

# DeKalb County Government

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, May 5, 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**        7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**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. Grady Quarterly Update**

**C. Review of the Proposed Executive Agenda for May 12, 2020**

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

**E. Review/Recap of New Items for the BOC Agenda**

**F. Items Previously Heard**

**II. Special Call Meeting**

**A. Executive Session**

**2020-0494**      Commission District(s): All  
To Convene a Special Called Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Nancy Jester, seconded by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be approved to convene a Special Call Meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:**            7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

- 2020-0495** Commission District(s): All  
To Convene an Executive Session Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Nancy Jester, seconded by Commissioner Kathie Gannon, that this agenda item be approved to convene an Executive Session Meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
- 2020-0496** Commission District(s): All  
To Adjourn an Executive Session Meeting  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Larry Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jester, that this agenda item be approved to adjourn an Executive Session Meeting.. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**2020-0497** Commission District(s): All  
Proposed settlement of lawsuit filed DeKalb County and others against HSBC North America Holdings, Inc. and others, 1:12-cv-03640 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

**MOTION was made by Commissioner Larry Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be to approve the settlement of DeKalb County's Claims against HSBC North America Holdings, Inc.; HSBC Investments North America Inc.; HSBC Finance Corporation; HSBC Mortgage Corporation; HSBC Mortgage Services, Inc.; HSBC Mortgage Services Warehouse Lending, Inc.; HSBC USA Inc.; HSBC Bank USA, National Association; Decision One Mortgage Co., LLC; HSBC Markets (USA) Inc.; HSBC Securities; and HSBC Corps. 1-50, in Civil Action No. 1:12cv03640 in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia.**

**To resolve DeKalb County's claims in this lawsuit, the HSBC Defendants will pay DeKalb County the total sum of \$1,580,000 (one million five hundred eighty thousand dollars) in return for DeKalb County's dismissal with prejudice of its claims against HSBC North America Holdings, Inc. and the other defendants, and DeKalb County's execution of a specified settlement agreement with release of claims. Completion of this settlement is conditioned on the approval of this settlement by the governing authorities of Fulton County, Georgia, Cobb County, Georgia, and Cook County, Illinois. The County Attorney or her designee is authorized to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of DeKalb County. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:**                    7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

- 2020-0498** Commission District(s): All  
Proposed settlement of lawsuit filed by James Farley and Linda Cherry against two police officers and others, 1:16-cv-02754-MLB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Jeff Rader, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jester, that this agenda item be to approve a total payment of \$48,000 to settle the lawsuit filed by James Farley and Linda Cherry against Officers Stephens and Reynolds and others, Civil Action No. 1:16-cv-02754-MLB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. To resolve this lawsuit, the County will pay a total sum of \$48,000 to Mr. Farley, Ms. Cherry and their counsel in return for and conditioned on their dismissal with prejudice of their 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.**  
**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**2020-0499**

Commission District(s): All

Proposed settlement of claims against Sheriff Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff Jeffrey Mann, Major Reginald Scandrett, Major Wanda Collins, Sergeant N. Lawton, Sergeant Eureka Frazier, and Investigator Rodney Scandrett in the lawsuit filed by Vernell Davis, as Administratrix of the Estate of Shantell Ada Johnson, deceased and as Legal Guardian of surviving minor children of Shantell Ada Johnson, Civil Action File No. 1:16-cv-00735 in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia and Appeal No: 19-15128-JJ in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

**MOTION was made by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be to approve a total payment of \$35,000 (thirty-five thousand dollars) to settle the lawsuit filed by Vernell Davis, as Administratrix of the Estate of Shantell Ada Johnson, deceased, and as Legal Guardian of surviving minor children of Shantell Ada Johnson, against Sheriff Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff Jeffrey Mann, Major Reginald Scandrett, Major Wanda Collins, Sergeant N. Lawton, Sergeant Eureka Frazier, and Investigator Rodney Scandrett, Civil Action No. 1:16cv00735 in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia and appeal no. 19-15128-JJ in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. To resolve this lawsuit, the County will pay the total sum of \$35,000 (thirty-five thousand dollars) to Ms. Davis in return for and conditioned on Ms. Davis' dismissal with prejudice of her lawsuit and execution of a release and waiver of claims satisfactory to the County Attorney. The County Attorney or her designee is authorized to sign the settlement agreement. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:**

7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

**2020-0501** Commission District(s): All  
Proposed settlement of lawsuit filed by Stephen Harris against Devan Strickland and others, 1:17-cv-00436-JPB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia  
**MOTION was made by Commissioner Kathie Gannon, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Jester, that this agenda item be to I move that the Board of Commissioners approve a total payment of \$62,000 to settle the lawsuit filed by Stephen Harris against Devan Strickland, Franklin Wilson, Tommie Jones, Christopher Patterson, Rodger Lacy, and LoRandy Akies, Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-00436-JPB, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. To resolve this lawsuit, the County will pay the total sum of \$62,000 to Mr. Harris and his attorneys in return for and conditioned on their dismissal with prejudice of Mr. Harris' 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. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

#### **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:

To Adjourn a Special Called Meeting

There being no further official business, MOTION was made by Commissioner Nancy Jester, seconded by Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be approved to adjourn the May 5, 2020 Special Called Meeting at 12:07p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Commissioner Nancy Jester, Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Kathie Gannon, and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson



Stephen R. Bradshaw  
Presiding Officer



Michael Thurmond  
Chief Executive Officer



Barbara Sanders-Norwood  
County Clerk