



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Minutes

OPS-County Operations Committee

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson(Chairperson)

Commissioner Robert Patrick

Commissioner LaDena Bolton

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

1:00 PM

Special Called

Meeting Started At:1:52 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Davis Johnson, Bolton, Patrick, Terry, Long Spears

Present

3 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Robert Patrick, and Commissioner LaDena Bolton

I. DISCUSSION

Charter Review Recommendations

Discussion not held

Standing Procedural Rules

Commissioner Speaking time

Commissioner Davis Johnson suggested adding time limits to the Commissioners' speaking time in the Committee of the Whole and the Board of Commissioners meetings, reducing it from 10 minutes twice to 5 minutes for the original discussion and 3 minutes for follow-up. Reducing speaking time to up to 8 minutes. Committee members in support of amending the speaking time

TT is in support of the proposed amendments

MLS is in support of the proposed amendments

LB: We also previously discussed the ability of a committee chair to hold an item from a committee agenda MDJ: I'm not in support of allowing a chair to hold an item off an agenda

MLS: I believe we discussed that something cannot be held off for longer than 30 to 90 days? I'm okay with 90 days: a committee gets an item assigned and has no more than 90 days to discuss it.

RP: If I remember, the previous discussion included the possibility of once a quarter or every 90 days, a special-called meeting would be held. I think law was coming back to us with a timeframe or way of scheduling.

MDJ: Staff please add that into our notes

LB: This discussion is listed in a previous discussion, I would suggest those being highlighted as we move forward.

TPG: I think part of that discussion included justification from the chair as to why it has occurred but the automatic cycle would be necessary to ensure nothing would fall through the cracks.

TT: is there a possibility for a committee to add an item to the agenda, as a body, regardless of the chairs option.

TGP: I can look into that however your standing procedural rules supersedes Roberts rules, as of right now it takes only one commissioner to add an item to the agenda of the whole body.

TT: I'd like some research on this question on the committee level. If the other two committee members want to hear an item in committee, can they vote to supersede a committee chair and hear an item to a committee agenda

TGP: would that be in adding the item to the agenda or the order of the agenda? Based on the cycle commissioner Patrick has raised of once a quarter, I think the motion would be for any commissioner would be to keep the item in the committee and an explanation of we have not had a chance to discuss it would be sufficient for the body.

Discussion of unanimous consent

MDJ wants a 2/3 majority vote on an item

MLS is support of decision of 2/3 majority; if it is committee recommendation.

TGP: law department would focus on the reason for why the body is adding an item outside of the normal process, not the number of commissioners who support it. The key would be having proper justification.

LB: I would add language that qualifies that the item is urgent or time sensitive

TGP: I would propose the language be 'necessary' over 'urgent'.

"Necessary with 5 votes or 2/3rd majority"

RP: I'm looking for an example of hypothetical for this type of instance, say a food distribution event or something that would qualify in this instance.

TGP: I do not want to answer hypotheticals however, many cases, like a food distribution event, would require

planning, meaning you would have time to create an item regarding the event and follow the process. This is discouraging items being walked on out of a lack of planning. If changes need to be made that is a substitute. RP: then I feel that MLS's original proposal of 7 votes may be appropriate then. If it is something that urgent, then the body needs to be comfortable with it.

MDJ: The attorney said necessary not urgent. And the full body may not find this necessary but 2/3rd or 5 would.

LB: something to bring up is unanimous is a broader term, if there are only 5 or 6 commissioners that are available or come to the meeting that wouldn't be 7 but it would be unanimous. But if we are using operational funds for an event then it wouldn't need to come before the board.

MDJ: we do bring item before the board to record them for transparency. We've always record our discretionary funds, do we agree on that?

LB: Are you speaking to the consent agenda?

TT: you are right, the reserve for appropriation is an appropriation we have to take action on. Its a placeholder on the agenda

Meeting Concluded At: 2:31 PM

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be Adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bolton

Barbara Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC