DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Minutes - Draft

ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

Commissioner LaDena Bolton (Chairperson)

Commissioner Nicole Massiah

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Tuesday, August 18, 2026	2:15 PM	178 Sam's Street, Decatur, GA 30030 (Multipurpose Room A1201)

Meeting Started At: 2:22pm

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

Present 3 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner LaDena Bolton, and Commissioner Nicole Massiah

I. MINUTES

2026-1145 Commission District(s): All
Minutes for the July 7, 2026 Employee Relations and Public Safety Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Massiah

II. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

Board of Commissioners - District 2

2026-0596 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
An Ordinance to Regulate the Restraint and Transportation of Animals and for other Purposes.
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Commissioner Long Spears
-Question MDJ: to Director Fullum, Lifeline has made the recommendation that the County fund the program: have you discussed with Lifeline how many estimated families are we talking about?
-response provided by Director Fullum
-Question MDJ: have you discussed costs with Lifeline?
-Fullum: no ma'am
-Commissioner Davis Johnson suggests understanding estimated costs and households prior to moving forward on the legislation
-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears
-Question LB: Director Wallen can you confirm the number of cases?
-response provided by Animal Services Director Wallen
-comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson and Commissioner Long Spears
-comments provided by Commissioner Bolton regarding what other local governments are doing regarding improvements

-MDJ: motion to defer to September 15th BOC meeting with a prior stop in the ERPS Committee

2026-0728 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
An Ordinance to Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, Chapter 5, to Regulate the Sale of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in Pet Shops
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears
-MDJ: motion to defer to September 15th BOC meeting with a prior stop in the ERPS Committee

Board of Commissioners - Super District 6

2026-0769 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution Requesting the Administration to Establish Independent Civilian Oversight and Auditing For DeKalb County's Digital Shield Initiatives and Surveillance Infrastructure
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Commissioner Terry
-comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson regarding a comprehensive presentation being needed on this, an understanding on the County's current policy, a report from Law Enforcement on complaints of unauthorized use, how many people have been subjected to the unauthorized use of FLOCK cameras and any other digital surveillance, the balance that is needed with possible restrictions that the County doesn't have and should consider, are the disciplinary measures in place for those that utilize the technology

-MDJ: motion to defer 30 days to give time for a presentation

Board of Commissioners - Super District 7

2026-0218 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
To establish regulatory oversight of blasting operations in DeKalb County through the adoption of a Control Blasting and Safety Ordinance; to promote public safety, environmental protection, and community stability; and for other purposes.
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-comments provided by County Attorney Phillips
-comments provided by Commissioner Massiah
-Question MDJ: is the blasting ordinance contingent on the noise ordinance?
-response provided by County Attorney Phillips
-Question TT: if we are covering the article as discussed in the legislation, will the ordinance still be germane?
-response provided by County Attorney Phillips

New Agenda Items:

Human Resources & Merit System (HRMS)

2026-1008 Commission District(s): All
REN - Contract No. 2000349 Background Screening Services (Annual Contract with Four (4) Options to Renew). For use by the Department of Human Resources & Merit System (HRMS) to obtain pre-employment background screenings. Exercising 1st renewal option through September 30, 2027. Awarded to HR TruCheck, Inc.: Amount Not To Exceed: $689,375.00.
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Massiah

-information provided by Director Haynes

Fire Rescue (FR)

2026-1049 Commission District(s): All
CA - Cooperative Agreement - Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Related Service (OMNIA Partners Contract No. 4400008468)(Exemption). For use by Fire Rescue to obtain multi-user hardline communication system, handheld gas detector and portable air distribution box. Ratifying previously issued purchase order. Awarded to Safeware, Inc.: Amount Not To Exceed: $215,467.00.
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Chief Carter and Director Butler
-Question MDJ: did you say grant; is this a cooperative agreement or ratification?
-response provided by Director Butler
-comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson regarding clarity on the grant structure
-Commissioner Davis Johnson requests a substitute that clarifies the agenda item amount
-Question LB: would there need to be a substitute since we have the information in the current agenda item?
-response provided by Attorney Phillips
-additional comments provided by Director Butler

2026-1050 Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 2000518 Emergency Ambulance Services (Multiyear). For use by the Department of Fire Rescue (FR) to obtain comprehensive 911 ambulance services. Seeking to revise the contract start date to July 1, 2026, and increase contract term through December 31, 2031, to allow vendor their full performance time period. Awarded to Metro Ambulance Service, Inc. DBA American Medical Response. CONTRACT TERM INCREASE ONLY.

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, and Commissioner Bolton

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Massiah

-information provided by Chief Carter

2026-1246 Commission District(s): Commission Districts 2 & 6
Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Brookhaven to Enter Into a 50-Year Lease Agreement

MOTION was made by Nicole Massiah, seconded by LaDena Bolton, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by COO Williams
-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears

2026-1247 Commission District(s): Commission Districts 1 & 7
Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Tucker to Acquire a Portion of Land Lot 214 of Approximately 1200 Square Feet at 4345 Cowan Road for the Sum of $58,000.00 Paid to DeKalb County

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by COO Williams
-Question LB: could you clarify the differences in the last item?
-additional response provided

Board of Commissioners - District 2

2026-1218 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
An Ordinance to Amend the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, Chapter 15- Licenses, Permits, and Miscellaneous Regulations, Article XV. Non-Discrimination

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Nicole Massiah, that this agenda item be Recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/25/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Commissioner Long Spears
-Commissioner Long Spears requests a deferral to work with the Law Department further on this item
-additional comments provided by Commissioner Terry
-committee requests a redlined version once available by the sponsor and Law
-Question NM: is this related to the equity work that the County is working on?
-comments provided by COO Williams
-Question NM: in terms of having the CEO as the one issuing a citation could you provide comments on the enforceability, appeals process?
-response provided by Attorney Phillips
-comments provided by Commissioner Patrick regarding previous legislation sponsored by his office
-Commissioner Patrick requests to be a cosponsor on this legislation, along with Commissioner Terry
-comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson
-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears

-MDJ: motion to defer to September 15th BOC with a prior stop in the ERPS Committee

III. DISCUSSION

Operational Assessment Update - ERPS Depts

-assessment update not heard in committee

Meeting Ended At: 3:37pm

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

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

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC