



DeKalb County Government

1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Minutes - Draft

PWI-Public Works & Infrastructure Committee

Commissioner Robert Patrick (Chair)

Commissioner Ted Terry, Member

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Member

Friday, December 13, 2024

12:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 12:01PM

Attendance: Commissioners Patrick, Terry, Long Spears, Massiah, Bolton

Present 2 - Commissioner Robert Patrick, and Commissioner Ted Terry

Not Present 1 - Member Mereda Davis Johnson

I. MINUTES

2024-1627 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the December 3, 2024 Public Works and Infrastructure
Committee Meeting
**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick,
that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the
following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

II. DISCUSSION

Water & Sewer Rates Discussion

-discussed in the context of agenda item 2024-1326

III. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

Finance

[2024-1326](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts

Adoption of the Attached Resolution Approving 6% Rate Increases on January 1 for the Years 2025, 2026 and 2027 and a 2024 Bond Issuance, Not to Exceed \$225 Million in Total Par Amount, for the Purpose of Rehabilitating of the Scott Candler Water Treatment Facility and Other Crucial Projects, for the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) CIP.

The Bond Issue Will Be Sold Through a Competitive Bid Process Managed by PFM, the County's Financial Advisor.

MOTION was made that this agenda item be recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-information provided by COO Williams

-comments provided by Commissioner Patrick regarding monthly expectations for rate payers

-several prepared questions from Commissioner Long Spears were proposed to COO Williams and the Administration for review and response:

- 1. Why did the administration not bring forward rate increases in 2023 and 2024?*
- 2. We were initially told that it would be over 4 billion to repair our aging system. Back in 2022 the CIP recommendation was \$2.2 Billion. Why was \$3 billion presented in the last meeting? And how much do we need to properly repair our system?*
- 3. What happens if projected costs exceed initial estimates?*
- 4. Arcadis Dec 5 report showed that er only \$3 M left of the \$531 million 2022 bond issue. Is this accurate?*
- 5. The Revenue Sufficiency Analysis was dated 5 December 2024. Did they also do one when they were recommending just 3 years of 6% each? Could you share it with us?*
- 6. How does the proposed rate increase compare to other metro counties and City of Atlanta? For example, what has Gwinnett done? Cobb? Fulton? And so on...what percentage increase and for how long?*
- 7. What percentage of the increase will go toward operating costs versus capital improvement projects?*
- 8. What additional services will ratepayers receive for paying an increased rate over the next 10 years?*
- 9. What oversight mechanisms are in place to monitor the quality and timeliness of infrastructure improvements? How will you report out to constituents?*
- 10. Why are you asking us to approve a \$375 M bond at the same time we are approving the rate increase?*
- 11. Does this rate increase only apply to residents? Or everyone?*
- 12. Did we pursue any federal grants to help pay for the infrastructure improvements? I am aware of the WIFIA and GEFA loans, but what about grants to take the burden off ratepayers?*
- 13. Does the administration plan on hosting any public forums to discuss the new proposed rate increase and affordability measures? Will you establish a communications plan to educate residents about the rate increase and the benefits it will bring?*
- 14. I'd like to host another water sewer townhall once all new commissioners onboard in January. Will you (commissioners + administration) support that request?*

-comments provided by Commissioner Terry regarding an 'open checkbook' system for consideration for greater transparency

-Comments and recap of District 6 Townhall provided by Commissioner Terry

-comments provided by Commissioner Patrick regarding possible options for funding this proposal

-comments provided by Commissioner Massiah regarding the need for public feedback and further review

-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears regarding the suggestion for the Administration to come back with options to consider

-no action taken

-recommended holding in committee

Watershed Management

[2024-1343](#) Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 1283955 Cooperative Agreement for consent Decree: Trenchless Technology Rehabilitation, External Point Repairs, and Related Products and Services (OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Agreement No. R170802) [DeKalb Cooperative Agreement]: for use by the Department of Watershed Management (DWM). This contract consists of provided sewer system trenchless sewer line rehabilitation services. This request seeks to utilize the Engineering News Record - Construction Cost Index) ENR-CCI) to calculate and address cost increases for work completed after January 1, 2025. This request also seeks to increase the contract scope of work, funds, and contract term through December 31, 2026. Awarded to SAK Construction, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$14,866,309.92.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-this item is currently in OIIA audit review

-Question TT: is it materials or also labor?

-response provided by Director Hayes

-Question TT: regarding the engineering records do we do this every year?

-response provided by Director Hayes

-Question TT: if we defer to next year will it be an issue?

-response provided by Director Hayes

-TT: motion to move forward with no recommendation to the December 17th BOC meeting pending review from OIIA audit (no official recommendation)

[2024-1450](#) Commission District(s): All
LB - Invitation No. 24-101643 Stone Crushed Granite (Three (3) Year Multiyear Contract): for use by the Departments of Watershed Management (DWM), Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA), and Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D) and Sanitation. Consists of providing stone crushed granite for use in various applications. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidders: F.M. Shelton, Inc. and Green Dream International, LLC. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$ 7,080,000.00.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-this item is currently in OIIA audit review

Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D)

[2024-1488](#) Commission District(s): All
CO - Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 1295610 for 2021 LMIG Road Resurfacing Projects (365 Day Contract): for use by Public Works - Roads & Drainage (R&D). This contract consists of resurfacing of County roads. This request seeks to increase the contract funds and term through June 30, 2025. Awarded to HEH Paving, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$5,315,481.51.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be No recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-this item is currently in OIIA audit review
-information provided by Director Peggy Allen
-Question RP: why not push this to the end of summer?
-response provided by Director Allen

-TT: motion to move forward with no recommendation to the December 17th BOC meeting pending review from OIIA audit (no official recommendation)

2024-1284

Commission District(s): ALL
Stormwater Master Plan

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-RP: Commissioner Terry if you could punt this to the second BOC in January with a stop in PWI

-TT: motion to defer to second BOC in January with a stop in PWI

Second RP

-comments provided by Commissioner Terry

-Commissioner Terry requested to include a section in the plan discussed for the green infrastructure program

Public Works - Transportation

2024-1126

Commission District(s): 3 and 7
Payment of \$171,378.67 to Georgia Power for LED Conversion of Columbia Drive at I-20 Interchange Lighting

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

- a substitute has been provided by this agenda item
- information provided by Director Pelton
- Question TT: has there been a lighting survey done that is county-wide?
- response provided by Director Pelton
- Question TT: this is along I-20 or off the exits?
- D Pelton: it will be both; comments provided by Director Pelton
- comments provided by Commissioner Terry
- Question TT: can we revisit the legislative strategy of asking the PSC to change their policy?
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick
- Question LB: did we look into cost savings for solar lights as opposed to LED?
- Question LB: have we considered any other alternatives or do we assume this would be the best request?
- response provided by Director Pelton

- TT: motion to approve the substitute

Board of Commissioners - District 2

2024-1139 Commission District(s): Districts 1, 2, and 6
A Resolution Supporting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Buford Highway in DeKalb County, Georgia
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

- comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears
- comments provided by Commissioner Terry
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick

- TT: motion to defer to first BOC in February (2/11/2025) with a prior stop in PWI in January
- MLS requests to receive the BRT report from MARTA in advance of the PWI committee meeting

2024-1357 Commission District(s): All Districts
Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County Supporting Policy Changes to Protect Seniors, Disabled Individuals, and Low-Income Residents Against Upcoming Water Rate Increases
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears regarding the key elements of this resolution
-MLS: a substitute for this item will be prepared
-comments provided by Commissioner Terry
-Question TT: how many legacy billing issues are there?
D McNabb: 20

-TT: motion to defer to second BOC in January with a prior stop in PWI

Board of Commissioners - District 6

2024-1405

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County
Requesting an Operational Audit of the DeKalb County Watershed
Department.

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick,
that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the
Board of Commissioners, due back on 12/17/2024. The motion
carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

-a substitute has been provided for this agenda item
-information provided by Commissioner Terry
-TT: motion to defer to second BOC in January with a prior stop in PWI

Meeting Ended At: 1:19PM

**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Robert Patrick,
that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried
by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Terry

Not Present: 1 - Member Davis Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC