

# DeKalb County Government

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium**

### **Special Called Meeting**

*Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Presiding Officer, District 4  
Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Deputy, District 7*

*Commissioner Nancy Jester, District 1*

*Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2*

*Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3*

*Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4*

*Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5*

*Commissioner Kathie Gannon, Super District 6*

*Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, Super District 7*

- Present**        5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent**        2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

**Administration:** Michael Thurmond, CEO, Zachary Williams, Executive Assistant/ Chief Operating Office, Barbara Sanders-Norwood, County Clerk, Viviane Ernstes, County Attorney

**Work Session**

**I. Committee of the Whole**

**A. Committee Reports**

**B. Review of the Proposed Executive Agenda for March 10, 2020**

**C. Review of Board of Commissioners Preliminary Agenda**

**D. Review of Board of Commissioners Preliminary Agenda**

**E. Items Previously Heard**

**II. Special Call Meeting**

**A. Executive Session**

- 2020-0328**      Commission District(s): All  
To Convene a Special Called Meeting
- MOTION was made by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved to convene a Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Nancy Jester arrived at 9:22 a.m. and both Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:**            4 - Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent:**        3 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

- 2020-0329** Commission District(s): All  
To Convene an Executive Session Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved to convene an Executive Session. Commissioner Nancy Jester arrived at 9:22 am and both Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon
- 2020-0332** Commission District(s): All  
To Adjourn an Executive Session Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jester, that this agenda item be approved to adjourn an Executive Session. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

**2020-0333**

Commission District(s): All

Proposed Settlement of Scott Towler's claim against DeKalb County.

**MOTION was made by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be to approve a total payment of \$40,000 to settle Scott Towler's claims against DeKalb County, Georgia. To resolve Mr. Towler's claims, the County will pay the total sum of \$40,000 to Mr. Towler and his counsel in return for their execution of a release and waiver of claims satisfactory to the County Attorney, which will include, but not be limited to, Mr. Towler's agreement not to reassert claims that he asserted in Civil Action No. 18cv7119 in the Superior Court of DeKalb County. The County Attorney or her designee is authorized to execute the settlement agreement. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

- 2020-0334** Commission District(s): All  
Proposed settlement of lawsuit filed by Darnell Brown against DeKalb County, Georgia, C.R. Gill, and D.L. Craig, Civil Action No. 1:17-CV-01780-JPB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- MOTION was made by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jester, that this agenda item be to approve a total payment of \$57,000 to settle the lawsuit filed by Darnell Brown against Dekalb County, Georgia, Officer C.R. Gill, and Officer D.L. Craig, Civil Action No. 1:17-CV-01780-JPB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. To resolve this lawsuit, the County will pay a total sum of \$57,500 to Mr. Brown and his counsel in return for their dismissal with prejudice of Mr. Brown's lawsuit and execution of a release and waiver of claims satisfactory to the County Attorney. The County Attorney or her designee is authorized to execute the settlement agreement. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

- 2020-0339** Commission District(s): 2 & 6  
Add An Item
- MOTION was made by Commissioner Jeff Rader, seconded by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. that this agenda item be approved to add an item. Regarding the exchange of the Dresden Tag Office site, located at 1358 Dresden Drive, Brookhaven, Georgia for the property located at 3653 Clairmont Road, Chamblee, Georgia. Commissioner Jeff Rader stated that a substitute regarding this item would be forthcoming in time for the March 10, 2020 Regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon

#### **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.

ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION was made by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be approved to Adjourn the March 03, 2020 Special Called Meeting at 10:02 a.m. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Commissioner Kathie Gannon were absent from the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

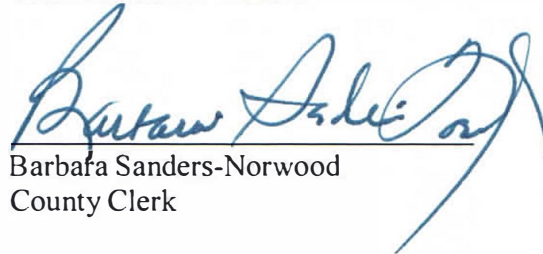
**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Kathie Gannon



Stephen R. Bradshaw  
Presiding Officer



Michael Thurmond  
Chief Executive Officer



Barbara Sanders-Norwood  
County Clerk