

Minutes

PECS-Planning, Economic Development & Community Services
Committee

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, (Chair)

Commissioner Robert Patrick, Member

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

2:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 2:53 PM

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

Present 2 - Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, and Commissioner Robert Patrick

I. MINUTES

2024-1668 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the December 10, 2024, Planning, Economic Development, and Community Services Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

II. APPOINTMENT

[2024-1657](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Appointment to the DeKalb County Public Library Board of Trustees - Ms. Hillary Gardner
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 1/28/2025. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

A substitute has been provided, changing the updating the Chief Executive Officer Interview with Ms. Gardner conducted by the PECS Committee

-RP: motion to approve

III. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items

Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA)

[2024-1419](#) Commission District(s): ALL
REN - Contract Nos.: 1359735, 1360830, and 1363193 Tree Cutting and Removal Services for RPCA (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). These contracts consist of providing tree cutting and removal services for County owned facilities. This request seeks to exercise the 1st renewal option through January 31, 2026. This request also seeks to reserve the right to transfer funds between contracts based on the needs of the County. Awarded to: One Two Tree LLC, Sesmas Tree Service LLC, and Casey Tree Experts Inc. Total Amount Not to Exceed: \$450,000.00.

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Information provided by Chuck Ellis, RPCA Director

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Question RP: is there a replanting schedule?

Ellis: We work with Trees Atlanta and different groups to plant trees. We do not replace trees that may have fallen or died.

Comments regarding the no net loss of trees program provided by Commissioner Terry

Question TT: can other departments piggyback? I'm curious about the Department of Facilities.

COO Williams: I believe they can. Additional information provided

RP: motion to approve

Previously Heard Items

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2024-0935](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Resolution Establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for
DeKalb County, Georgia

**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by
Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for
deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on
1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Information provided by Commissioner Long Spears & Andy Schenggburger, housing policy analyst

Introduction by Jacob Vallo, Chief Development Officer

-MLS: motion to defer 30 days

Board of Commissioners - District 6

[2024-1548](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution by The Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County
Designating 1% Of The 8% Hotel-Motel Tax Revenue for An
Affordable Housing Trust Fund Beginning in 2025, Pending Fund
Approval

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle
Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for
deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on
1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Information provided by Commissioner Terry

*I'd like to work with the law department to determine whether the county, through the business
licensing, can audit extended-stay hotels.*

-RP: motion to defer 30 days

Board of Commissioners - District 7

[2024-0347](#) Commission District(s): All Districts
Resolution to Address Eliminating Blight Caused by Unattended
Donation Boxes.
**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle
Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for
deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on
1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Information provided by Commissioner Terry

TT: the resolution has been turned into a formal ordinance, and we would like to introduce the highlights to the committee today

Information provided by Deputy County Attorney Terry Phillips

Question RP: do we have a strategy to notify property owners of the timeline for implementation?

Response provided by Deputy County Attorney Terry Phillips

Question Massiah: I'm concerned about enforceability. Are there civil or criminal penalties if compliance is not met?

Terry: the way it is crafted now is a civil penalty with a fine structure per offense. This would go to the magistrate court which could also assist and provide recommendations on penalties

Question Massiah: is there an appeal structure in place, how would that be managed?

Information on the administrative appeal process provided by Deputy County Attorney Terry Phillips

Question Massiah: have there been any discussions with the judicial branch?

Phillips: the law department has not reached out to the judicial branch. Additional information was provided.

TT: I think this is ready for discussion, my ask would be for commissioners to review and meet with the law department.

Mr. Phillips, email us what 'blanks' need to be filled and considered in our review. Additional context provided.

-RP: motion to defer 30 days

V. DISCUSSION

Board of Commissioners - District 2

[2024-1273](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia, to
Establish a Plan for Addressing Homelessness and to Support the Housing
First Model
**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by
Robert Patrick, that this agenda item be recommended for
deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on
1/28/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Information provided by Commissioner Long Spears

Presentation provided by Fabio Van Der Merwe, CEO of Claratel Behavioral Health

Comments provided by Allen Mitchell, Director of Community Development

AM: The CEO is on board with housing first but wants to review to have a comprehensive solution.

I think the resolution should include references to resources such as funding for shelters, transitional housing, wrap-around services, and the ideology behind it. Housing first focuses on resources and partnering with landlords and other agencies or building facilities, which takes time.

Comments provided by Commissioner Patrick

Comments provided by Commissioner Terry

Question NM: have we seen any potential cost savings with implementation?

Mitchell: we have not done that calculation. However, HUD provides estimations of \$30,000 savings for housing people compared to emergency room or police interventions

Question NM: but no savings particular to DeKalb. Are there savings we could anticipate?

Mitchell: We currently use the model. HUD requires housing first to receive funding for the CoC. This would not change our work since we already implemented it; I think it would be good to codify it by resolution.

-MLS: motion to defer 2 weeks

Meeting Ended At: 3:47 PM

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

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Patrick

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC

