



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Minutes - Draft

OPS-County Operations Committee

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson(Chairperson)

Commissioner Robert Patrick

Commissioner LaDena Bolton

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

1:00 PM

Meeting Started At: 1:02 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Davis Johnson and Bolton

Present	2 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, and Commissioner LaDena Bolton
Absent	1 - Commissioner Robert Patrick

I. MINUTES

2026-0375 Commission District(s): All Districts
Minutes for the September 10, 2026 County Operations (OPS)
Committee Meeting;
MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

II. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items:

Facilities Management

2026-1230 Commission District(s): All
Change Order No. 4 to Contract Nos.: 1309666 and 1309686 On-Call Roof Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement Services (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew). For use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM), Recreation Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), Watershed Management (DWM), and Fire Rescue (FR) to obtain roof maintenance, repair, and replacement services at County-owned facilities. Seeking to utilize SPLOST II funds for the roof replacement at Police and Fire Rescue Headquarters and the roof replacement, helipad membrane and waterproofing services at Bobby Burgess and to increase the contracts terms through June 30, 2027. Awarded to National Building Contractors, Inc. and Hawk Construction Company, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$4,416,997.00.

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/29/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

No additional information requested.

2026-1311 Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 6 to Contract No. 1272818 On Call Architect and Engineering and Design Services for Facilities Management (Multiyear Contract). For use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM) and Fire Rescue (FR) to obtain on call architect and engineering and design services for Fire Stations 5, 16, and 27. Seeking increase in contract funds and term through December 31, 2028. Awarded to Pond & Company. Amount Not To Exceed: \$75,000.00.

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/29/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

No additional information requested.

Innovation & Technology

2026-1245 Commission District(s): All
REN - Contract No. 1349754 Installation of Data, Voice and Multimedia Cabling (Annual Contract with 4 Options to Renew). For use by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to obtain low-voltage and security camera installations, as well as modifications of data, voice and multimedia cabling at various facilities within the County. Exercising 3rd Renewal Option through October 31, 2027. Awarded to R. B. Communications, Inc: Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$1,500,000.00.

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/29/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

No additional information requested.

2026-1299 Commission District(s): All
CA - Cooperative Agreement - Software & SaaS Solutions (OMNIA Partners/ Region 14 Education Service Center (ESC) Contract No. 159768). For use by Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to obtain the 3-year purchase of software licenses for the Open Records Request (ORR) Management System. Awarded to Granicus, LLC: Amount Not To Exceed: \$411,637.74.

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/29/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

No additional information requested.

III. STATUS UPDATE

2027 State Legislative Platform

[2026-1359](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
DeKalb County 2027 State Legislative Platform

MOTION was made by LaDena Bolton, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/29/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

No additional information requested.

Voter Registration & Elections - Early Voting

MDJ: Requests a copy of the presentation be sent to all commissioners for information purposes.

IV. DISCUSSION

Charter Review Recommendations

[2025-1577](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Resolution of the DeKalb County Governing Authority Regarding the Charter Review Commission's Report and Recommended Changes to the Organizational Act

This agenda item was Recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 9/29/2026 .

CRC Committee Recommendations –Under discussion**II. CRC recommended changes that likely can be implemented via Home Rule by the Governing Authority****Section 19 – Budgeting; Control of Expenditures**

CRC Recommendation: CEO to present budget to BOC by October 1 of each year.

Committee: Consensus on the November 1st budget presentation date, still need to determine adoption date.

Committee: consensus on November 1st budget presentation date, January 31st adoption date.

Section 22 – Records; Minutes

CRC Recommendation: Copies of supporting documentation (contracts, maps etc.) related to actions by the governing authority may be included in the minutes and provide for where the documents shall be stored.

Committee: No consensus on recommended change. Committee requests a discussion with the Clerk. Law suggests wordsmithing the recommended language.

Law: The concern was that the minutes are a legal document and have a specific purpose and we can't go beyond that or attach documents that were in front of the board when that action took place. We can make a statement in the org act about where they will be housed in the County.

Committee: consensus on suggested language from Law.

III. CRC recommended changes that likely CANNOT be implemented by Home Rule and will require State legislative action.**Section 2 – The Commission****CRC Recommendations:**

1) Added reapportionment plan name and eliminated VTDs within the body of the Organizational Act.

2) Updated eligibility requirements for BOC members to comport with state law.

Committee: Consensus on item 1 no language change. No consensus on item 2, requesting additional research from Law.

Law: The law states that 42-5-1a says that 21 is the minimum age and 12 months is the minimum residency. You all can lower it as low as 18, but you can not increase it.

MDJ: If it predates the state law, could we leave it as it is?

Law: you could but the state law would take precedence, because the state law says that changes must be done through referendum.

LB: if we make ours consistent with state law, would we need to request legislative action to bring it to 21, or just assume that the state takes precedent?

Law: If we didn't change it, I believe the state law would take precedent, if we did want to change it we would have to take it to the legislature for action because it changes the qualifications for office, the cleanest way to do it is to make the change.

Committee: Consensus on making the change to 21 for the minimum age.

Section 3 – Establishment of Commission

CRC Recommendation: BOC members take office at the first meeting of the calendar year instead of

January 1.

Not discussed in committee.

LB: I would like to keep it at January 1st.

Committee: Consensus on not accepting the CRC recommendation and keeping the date at January 1st.

Section 4 – Running for other Elective Offices

CRC Recommendations:

- 1) Removed previous language.
- 2) Added language that comports with state law on this matter.

Not discussed in committee.

Law: the language in the org act differs substantially from state law, what this does is remove all of the confusing DeKalb specific language and replaces with the state language.

MDJ: Bradshaw example.

Law: It would all be governed by the state law that looks at the overlap period between the seat that you're in and the seat you're seeking.

Committee: Consensus on accepting CRC recommendation to make the org act consistent with state law.

Section 5 – Chief Executive

CRC Recommendation: Updated eligibility requirements for the CEO position to comport with state law.

Committee: Hold to discuss with section 2 - the Commission.

Committee: Consensus on CRC recommendation to make the org act consistent with state law.

Section 6 – Vacancies

CRC Recommendations:

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

Committee: Requests further discussion.

Law: This does add temporary vacancies to the list of vacancies that are addressed and a means to be filled. Any language about what happens to staff in the event of a commissioner vacancy could go in this section. I would also note that the third recommendation, ensures that a vacancy would be filled expeditiously, I have an additional question on who would be making appointments per the suggested language. Request that we hold this section for additional research.

MDJ: My understanding is that when there is a temporary vacancy in the CEO office, then the PO steps in as the CEO.

Law: Yes ma'am, this adds language that allows for the Board to replace that commissioner. There is also language about what happens if there is a suspension, and it just says that the appointment shall take place but not who makes the selection.

MDJ: That would be a temporary commissioner, I think it should be the primary commissioner and the super district commissioner to help determine that appointment.

Committee: Come back for further discussion.

Section 9 – Powers and Duties of the Commission

CRC Recommendations:

- 1) Provided the BOC with the ability establish community engagement programs.**
- 2) Gave the BOC subpoena power to make inquiries and investigate the affairs of the county and its departments.**

Committee: Requests further discussion.

Law: Point one gives you the ability to create additional cc npus things of that nature, goes with zoning and land use powers and goes with another recommendation for the county to go to a NPU system and gives the board flexibility if they wanted to go in that direction in the future.

MDJ: Comments on the number of boards we already have. I don't think we need any additional boards. We should be listening and doing our own research. I am also not for the subpoena powers for the board.

LB: With respect to the subpoena power, did that recommendation come from a specific situation.

Law: comments on intent.

LB: I wouldn't want to convolute a system that is already in place when there is no history of misuse or circumvention of the system, so I would not want to change that language.

Committee: consensus on not accepting the CRC recommendation.

Section 20 – Purchases; Contracts

CRC Recommendations:

- 1) The CEO must submit a proposed purchasing and contracting ordinance to the BOC for review and approval.**
- 2) Formal sealed bids must be published on the county website.**

Committee: Consensus on remaining under a purchasing policy, may request additional review after NIGP FAB presentation

Law: The org act requires that twice a year statements about finances including certain contract awards are to be posted at the courthouse and the website is the modern equivalent of the courthouse.

LB: I think we are good the committee consensus and updating that language to be inclusive of the website.

Committee: consensus on purchasing policy and updating language to be inclusive of the website for posting financial statements and certain contract awards.

Section 21 – Department of Finance

CRC Recommendation: Allows the BOC to change departmental responsibilities via resolution.

Committee: Requests further discussion.

Law: from our perspective that is a shift in powers, it would give you all the ability to change those duties without the CEO's input.

MDJ: I don't think that the board should determine what the duties of the administration are, we just need to make sure that we are provided the results of what the board votes on.

Committee: consensus on not accepting the CRC recommendation.

IV. CRC Recommended changes that may or may not need state action, depending on final language

Section 14 – Powers and Duties of the Chief Executive**CRC Recommendations:**

- 1) Restated and expanded provision regarding the CEO's management of all internal and external relationships.
- 2) Clarified that the CEO represents the county in all intergovernmental matters.

Committee: Requests that Law draft new language for this section based on committee discussion.

Law: The concern was your role in the legislative agenda, we will redraft that to ensure that that carve out is clear regarding your role in the legislative agenda. We would recommend that any changes here still be sent through the state, they could be seen as changing powers because they are direct statements that solidify where power sits that might require a referendum.

Section 19 – Budgeting; Control of Expenditures**CRC Recommendations:**

- 1) Clarified that CEO serves as budget officer of the county.
- 2) BOC may specify the manner in which the budget is presented to them.

Committee: Requests further discussion.

Law: in practicality we believe the CEO already serves as the budget officer, so that is more of a restatement than a change. In terms of specifying the manner it is presented to the board, don't know if it needs to be in the org act. We will craft language that more accurately reflects what we currently do and your ability to seek backup information.

Committee: redraft the language.

Section 31 - Specific Repealer (New)**CRC Recommendation:**

31 - Repeals 1981 Organizational Act in its entirety.

Committee: Requests further discussion.

Section 32 –General Repealer (New)**CRC Recommendation:**

32 - Repeals all laws in conflict with the Organizational Act.

Committee: Requests further discussion.

MDJ: I have a problem with repealing the 1981 ct.

Law: This will be determined by what actually happens on the backend from the legislature's final changes.

Meeting Concluded At: 2:12 PM

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

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Patrick

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC