

DeKalb County Government

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



Summary

Tuesday, January 26, 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: 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

Diane Ward
Executive Director, Project Transformation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson
District 5

B. PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Response - CEO Michael Thurmond

Art Calendar Contest

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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1. Stephen Binney, (no address) - Good Morning Commissioners, in 1956, Dr King stressed "the need for courageous, intelligent, and dedicated leadership... Leaders of sound integrity. Leaders not in love with publicity, but in love with justice. Leaders not in love with money, but in love with humanity. Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause. A time like this demands great souls with pure hearts and ready hands. Leaders whom the lust of office does not kill. Leaders whom the spoils of life cannot buy. Leaders who possess opinions and a will. Leaders who will not lie". That was over 64 years ago and still rings true today. As commissions you are falling short of Dr. Kings needs. After spending over a year trying to put together a transparent and efficient procurement system for Dekalb County and failing, according to Item #1413 you are now asking the Georgia Assembly to do it for you. If the CEO, COO and the Commission can not agree on a resolution to ensure and eliminate impediments to a transparent procurement system you have loss your sense of responsibility to the people of your county. In 2015 The Operations Task Force recommended the creation of a Charter Review Commission. After much delay, one was finally formed in late 2019. They met one time only. What happened to that commission? Now under Item #1414 you are asking the Dekalb Legislative Delegation to set up a new Charter Review Commission for you. Where is our intelligent, and dedicated leadership with sound integrity, love of justice, souls with pure hearts and ready hands, and who possess opinions and a will? Where are our leaders who don't want other people making their decisions for them? "Justice" is the key word here. How do we begin to transform the institutions themselves? How do we change our county for the better? When you are dealing with people who, quite frankly, do not value the lives of his or her constituency enough, I do not know what you can do to relate to those people other than to get them out. That would really be unfortunate since I want each of you to work together and succeed so that Dekalb County can be a better place for all of us to live. Many elected officials are not activists and are not organizers. But I think the time has come now where we cannot afford to only be one thing. Being a politician is not enough in these trying times. You have to fully commit to being a public servant, which means you become an organizer, an activist, advocating for food security, against homelessness, and for policies to remove harm from the system. Ms. Sanders I want to thank you for finding my public comments last week and thanks to Mr. Bradshaw for allowing you to read them at the end of the meeting. Thank you.

2. Latonia Willis, 11 Tree View Drive Lithonia, GA 30038 - Good Morning CEO Thurmond and Board of Commissioners, Happy New Years! As we enter a new year, it is important for County leaders to continue to work towards restoring the trust with Dekalb's citizens. The citizens of Dekalb County have a right to know about serious concerns that may affect them. It is perceived County Commissioners and the administration are concealing public information and details of corruption in the County from the public. As researchers and community aides, we donate our time to volunteering and helping others with real concerns and problems in Dekalb communities. In December, we were provided with a copy of a transcribed audio recording; the transcribed audio was provided to the commissioners on 1/25/2021 for today's meeting. Based on the Court records obtained- document 49-40 Defendant's Exhibit- the County is listed as the defendant. Does anyone remember the whistleblower Theresa Slayton? Her employment was terminated for complaining about the purchasing irregularities in Purchasing and Contracts and the Watershed departments. The audio transcription is dated 2017. Upon examining the transcript, a second County official named Watershed and acknowledged that it was leaking information. If Dekalb County leaders have prior knowledge of this audio recording but choose to remain silent, they are complicit in covering up the ongoing problems in Watershed and in Purchasing and Contracts departments. So far, it is public record and available for purchase on PACER, along with other court records. Yet, the County attempted to push a summary judgment on it, which was denied. The late, great

Congressman John Lewis said: “my philosophy is simple, if you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it.” Ms. Slayton did do something, and the County terminated her for exercising her moral obligation. There is absolutely no doubt that Ms. Slayton was telling the truth about major problems of the County’s Watershed department and about officials’ leaking of confidential information relating to unadvertised bids. Her manager’s confirmation of Watershed’s knowledge of the collusive-like behavior in the recording attests. Again, the County has a history of terminating whistleblowers for exposing its maleficent practices. Namely, the former watershed director, Mr. Scott Towler, who was forced out for refusing to violate the law relating to the County’s Consent. It is important for information such as this to be made available to the public because whistleblowers in Dekalb County are often demeaned in the court of public opinion and labeled as ‘disgruntled’. Commissioners, do you recall the CEO’s spokesperson releasing a March 2018 statement to WSB’s Richard Belcher? S/he said, “[When or if the allegations are proven to be true, we will take appropriate actions.]” Mr. Michael Thurmond, what were the administration’s and the Commissioners’ appropriate action(s) after learning of the audio recording that unequivocally backed the whistleblower’s claims of wrongdoing in Purchasing and Contracts? Commissioners, will you stay silent again? Mr. Thurmond will Ms. Slayton receive an apology from Dekalb County? Oh, how the past woes of the County’s Purchasing and Watershed departments keep recurring! Let’s take a trip down memory lane- when jurors heard audio recordings in the 2014 Burrell Ellis corruption trial and how the former county’s purchasing director Mr. Kelvin Walton lied under oath. Besides, there is the Unhappy Taxpayer and Voter Citizen Researchers, who obtained the sworn testimony of the former purchasing Director, Talisa Clark and posted it on their website, <http://unhappytaxpayerandvoter.com/teresa-slayton-disputes-dekalb-countys-statement-to-wsb/>. The evidence affirmed that Clark lied under oath. Later, Clark abruptly resigned but the County allowed her to remain on the payroll, with benefits for two months. Paradoxically, whistleblowers speak out and they are immediately terminated by the County. The new DEKALB resembles the old DEKALB.

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 26, 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

Planning & Sustainability[2021-2046](#)**Commission District(s): All**

Small Box Discount Store Moratorium Extension

Approved to adopt the substitute

Public Works - Transportation[2020-1403](#)**Commission District(s): 3 & 6**

Traffic Calming Petition - Skyhaven Rd between Moreland Ave and Powell Ct.

Approved

[2020-1438](#)

Commission District(s): 3 & 6

Traffic Calming Petition - Boulder Vista Dr between Barbara Ln and Bouldercrest Rd. No Cost to County.

Approved

[2020-1645](#)

Commission District(s): 1 & 7

Traffic Calming Petition - Cherry Lane between Lawrenceville Highway and Lucky Valley Drive. Cost to the County is \$10,100.

Approved

E. APPEALS

NONE

F. APPOINTMENTS

ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

Board of Commissioners - District 4

[2021-2012](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Matt Leatherman to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2013](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Roslyn Allison to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2014](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Wesley Brooks to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2019](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Evora Ritchie to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2020](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Janet Curtis to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2021](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Victoria Webb to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2030](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Andrea Hart-Vann to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2031](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Conward Jones to the District 4 Community Council Board.

Approved

[2021-2044](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Isaac Blythers to the Citizen Oversight Committee for SPLOST Revenues and Expenditures.

Approved

[2021-2045](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Nadine Rivers Johnson to the Watershed Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Advisory Group.

Approved

[2021-2048](#)

Commission District(s): District 4

Reappointment of Nadine Rivers Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Approved

Tax Commissioner

[2021-2025](#)

To Record the Appointment of Nicole M. Golden to position of Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner

Approved

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Commissioners

[2021-2043](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of Minutes for the January 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Approved

Board of Commissioners - District 5

[2021-2050](#)

Commission District(s): Districts 2, 5 & 6

Resolution supporting the John Lewis Commemorative Task Force’s designation of the former site of the Confederate Obelisk Monument on the grounds of the Historic DeKalb County Courthouse in Decatur, Georgia as the future memorial site honoring Congressman John Lewis.

Approved

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

[2021-2040](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2021

Approved

Human Services

[2020-1636](#)

Commission District(s): All

Acceptance of Additional Grant funds from the Atlanta Regional Commission for DeKalb Senior Services for SYF2021- At a Cost to the County of an additional \$18,559.72

Approved

[2020-1637](#)

Commission District(s): 3,5,6, & 7

Acceptance of a Grant from the United Way of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$5,000 to Recruit Volunteers for an Intergenerational Tutoring Program designed to improve literacy skills in DeKalb students- at no cost to the County

Approved

H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Chief Executive Office

[2021-2041](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Resolution to authorize the execution and delivery of an intergovernmental contract (the “Ponce de Leon Contract”) between DeKalb County and The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority (the “Authority”) related to the renovation of the Grady Health System’s infectious disease program facility (the “IDP Project”), pursuant to which the Authority will agree, among other things, to facilitate the IDP Project and to continue to provide medical services and hospital facilities needed to serve the indigent sick of DeKalb County, and the County will agree, among other things, to make payments to the Authority in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,000,000..

Deferred the substitute to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

Police Services

[2020-1633](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Acceptance of State Forfeiture Property - Police Services

Approved

[2020-1635](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

Acceptance of Federal Forfeiture Property - Police Services

Approved

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee

[2020-1634](#)**Commission District(s): All**

LB - Invitation No. 20-101281 2020 LMIG Road Resurfacing Projects (365 Day Contract): for use by Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D). Consists of patching, milling and resurfacing County Roads. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Pittman Construction Company. Amount Not To Exceed: \$13,156,361.97.

Deferred to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD**Board of Commissioners**[2020-1413](#)**Commission District(s): All Districts**

A Resolution Of The Board of Commissioners Of DeKalb County, Georgia To The General Assembly Proposing A County Organizational Act Amendment To Ensure, And Eliminate Impediments To, Establishment, By Ordinance, Of A Transparent And Efficient County Procurement System.

Deferred to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

[2020-1414](#)**Commission District(s): All Districts**

Resolution of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to request that the members of the DeKalb County Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly establish a Charter Review Commission.

Deferred to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

[2020-1415](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

A Resolution Of The Governing Authority Of DeKalb County, Georgia To The DeKalb County Delegation Of The General Assembly To Amend The DeKalb County Organizational Act Section 13A To Allow The Board Of Commissioners To Make Appointments After A 120 Day Period

Deferred to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

[2020-1420](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

A Resolution Of The Governing Authority Of DeKalb County, Georgia To The DeKalb County Delegation Of The General Assembly To Institute A Transparency Policy For Public Safety Officers Whereby Complaints Are Available For Public Review

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee (ERPS), and return to the Board on February 9, 2021

[2020-1421](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

A Resolution Of The Governing Authority Of DeKalb County, Georgia To The DeKalb County Delegation Of The General Assembly To Institute A Body Camera Policy

Deferred to the next meeting and assigned to the Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee (ERPS), and return to the Board on February 9, 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, until February 9, 2021

Planning and Sustainability

[2020-1521](#)

Commission District(s): All Waiver of Penalties and Fees

Deferred to the next meeting, until February 9, 2021

Public Works - Roads & Drainage

[2020-1615](#)

Commission District(s): County-Wide

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

Approved

[2020-1616](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

Acceptance and Appropriation of Surety Bonds Proceeds

Approved

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.

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.

Approved

[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.

Approved

[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.

Approved

[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.

Approved

[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.

Approved

[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.

Approved substitute

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.