



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

Thursday, April 16, 2026

9:30 AM

Special Called

Meeting Started At: 9:44 AM

Attendees: Commissioners Mereda Davis Johnson, Patrick, Bolton, Terry (via Telecast)

Present

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

I. DISCUSSION

Charter Review Recommendations

Continuation Section 2 (pg. 7) from December 12th Memorandum, with Voter Registration & Elections Director regarding suggestion of removing Voter Districts from charter list. -discussion of precinct boundary changes provided by Voter Registration & Elections Director Keisha Smith

RP: I am comfortable with removing Precinct locations from the charter

Q LB: where else is this information archived?

KS: the process of the census is not a tool for data we utilize.

Q LB: Do we know if the state would refer to our charter for this information?

TGP: I don't know if the state does; however as the director indicated, it is a state process. The fundamental issue is that the numbers drive the boundary lines; it is not a common occurrence that they change.

Q LB: even if we are not using, I would prefer be available, for access besides at the state level. it sounds like it doesn't hurt anything to keep it.

MDJ: I'm hearing its useful as a point of reference

LB: as long as it is somewhere in our governing authority and know where it is.

Committee: keep as is

*Age Requirements to run for office**Continuation of Section 2 - eligibility requirements -**TGP: changing this in the charter would require the general assembly**TT: I am good with mirroring what state laws says**MDJ: We need a clear understanding on the law on this. Terry Phillips please look into this law, why would 18 be permissible age for office. I'd also like to know how we were able to say 25 years of age if state law is requiring no less than 21 years of age.**TGP: I receive those questions and will look into it.**LB: our charter doesn't mention the requirement of being a registered voter? I'm not sure if it is under the state level but I would like that to be included.**TGP: Yes we can review that as well**MDJ: I support the requirement of being a registered voter to qualify for office.**Committee: Will return to this section after further review**Review of Section 5 - Chief Executive**Charter proposed reduction of age requirements to comply with state law MDJ: I would be more comfortable to reduce the age limit to 25 however I would want to keep the residency requirements to 5 years to ensure any candidate would have been established on the county and have knowledge of the workings of the County RP: I think it would be good to hold this and discuss with the previous section**Committee: Will return to this section after further review**Section 6 - Vacancies.*

- Provides a mechanism to address multiple vacancies occurring at once.*
- Addresses temporary vacancies resulting from the suspension of the CEO or BOC members.*
- Ensures a vacancy will be filled expeditiously*

*Lee May: Supports proposed language in section 3**LB: I would like to see the charter language broaden to any form of incapacitation outside of "suspended" so that that we know if/when decisions need to be made then it would be the current presiding officer. Committee: Will return to this section***Standing Procedural Rules**

Discussion of unanimous consent

TGP: Concerns over ward curtesy and discretionary funding or other district funds. We need to address the issue of placing the item on the agenda itself.

LB: I hear it as unanimous of those in attendance and the goal would be to deter item getting added on and voted on the agenda same day unless they were urgent in nature.

TGP: I'd ask you to consider this amendment - in line three adding the word present and changing "Commission" to "Commissioners". This would ensure that everyone in attendance would be required to agree regardless of number of attendees.

"With unanimous consent of "present Commissioners"

secondly adding language to this section specifically highlighting walk on items

COS Lee May agreed with proposed amendment to add "Walk on Language".

TGP: Law will work with central Staff to come up with language. Is the committee confirming this is focused on walk Ons?

LB: Any item that has not been previously heard, Preliminary or otherwise.

TGP: My recondition would be at the beginning we could qualify after "Any Preliminary item" and add "Including walk on items."

"Unless otherwise required by law, any preliminary item, including walk on items, may be acted upon With unanimous consent"

Committee supports recommended changes by Law and Staff

Discussion of Quarum

TGP: the strategic maneuvering that your rules allow would not necessarily make the proposed change here the end all to an item but would help keep an agenda shorter. That was my understanding of the goal, items are sitting for long time.

TT: I would be concerned about an agenda item vote failing it being automatically removed because the solution could be to amendment it. The option to withdraw an item is always available.

MDJ: My concern is binging legislation to the board without it being properly vetted beforehand.

TGP: This would give a commissioner other than the sponsoring commissioner the option to motion a for withdrawn on an item. The practice has been for years only the sponsoring commission should make a withdrawal motion. Even if the proposed rule of having co-sponsors on an item added, a 3-4 vote could still happen, so does the item come off the agenda? Our goal is have this as a matrix of rules that work together.

Committee: Will return to this section

Meeting Concluded At: 11:15 AM

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