

DeKalb County Government

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



Summary

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:00 AM

Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium

Board of Commissioners

Comm. Robert Patrick, Presiding Officer, District 1

Comm. Mereda Davis Johnson, Deputy Presiding Officer, District 5

Commissioner Robert Patrick, District 1

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, 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 Officer, Barbara Sanders-Norwood, County Clerk, Viviane Ernestes, County Attorney

A. INSPIRATIONAL

Demetrius E. McCoy Sr, Pastor- The Life Center Word Of Life Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Larry Johnson- District 3

B. PRESENTATIONS

Regional Director Antrell Tyson- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The purpose of public comment is to allow the public to voice county-related requests, concerns or opinions during the Commission meeting. Speakers will only have the opportunity for one public comment per meeting. Public comments may be made in person or submitted by sending an email no longer than one page to PublicComments@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. Public comment emails received outside of the allotted time will be included in the public comment record for the next meeting after receipt of those emails. The body of your email must include your first and last name, followed by your address. By submitting an email for public comment at any time, you agree to have your name, address and email entered into the record/minutes.

Each in-person speaker must complete a speaker card and present it to the clerk before the beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting. Cards must be turned in to the clerk from the time the general meeting is convened (generally 9 A.M.) and by the beginning of public comment portion generally following presentations on the agenda. The clerk will accept cards on a first-come, first-served basis. Prior to the clerk's call for public comment, in-person speakers who are residents of DeKalb County shall be allowed to speak before residents of other counties are allowed to speak. Once the public comment portion of the meeting begins, speaker cards will no longer be accepted. Speakers will be allowed to speak for three minutes each and public comment shall not exceed 30 minutes in length. When the buzzer sounds to indicate that time has run out, the speaker will be expected to immediately cease speaking and to yield the podium. Those in-person attendees who submitted speaker cards but did not speak because of the time allotment will be allowed to speak first at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting without regard to residence. If time remains in the proscribed public comment portion of said meeting, email comments will be read into the record by the clerk or designee. Any remaining email public comments received between 9:00 am and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting not read into the record will be submitted into the minutes by the clerk or designee and shall be forwarded to each commissioner by email. Speakers should always talk directly into the microphone and begin by stating their name, full address and the name of any organization they represent. Abusive, profane or derogatory language, holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

Public Comments: In Person

Monee' Sanders- 5959 Fairington Road Lithonia GA 30038, Dana Davis- 3102
Rubin Road Decatur GA 30032, Joscelyn O'Neil- 3711 Larkspur Terrace Decatur
GA 30032, Stephen Binney- 1083 Seville Drive Clarkston GA 30021, Pedra
Stokes-2467 Meredith Walk Ellenwood GA 30294

Public Comments: January 9, 2024- Read Emails

1. Darius Bowdry, 564 Quillian Ave, Decatur, GA 30032- My name is Darius Bowdry. My address is 564 Quillian Ave, Decatur, GA 30032. I'm writing about the accessibility of independent and local authors to the Dekalb County library system. Currently, I have one book in circulation catalogued in at least seven libraries in Dekalb County. I submitted the book for review and it was accepted to the catalog. I learned yesterday Dekalb County doesn't allow local or independent author events. Independent authors are not allowed to do author talks or book signings. Dekalb reserved this for authors who have been published not by self. I contend that this is unfair, biased, and preferential to authors who have a machine behind them. In 2024, we should have a system which allows for independent self published authors to be featured, hosted, and catered to with the same treatment. I wrote my book, edited it, proofread it, designed the cover, and published on Amazon. I bought copies of my book to put in the libraries. This all boils down to money. It costs me money to do all those things. It costs money to buy the book and I can donate the book to the Local Author Collection but I can't promote it at the locations where they're catalogued to keep them from being removed from the shelf for lack of interest. More and more, whether it's music or books, we're realizing we don't need a label to be successful. We can do all the same things for ourselves, make our own money, and decide our own futures. I ask that we devise a protocol dedicated to the equal treatment of self published authors, equal access and equal use of facilities. Respectfully,

2. Devon Goodell, 1963 Brannen Rd SE 1963 Brannen Rd SE Atlanta, GA 30316- Hello, I have been a resident on Brannen Rd for over 6 years and our street has become increasingly dangerous with speeding motorists. Motorists speed down our street sometimes going over 50mph. Our street is home to people of all ages, including children, and hosts a sidewalk with frequent foot traffic from members of our community accessing the bus route and walking their children to daycare at Camp Olio. Motorists also use our street to do donuts and race their cars, putting everyone's safety at risk. Car accidents from speeding motorists have also occurred on Brannen rd. Our mailbox has been destroyed 3 times in the last year from speeding motorists driving irresponsibly. Our neighbors have expressed safety concerns to simply retrieve their mail from their mailboxes because of how dangerous the street has become. We need help from Dekalb County to make Brannen safe again. We believe Brannen Rd would benefit immensely from installing stop signs at the intersections of Cecelia Rd and Brannen Rd. as well as Rockcliff and Brannen Rd. In addition to the safety of our street, our community would like to know when we can expect the Intrenchment Creek Park to be reopened to the public. This greenspace is an essential part of our community and there has not been an update as to when we can expect it to reopen in over 6 months. Please let us know how we can

facilitate these changes and work together with Dekalb County to see that it is done in a timely manner. Thank you,

3. Friends of Intrenchment Creek Park, 3251 West Side Place Atlanta, GA 30316-
On behalf of Friends of Intrenchment Creek Park, we would like to ask CEO Michael Thurmond to lift the executive order that has shuttered our park for the past 10 months. By using the executive order, CEO Thurmond has severely restricted the ability of the public and our Friends of the Park group to find democratic ways to resolve issues in the park and remove the barricades at entrances. Since the closure of our park back in March of 2023, local residents and park users have used every option available to them to reopen the park. These actions include making public comment at Board of Commissioners meetings, emailing commissioners directly with their concerns, protesting with bike rides on the PATH Trail next to the park, talking with the Parks Department Citizen Advisory Board, meeting with the Parks Department Director, circulating petitions demanding reopening, speaking with reporters about the residents plight, discussing our options with Park Pride, voicing our concerns at County Master Trail Plan meetings, and spent numerous hours behind the scenes planning and brainstorming. The non-binding resolution to simply urge the CEO to reopen the park has been kicked around from committee to committee for months while others have verified there were no safety hazards, they cleaned the park of trashed belongings and structures destroyed by police raids, and staked off the contested area of the fraudulent land swap deal. And yet, to this day, the park remains not only closed, but under constant heavy police presence, and we have yet to have a meeting with the only person with the power to reopen the park, CEO Thurmond himself. Enjoying our forest is our right, not a crime. Restoration of our park's natural beauty and protection of our watershed is of the utmost importance and should be the priority. Reopen the park! Thank you.

D. 10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING

Citizens may speak for or against an item that is considered by law to be a zoning ordinance and each side will have ten minutes to present its case. Citizens may also speak for or against an item that is placed on the public hearing agenda but is not a zoning ordinance. In that case, each side will have five minutes to present its case. In the event there is more than one speaker per side, speakers must divide their time in order to complete their full presentation within the ten-minute time allotment, or the five minute time allotment. When the buzzer sounds to indicate that time has run out, the speaker will be expected to immediately cease speaking and to leave the podium area. Prior to speaking, a speaker shall complete a speaker card and present it when approaching the podium. If a speaker has any documents for the commissioners, the speaker shall provide 10 copies when approaching the podium. Seven copies are for the commissioners and the remaining copies are for the planning director, the county attorney and the clerk. In all zoning ordinance and traffic calming cases, staff shall make their recommendation for action to the Commission first followed by applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item. Applicants in zoning ordinance cases shall have the right to reserve time for rebuttal. Opponents of a zoning ordinance item shall have no right of rebuttal. For all other items placed on the public hearing agenda, applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item shall speak first followed by opponents of the item. Once the citizens have finished speaking, staff shall make a recommendation for action to the Commission. At this point, citizens are no longer allowed to speak unless called to the podium by an individual commissioner to answer questions or provide information.

Speakers should always talk directly into the microphone and begin by stating their name, address and the name of any organization they represent. Abusive, profane or derogatory language will not be permitted. Holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

NONE

E. APPEALS

NONE

F. APPOINTMENTS

Board of Commissioners - District 7

[2023-1629](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

Appointment of Victoria Anglin to the DeKalb County Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board

Approved

ITEMS FOR RECORDING IN THE MINUTES

Board of Commissioners - District 7

[2023-1628](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

To Record the Appointment of Chris Anglin to the District 3 Community Council

Approved

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Airport

[2023-1581](#)

Commission District(s): 1 and 6

Termination of Standardized Office Space Lease Agreement with Rodney L. Harper. There is no cost to the County.

Withdrawn

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2023-1630](#)

Commission District(s): District 2

Appropriation of \$11,000 from the District 2 Park Bond Account for the Mason Mill Turf Project

Approved

Board of Commissioners - District 7

[2023-1625](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

To Appropriate A Total Of \$30,000 From The District 7 Reserve For Appropriation To The National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Stone Mountain-Lithonia Chapter

Approved

[2023-1627](#)

Commission District(s): District 7

To Appropriate A Total Of \$10,000 From The District 7 Reserve For
Appropriation To ASD Ministries

Approved

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and CEO

[2023-1564](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 5, 2023.

Approved

[2023-1578](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of December
12, 2023

Approved

[2023-1616](#)

Commission District(s): All

Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of December
19, 2023

Approved

H. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Board of Commissioners

[2023-1619](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Nomination of a Presiding Officer

Approved

[2023-1620](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Nomination of a Deputy Presiding Officer

Approved

Fire & Rescue Services

[2023-1613](#)

Commission District(s): All

Ratification Contract No. 1197176 Medical Director Agreement (Multiyear) with The Emory Clinic, Inc.

Deferred with a stop in the Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee (ERPS), until January 23, 2024

Public Works - Sanitation

[2023-1531](#)

Commission District(s): Commissions Districts 3 & 6

Seminole Road Landfill Phase 3 Unit 2 Cell Construction (Cells 3N, 4N & 5N)

Deferred with a stop in the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), until January 23, 2024

Purchasing & Contracting

Purchasing & Contracting - to FAB Committee

[2023-1546](#)

Commission District(s): ALL

CA - Cooperative Agreement for Public Safety Communications Technology and Hardware Solutions (Sourcewell Contract No. 042021-MOT): for use by the Marshal's Office. This request seeks to purchase, from the competitively let Sourcewell contract, twenty-six (26) APX™ 6000 portable radios and accessories. Awarded to: Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$135,912.14.

Deferred with a stop in the Finance, Audit & Budget Committee (FAB), until February 14, 2024

Purchasing & Contracting - to OPS Committee

[2023-1543](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

REN - Contract No. 1283053 Purchase, Delivery, Installation, Maintenance & Repair of Propane Fuel Tanks (Annual Contract-2nd of 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works-Fleet Management. This contract consists of purchasing and delivering propane gas to propane tanks at various locations in the County. This request seeks to exercise the 2nd renewal option through February 28, 2025.

Awarded to Blossman Gas Inc. of Georgia. Amount Not To Exceed: \$50,000.00.

Deferred with a stop in the County Operations Committee (OPS), until January 23, 2024

[2023-1550](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

SWC - Statewide Contract No. 99999-SPD-SPD000155-0001 Truck Chassis and Truck Bodies: for use by Public Works-Fleet Management. Consists of purchasing from the competitively let Statewide Contract to purchase one (1) truck with permanent stake body, liftgate and air compressor. This request will assist Fleet Management in handling roadside assistance requests and on-site tire replacements for DeKalb County Vehicles. Awarded to Rush Truck Centers of GA, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$152,813.00.

Deferred with a stop in the County Operations Committee (OPS), until January 23, 2024

Purchasing & Contracting - to PECS Committee

[2023-1468](#)**Commission District(s): 2 & 6**

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1336274 Indoor and Outdoor Sports Surfaces, Repair and Renovation, and Gym Floor Refinishing (Interlocal BuyBoard Contract No. 641-21): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA) to be utilized by all County departments. This contract consists of the purchase of synthetic or natural sports fields, courts, or tracks to include job ordering contracting (JOC). This request seeks to increase contract funds to accommodate a change in the Mason Mill Park field's subbase material. Awarded to: Cornerstone Sports Group c/o Controlled Products. Amount Not To Exceed: \$22,824.00.

Deferred with a stop in the Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee (PECS), until January 23, 2024

Purchasing & Contracting - to PWI Committee[2023-1540](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract Nos.: 1176675 and 1272165 County Street and Roadway Litter Removal (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by Public Works - Sanitation and Beautification. These contracts consist of litter removal services at 40 locations within the County. This request seeks to ratify a previously provided thirty (30) day contract term increase effective as of January 1, 2024. This request also seeks to increase the contract funds and term through February 29, 2024. Awarded to Russell Landscape, LLC and American Eagle, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$194,408.73.

Deferred with a stop in the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), until January 23, 2024

[2023-1544](#)**Commission District(s): ALL**

CO - Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 1281319 Sidewalks and Roadways (Multiyear): for use by the Departments of Public Works - Transportation, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Roads & Drainage (R&D), and Fire Rescue Services (FR). This contract consists of sidewalks, drainage improvements, minor road improvements, bike lanes, multi-use trails, and curb and shoulder improvements. This request is to increase contract funds for the construction of a sidewalk at Spring Creek Road. Awarded to: DAF Concrete Amount Not To Exceed: \$42,063.50.

Deferred with a stop in the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), until January 23, 2024

[2023-1575](#)**Commission District(s): All**

CO - Change Order Nos. 1-2 to Contract No. 1352862 Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-SPD-S20200901-0007 Indefinite Quantity Construction (ezIQC®) Services: for use by Public Works- Sanitation. This contract consists of purchasing from the competitively let SWC for trash compactor removal and framing modifications at the North Transfer Station. This request seeks to increase the contract scope of work and funds. Awarded to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$410,687.75.

Deferred with a stop in the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWI), until January 23, 2024

WorkSource DeKalb[2023-1632](#)**Commission District(s): ALL DISTRICTS**

Acceptance of Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Rapid Response Grant for Dislocated Worker - Fiscal Year 2024 from the

Technical College System of Georgia not to exceed \$90,000.

Approved

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD**Board of Commissioners - District 2**[2023-1503](#)**Commission District(s): All Commission Districts**

Appropriation of \$6,884 from 2023 District 2 Youth Reserves for the Youth

Aviation Program at Peachtree DeKalb Airport

Deferred until February 27, 2024

Board of Commissioners - District 4

[2023-1497](#)**Commission District(s):** District 4

Appropriate not to exceed \$10,000 of Youth Violence Prevention Discretionary General Funds to Biplane Rides Over Atlanta for the PDK Youth Aviation Program.

Deferred until February 27, 2024**Voter Registration & Elections**[2023-1599](#)**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

Addition to Fleet- Voter Registration and Elections (VRE)

Deferred to the next meeting on January 23, 2024**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.