



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

DRAFT Minutes

OPS-County Operations Committee

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Commissioner Ted Terry

Monday, July 29, 2024

11:00 AM

Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 11:03 AM

Attendees: Commissioners Davis Johnson, Long Spears, Terry

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

I. MINUTES

2024-0949 Commission District(s): All Districts
Minutes for the June 27, 2024, Special Called County Operations (OPS) Committee Meeting;
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, 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. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Items

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2024-0797](#) Commission District(s): All Districts
Resolution to Create a Citizen Oversight Committee for SPLOST II
Revenues and Expenditures

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval upon receipt of additional information to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/13/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Information provided by Commissioner Long Spears

TT: I'd still like to change the term citizen to resident

MLS: Move to approve item with friendly amendment

Second TT

County Attorney: I've taken note of that change and we will make a note that the committee is for SPLOST II. Law Department will make the changes and provide a redline and updated clean version

Vote: yes unanimous

[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 Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/13/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

MDJ: since we are on a limited timeframe today I'd like to move the item to the next meeting

MLS: I am open to the two week deferral. The question is who do we submit the changes to the blue book too?

MDJ: The Committee would make the recommendations - the Commissioners should make recommendations. Please send out a memo to commissioners to submit changes to OPS Members

MLS: the last time we did this Central Staff took the lead in changes. I'll be happy to submit a memo

MDJ: lets add number the pages

MLS: Motion to defer 2 weeks with a return back to OPS

Second TT

Vote: yes unanimous

New Agenda Items

Airport (PDK)

[2024-0827](#) Commission District(s): 1 and 6
Non-Federal Reimbursable Agreement with the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to Establish Low Power Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at Peachtree-DeKalb Airport (DeKalb Peachtree Airport). There is a cost to the County in the total estimated amount of \$29,801.20.
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/13/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Information provided by Director Hines

Comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears

Comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson

Comments provided by COO Williams

-TT: motion to approve

[2024-0849](#) Commission District(s): 1 and 6
Resolution to Accept GDOT Contract for Costs Associated with Airfield Lighting Replacement at the DeKalb Peachtree Airport. There is a \$130,579.80 cost to the County.
MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/13/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Information provided by Director Hines

Question TT: what are you replacing?

HH: changing lighting to LED

-TT: motion to approve

Chief Operating Office

[2024-0958](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Authorizing Grading Easement Request on DeKalb County's
Property - AP 1246427 - Baron Court

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 8/13/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Information provided by Clyde Stovall, Director Facilities Management

Question TT: is it baren court SW?

CS: yes it is a small subdivision

TT: Can commissioners get a diagram of the area?

SC: Yes we can provide

Question MDJ: what is the size of the easement?

SC: its about 80ft long and 50ft wide. It hugs the property.

-TT: motion to approve acknowledging the department will provide all documentation to commissioners

III. DISCUSSION

Charter Review Recommendations

MDJ: We have former CEO Lee May with us today

Comments provided by former CEO Lee May

LM: Couple of denominators from the 2017 and 2023 charter review, three members. I want to highlight the importance of this ongoing work. I would ask the commissioners do look at the nuances of the requests,

MLS: I wanted to speak to the recommendation of Board's subpoena power. It was apart of the 2017 review as well. Can you expand on the recommendation

LM: I created the review commission I did not guide them. I think there could be dangerous in just having open subpoena power to the board. If there is support from this board I think more detail needs to be added. The broader it is the more danger it is. Additional context provided.

MLS: we are looking other counties with CEO Governments which boards do have that power- my team is looking at that now and we can bring it back.

LM: On the face of it I don't support subpoena power but I am open to the discussion

Comments provided by Commissioner Terry

TT: What you think about CEO form government version county manager form of government, what are the balance of powers that should exist? How do you see the CEO form of government coming together and prompting transparencies to review data and facts to get a coconscious.

LM: I always think it is healthy to have proactive discussions on our government. We need to look at how we service delivery, shift in capacity and demographics and other nuances. It makes sense to review other governments here in Georgia, Rockdale has a chairman form of government.

TT: regarding the CEO/COO the redline officers a name change. Structurally I think the CEO branch have more power and so if Section 9E doesn't get adopted I do believe there will still be an effort for commissioners to know what the recourse is when we want data or information and cannot get it.

MDJ: I don't believe the 2017 recommendation for subpoena power was a broad as this one. One of the questions is what is the limit and does it also extent to the other constitutionals, do we need a supermajority from the board?. I still have questions regarding it.

Comments provided by Former CEO Lee May

Question MLS: recommendation about appointments. Section 15A and 15E covers those and expands on requirements for appointments. Many on the commission have supported a 'fill by' period.

TT: We need to figure out what appropriate for appointments, I think 60 days to fill it is appropriate.

MDJ: and what about when commissioners do not fill their appointees.

LM: a few things to close, my personal recommendation would always need to be 4 members to vote to approve. The CEOs ability to call a meeting, Section 13 F & G - maybe needs to be spelled out more. CEO managing all external relationship but what is the role of the board. The COO term if that needs to be limited or contractually based, it should be built into the charter. I will provide everything else in writing to the commission.

Meeting Ended At: 12:05 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