



Minutes - Draft

OPS-County Operations Committee

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Commissioner Ted Terry

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

1:00 PM

Meeting Started At: 1:04 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Davis Johnson, Long Spears, Terry, and Patrick;

Present 3 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, and Commissioner Ted Terry

I. MINUTES

2024-1599 Commission District(s): All Districts
Minutes for the November 19, 2024 County Operations (OPS) Committee Meeting;
MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

II. DISCUSSION

State Legislative Agenda

Presentation by Staff

TT: Re the Okefenokee Swamp discussion?

DB: Not clear on how it will be handled this year, it doesn't hurt to keep it on.

Economic Development

RP: Property insurance liability background information request.

TT: Large nuclear settlements are leading to increased premiums making apartments unable to pay large premiums. An affordable housing community with a 30 year tax credit based on a certain amount of revenue now cant pay and provide affordable housing because of the premiums

MDJ: Settlements are based on injury, and based upon the conduct of the owners. If you limit the recovery amount then you diminish the culpability of the owner's responsibility in negligence. If the State legislates limits it would have an undue effect of devaluing the life of someone in lower income housing. Let a jury decide, not the State.

TT: This issue speaks to an older broader issue of Tort reform.

I would like to amend the support statement to one that recognizes this issues as a problem.

"The governing body recognizes that the cost of housing is being impacted by numerous factors, including property insurance rates, which have demonstrably skyrocketed in the last few year which is making housing more unaffordable for renters." Amend to just support legislation that would address that issue and stay agnostic on Tort Reform.

MDJ: add the elimination of identifying classes of people by zip codes.

Public Health

TT: Would it make sense to tweak these priorities to reflect the recommendations from the committee since they are specific?

DB: The Behavioral Health Innovation Commission, under Kevin Tanner, presented recommendations last week. The final report will become available in the next couple of weeks to summarize all recommendations and set up what the Department and State are looking at implementing, including a potential housing trust fund of up to \$50M.

TT: Tweak housing crisis service unit item, word smith to reflect housing trust fund language in the context of behavioral and mental health housing support.

MLS: One of the items that we discussed last year was a problem with the CSB's around being able to hold their board meetings virtually. A bill did pass which allowed more flexibility but it did not include CSB's, can we add that to the agenda?

JM: We have that as a priority in other.

MLS: Please call out CSB's State wide specifically.

Public Safety

MDJ: Please provide additional information regarding the priority regarding video surveillance.

TT: A bill was passed that said gas stations were preempted from local legislation. This made our ordinance moot for 100+ gas stations in the County. We would want to repeal that amendment.

TT: I also have an amendment to the legally permitted resident request. I was informed that you also have to be a citizen to be a firefighter under State law, would like to include firefighters in that item.

Transportation

MDJ: Discuss the removal of the item with the district.

Other

Re Certified service item

MDJ: Change "to allow" to "to require" we need to verify that the item was sent.

DB: want it to be a "shall"

Re Charter Review item

MDJ: Requesting background information for this item.

MLS: This item is to carry forward the request in the resolution we passed to have the delegation review the Charter review

recommendations and any follow up notes from the OPS Committee meetings. Advancing this forward into the next year.

MDJ: My understanding is we're voting for it collectively to be sent to the delegation for review after everyone has made their recommendations from the Commission.

MLS: I also think that we need to give the opportunity to the new commissioners if they would like to review it and offer up any recommendations as well.

MDJ: Are you recommending that the delegation receive this during this year's session?

MLS: No, recommending that the delegation review what was prepared at the end of last year by the Charter Review Commission, layer over that the feedback they have received from us, as well as feedback from previous CEO's.

Next Steps

MDJ: Back to OPS with recommended changes highlighted in yellow.

MLS: Agree back to OPS for review. If we have additions, I have one, send to you?

RP: Signage request?

JM: Yes sir we have it on the agenda.

III. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items

Fleet Management

[2024-1513](#)

Commission District(s): All

Addition to Fleet- Voter Registration and Elections (VRE)

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/10/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

No additional information requested

Board of Commissioners

[2024-0190](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

An Ordinance for Companion Animal Litter Permit and Transfer and Sale of Dogs and Cats in DeKalb County, Georgia

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/10/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

No additional information requested.

Per Law:

Various components are still under review. The components interact with State law and we need to assess these interactions and fill in some remaining information before we complete the remaining legal assessment.

[2024-0842](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Resolution to Review and Amend the Board of Commissioners
Standing Procedural Rules

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/10/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

No additional information requested

Animal Service

[2024-0979](#)

Commission District(s): ALL
CO - Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 1132039 Animal Shelter Operation Services for DeKalb County (Multiyear): for use by the Department of Public Safety - Animal Enforcement Services. This contract consists of providing animal shelter operations and services. This request seeks to increase contract funds and term through December 31, 2025, with a price increase. Awarded to Lifeline Animal Project, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$8,730,000.00.

This agenda item was No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners due back on 12/10/2024 .

ZLW: Administration requests a 5 minute presentation.

MLS: I see that you are increasing from 93 to 109 positions, is this enough to staff the overflow units?

RG: No, it is not inclusive of staff needed for the overflow units. We suggested that we review the projected costs for the overflow units when they come online, we will need 11 additional staff persons.

MLS: Do we have veterinarians available Monday Friday?

RG: We have vets there Monday - Sunday, I will have to check on their hours. We are asking for another vet position to cut down on the use of outside vet services.

MLS: Regarding the pilot program with VCA, is it going well enough to include the costs in the contract extension or will we wait until midyear next year a full 12 months?

RG: It is going well, we are trying to use it to offset our need for vet services and will reevaluate next year.

MLS: Have you considered implementing a policy that if people are not able to get their foster animal Spayed or neutered within 3 months of fostering that they can go to VCA so that the animals are fixed within 3 months?

RG: Yes we can consider that option, we are also partnering with UGA to have their vet school provide services for 150 animals.

MLS: is the pet food bank cost a part of the contract extension?

RG: Yes, each community initiative is included in the extension.

MLS: What is the cost of the pet food bank on a monthly basis?

RG: Maybe \$2-3k per week

MLS: Could we consider also adding a weekend for an additional \$25K/year

MDJ: This is for \$8.7M for shelter operations?

RG: yes and community programs and a cost shifted from facilities for cleaning.

MDJ: What is the current contract amount?

RG: \$5.7M not including community programs, which we run at a deficit of ~939k.

TT: Is the ~\$900k loss due to workers compensation issues?

RG: No it is primarily due to vet costs being over budget.

TT: Has the policy for dangerous dogs been updated?

RG: The case was an accident.

TT: Can we do additional days or hours for the mobile services if we are seeing a tremendous need there, can we get an additional amendment to the contract? include an additional day each month.

TT: Can we do a one month extension until January?

ZLW: yes you could move it forward pending audit or move forward a 2 month extension, either would be more optimum than letting it expire.

TT: 2 different audits, operational and contract audits. We need to address any issues in the operational audit in the contract.

MLS: Move to defer to the 12/17 BOC to review both audits.

MDJ: Send to Board with no recommendation on 12/17

MLS: suggests a special called ops and defer to the special called ops.

The committee requests that a copy of the operational audit be shared with the committee when it becomes available.

Facilities Management

[2024-1341](#)

Commission District(s): ALL
REN - Contract Nos.: 1325124, 1325126, and 1325127 Landscape Maintenance Services for Public Grounds (2nd Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Departments of Facilities Management (FM), Public Works - Sanitation (Sanitation) and Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). These contracts consist of providing landscape maintenance services for the County's public grounds. This request seeks to exercise the 2nd renewal option through March 31, 2026, for all three (3) contracts. Additionally, this request seeks to add RPCA sites to Contract No. 135127. Lastly, this request seeks to reserve the right to transfer funds between contracts based on the needs of the County. Awarded to: Artscape, Inc., The Simmons Group, and Let Us Love Your Lawn. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,248,866.00.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval upon receipt of additional information to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/10/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

TT: Request 2 amendments to this agenda item discussed with administration.

1. D6 ARP funds appropriated to do improvements at the Chamblee and Clarkston libraries, we have \$58k left in that account however there is not a contract associated with the ARP funds. Request that the administration tie the ARP funds to this contract for Clarkston and Chamblee library improvements.

2> For Chamblee, Clarkston and Tobie Grant libraries this contract should be month to month until we figure out the library landscapes transition plan and the need for ana rfp.

ZLW: The administration will bring forward a substitute for a vote that will amend the contract add \$58k of ARP funds from D6 to the vendor for library landscapes at the requested libraries.

TT: and the month to month for the 3 locations. So moved.

MLS: Second.

Meeting Ended At: 2:22 PM

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC