implementing the recommended changes to the County's purchasing policies. The CEO and his administration seem to challenge individuals who are rightfully trying to perform his/her duties and responsibilities as well as upholding the law. But the administration continues to keep and protect the employees/officials who are willing to lie, and cover-up in an attempt to deceive the public and taxpayers. The coverups continue. Hopefully, the Office of the AG, the U.S. Attorney's office and the DOJ are watching or have been notified to investigate these allegations outlined in the leak audit report. If these findings are true, no one should be above the law, including appointed, hired and elected county officials. Channel 2, keep airing the woes of DeKalb County until the government steps in and open an intensive investigation. To Commissioner Bradshaw, Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Mereda Johnson, I can always count on you to straddle the fence, to look the other way and remain silent when it comes to addressing the ongoing problems within the county. The three of you manage it well. I hope this public comment does not find its way in the junk or spam mailbox.

2. Dr. Ed Williams, P.O. Box 361626 Decatur, GA 30036 - Good Morning Commissioners. DeKalb County is the 4th largest county in Georgia. Providing water and sewer service is a basic government service. We need a bill of rights with teeth that prevent citizens from having to pay unreasonable amounts for water. I would encourage the commission to reconsider its intention to take action on lifting the water billing problem cut-off moratorium. We are in the midst of a pandemic and citizens need to be able to wash and clean. Access to clean and affordable water is a necessity and an essential service. DeKalb does not need to be so quick to turn off the water. Public Officials have an obligation to be open and transparent and not violate the public trust. I recommend that the county keep the water cut-off moratorium in place and that the county focus on fixing the water billing problem and giving citizens some real relief. Do the right thing. Thank you

3. Stephen Binney, (no address) - Commissioners, It is a sad time in DeKalb County. This county is built on Lies and the Lying Liars who tell them. A devastatingly critical audit that questions millions of dollars in spending by DeKalb Watershed is released by a whistleblower to the media. This private internal audit points to suspected bid rigging, collusion, and over billing. Seven of the eight transactions that they looked at had material errors. Nearly 90%, is this inefficiency or corruption? WSB asked for this audit nearly 2 years ago and was told the county couldn't find it and was unable to retrieve it. Lie! Terry Phillips when asked this week said it was old news and whatever recommendations that have been presented in these old audits have been

completed or are in the process of being completed and any issues have been corrected. Lies! The following day Viviane Ernstes is on TV telling us that if WSB had just used the right word on their open records request the county would have gladly issued the audit report. Lies! Viviane, I would like a copy of this report/audit, even if it is old news. Can you email me the exact words I need to use in my open records request so it can be processed properly and sent to me. I hear this report was not even given to any of the commissioners. Not even the PWI committee. If these problems have been or are being corrected do you have any additional audits that prove this? Because I do not believe you. If these problems have been corrected why have no companies been fired or fined? Why have no contracts been rebid? Why do the same companies get awarded contracts over and over? Why has no one from the procurement department been fired? Oh yes, it wasn't publicized but the county did recently lay off an entire procurement team because there wasn't enough work for them to do. If this wasn't a Lie, why are these same jobs currently posted for hiring. Perhaps it was to get rid of the suspected whistleblower. Dekalb County, you are not nearly as clever as you think you are. You are a pathetic and morally bankrupt organization. A legacy land swap for no money which Blackhall Studios sells two months later for \$120 million dollars is getting conned. When asked about any 1.6 million dollar pledge he made to the community during the land swap negotiations, Mr. Millsap said honoring those commitments will be up to "the guys who bought it." "They bought this with no conditions," Millsap said. Less than a week later the LA investment group that acquired Blackhall are now asking Dekalb County to pay for road construction and other infrastructure improvements to this property. That my friends is the definition of Chutzpah. Thank you for your time and consideration, Stephen Binney

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 11, 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.

NONE

E. APPEALS

NONE

F. APPOINTMENTS

ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2021-2552](#)

Commission District(s): District 2

Record Appointment of Ron Nawrocki as the District 2 Representative to the Watershed Customer Service and Billing Advisory Group

Approved

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Commissioners

[2021-2527](#)

Commission District(s): All

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

Approved

Board of Commissioners - District 7

[2021-2557](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

To appropriate a total of \$15,000 from the Reserve for Appropriation to the Atlanta Community Food Bank in partnership with Soldiers' Angels for the purpose of providing three mobile food distributions to DeKalb Veterans.

Approved

[2021-2558](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

To appropriate a total of \$40,000 from the Reserve for Appropriation to the United Way of Greater Atlanta to assist with funding the AARP Foundation Experience Corps Program in DeKalb County Schools.

Approved

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO[2021-2530](#)**Commission District(s): All**

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

Deferred to the next meeting, until May 25, 2021[2021-2550](#)**Commission District(s): All**

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

Deferred to the next meeting, until May 25, 2021**H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS****Purchasing & Contracting***Purchasing & Contracting - to ERPS Committee*[2021-2394](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CA - Cooperative Agreement for Law Enforcement Equipment: for use by Police Services (PS). This contract consists of the purchase, training, and support of Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW). Awarded to: AXON Enterprise, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$3,312,366.00.

Approved*Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee*

[2021-2418](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

REN - Oracle Technical Support Services and Software Licensing (Sole Source - Annual Maintenance Renewal): Contract Nos.: 1247705, 1247711, 1247713 and 1247714 for use by the Departments of Innovation and Technology (IT). This contract consists of the provision of licensing and support for all Oracle Applications. Awarded to Oracle America, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,197,487.49

Approved substitute

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

[2021-2402](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101297 Valve and Wet Tap Installation Services (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of the installation of valves and wet taps for fire hydrant repairs. One (1) bid was received. Recommend award to the sole, responsive and responsible bidder: Georgia Hydrant Services, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$706,635.00.

Approved[2021-2439](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1102179 for Sanitary Sewer Chemical Root Control (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). This contract consists of sanitary sewer chemical root control. Awarded to Duke's Root Control, Inc. Amount Not to Exceed: \$900,000.00

Approved[2021-2440](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract Nos: 1103755 and 1103756 for Sanitary Sewer Easement Clearing (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew) for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). These contracts consist of providing easement clearing on the sanitary sewer system as part of the Consent Decree. Awarded to Georgia Power Company and Casey Tree Expert, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$900,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2445](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1172163 for Water Meters and Parts (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). This contract consists of the purchase of water meters and parts. Awarded to Kendall Supply, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$6,000,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2448](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101321 Disaster Recovery and Sewage Cleaning Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Departments of Watershed Management (DWM) and Facilities Management (FM). Consists of providing disaster recovery cleaning services of water and sewage and supplementary services for repair to systems affected by spills from heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: Bell Restoration Services, Inc. dba SERVPRO of Stone Mountain/Clarkston, Full Circle Restoration, and Belfor USA Group. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$800,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2469](#)**Commission District(s): 5**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101278 for Application of Herbicides at Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of the purchase of services for application of herbicides at Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: NaturChem, Inc. Amount Not to Exceed \$224,784.00.

Approved

[2021-2470](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101310 for Diving Services (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). Consists of the diving services for the removal of blockages that inhibit proper flow of water in various raw water pump stations. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: Underwater Construction Corporation and Zion Marine, Inc. Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$1,350,000.00.

Approved

[2021-2491](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO 5 - Purchase of Trailers (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew) Contract No. 1109393 for Public Works - Sanitation: for use by Public Works Road & Drainage (R&D). This contract consists of providing mobile office trailers. Awarded to McGrath Rentcorp dba Modular Management Corporation. Amount Not To Exceed: \$101,383.00.

Approved**Watershed Management**[2021-2499](#)**Commission District(s): 2 &6**

Georgia Department of Transportation Contract Item Agreement - Water and Sewer Facilities Project PI M006145 resurface State Route 155 from State Route 10 to State Route 13 in DeKalb County - Resurfacing

Approved**I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD****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

Deferred to the next meeting, until May 25, 2021**Executive Assistant - Chief Operating Office**[2021-2517](#)**Commission District(s): Districts 5 & 7**

Acquisition of 7558 Pleasant Hill Road, Lithonia, Georgia 30058 (16-188-04-033).

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.

Deferred to the next meeting, until May 25, 2021

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.