



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File #: 2025-0525

Substitute

5/29/2025

File Status: Preliminary Item

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Airport

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): 1 and 6

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, Chapter 6, Article III, DeKalb-Peachtree Airport, to Authorize Landing Fees for Transient Aircraft, and for Other Purposes.

Information Contact: Hunter Hines, Airport Director

Phone Number: 770-936-5440

PURPOSE:

To consider amending Chapter 6 of Article III of the Code of DeKalb County to provide for the implementation of landing fees for transient aircraft landing at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK).

NEED/IMPACT:

The Board desires to provide a statutory mechanism that will allow the County to implement landing fees, as established by action of the Board of Commissioners, for transient aircraft landing at PDK. This ordinance ensures that the Airport Department can collect landing fees which will provide value and revenue for airport improvements to the Airport Enterprise Fund on an ongoing basis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the Ordinance authorizing landing fees for transient aircraft at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE III, DEKALB-PEACHTREE AIRPORT, TO AUTHORIZE LANDING FEES FOR TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia is tasked with the protection of the County's public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb-Peachtree Airport ("PDK" or "the Airport") is an enterprise fund department of DeKalb County, Georgia that is self-supporting and operates in the same manner as a private enterprise; and

WHEREAS, PDK currently experiences approximately 44,000 landings per year from aircraft that are not based at PDK; and

WHEREAS, PDK Based Aircraft operators contribute to the Airport's operating expenses by paying rent related to a lease and by regularly purchasing fuel on the Airport; and

WHEREAS, visiting non-PDK Based Aircraft do not contribute to the Airport's operating expenses associated with the provision of aviation services. Operators of non-PDK Based Aircraft do not make lease payments, and fuel purchases are optional and often made at other airports; and

WHEREAS, establishing a reasonable weight-based landing fee provides an equitable method of collecting fees from transient aircraft in relation to such aircraft's impact on the Airport, and assures that transient aircraft contribute to the Airport's operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia finds it advisable to amend its DeKalb-Peachtree Airport Ordinance to allow for the collection of transient landing fees at PDK; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia that Article III of Chapter 6 of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia is hereby amended as follows:

PART I. ENACTMENT

Chapter 6, Article III, Division 1 is hereby amended by amending Section 6-36 to add new definitions in alphabetical order and adding new sections 6-57 and 6-58 to read as follows:

Sec. 6-36. - Definitions.

Based aircraft means an aircraft that is operational, airworthy, stored and is typically based at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport for six months or more each year. Based aircraft may include aircraft under a Lease or Tie Down Agreement between the aircraft owner and the county or aircraft of a tenant or sub-tenant of another entity on DeKalb-Peachtree Airport.

Maximum certificated take-off weight means the maximum allowable weight of an aircraft at the start of its takeoff roll. A maximum certificated take-off weight includes the weight of the aircraft itself, its structure, systems, fuel, passengers, cargo, and any other items on board.

Transient aircraft is an aircraft that is visiting DeKalb-Peachtree Airport and is not a based aircraft.

Transient landing fee is a fixed amount of money paid to DeKalb-Peachtree Airport by a transient aircraft owner/operator every time the aircraft lands at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport.

Sec. 6-57. - Transient landing fees.

- (a) Each transient aircraft landing at the Airport shall be subject to payment of transient landing fees. The transient landing fees shall be payable to the Airport or its duly authorized representatives upon landing at the Airport, unless other arrangements have previously been made with the Airport Director in writing. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Airport Director, the owner or operator of the aircraft shall be the responsible party for payment of any applicable transient landing fees.
- (b) The transient landing fees shall be based on the aircraft's maximum certificated take-off weight (not the current operating weight of the aircraft) and fees shall be assessed as follows:
 - a. No fee for aircraft weighing up to 9,000 lbs.
 - b. A price per pound for aircraft weighing between 9,001 – 20,000 lbs.
 - c. A price per pound for aircraft weighing more than 20,001 lbs.
- (c) The specific prices per pound for the transient landing fees shall be as established by action of the board of commissioners, a copy of which shall be on file in the office of the clerk of the board of commissioners and available on the Airport's county webpage.

Sec. 6-58. – Exemptions from transient landing fees.

The following aircraft landing at the Airport are exempt from transient landing fees:

- a. Aircraft based at PDK.
- b. Medical transport aircraft.
- c. Military aircraft.
- d. Federal government aircraft.
- e. State government aircraft.
- f. Other aircraft, as determined by the Airport Director.

PART II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

May 20, 2025

PART III. SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS

Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

HUNTER HINES

Airport Director
DeKalb-Peachtree Airport

MATTHEW C. WELCH

Interim County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia

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Presiding Officer
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