



# DeKalb County Government

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

## Minutes

### ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

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Tuesday, September 19, 2023

2:15 PM

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Meeting Started At: 2:30 PM

Attendees: Commissioners Terry, Bradshaw, Davis Johnson, Bradshaw, Cochran Johnson

**Present**      3 - Commissioner Ted Terry, Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, and Mereda Davis Johnson

#### I. MINUTES

**2023-1069**      Commission District(s): All  
Minutes for the August 15, 2023, Employee Relations, and Public Safety Committee Meeting

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

#### II. STATUS UPDATE

Code Red Project

*Presentation not heard in committee. Rescheduled for ERPS 10/3*

#### III. DISCUSSION

FY23 Budget Adjustments

Information provided by TJ Sigler

Question MDJ: regarding operating supplies request \$125,755, why is recommended lower?

Sigler: I believe that request is looking at the total for the year, we lowered it to provide funds for the remainder of the year. Additional comments provided

Question TT: I have questions about the police budget. We have vacancies in the department, are they getting re allocated? Sigler: The police did have a request of 1,125,566 for a variety of positions. All of that is recommended in their existing budget. The budget can absorb the costs without additional funds allocated.

Question TT: so the funding is for 10 CSAs

Question MDJ: the CSAs is few, is it effective?

Ramos: We have 4 and three in training. This was a pilot program and now that we are expanding we will need cars. Their cars are shaped, looked and colored different to not be confused with police

Question TT: Do they response to traffic incidents?

Response provided by Chief Ramos

Question TT: Could law develop the ordinance, is that something we can do?

COO Williams: Let us look and get back to you

***MDJ: motion to approve budget amendments for Medical Examiner General Fund including POD Cooler (\$138,814) replacement and Auxiliary Power (\$197,746) and Replacement of main entry vehicle gate (\$44,824) CIP Fire Fund. Vote: yes unanimous***

#### IV. AGENDA ITEM

*New Agenda Items:*

#### Risk Management

2023-1091

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
2024 Medicare Retiree Health Renewals

**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/26/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

Information provided by Larry Jacobs & Bulk

Consulting Question TT: What was the increase?

Larry Jacobs: 216,000 this will impact the 2024 Budget

***-SB: motion to approve***

***Second MDJ***

***Vote: yes unanimous***

#### Human Resources

[2023-1082](#) Commission District(s): All  
CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 1082514  
Pre-Employment Drug and Alcohol Testing Services (Annual Contract with 4 Options to Renew): for use by the Department of Human Resources and Merit System (HRMS). This contract consists of providing post-offer pre-employment and fitness for duty physicals to candidates for employment and/or employees. This request seeks to increase the contract funds and term through December 31, 2023. Awarded to Caduceus USA Medical Services, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$71,112.51.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/26/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by Director Ransom*

*Question MDJ: This is an extension of the contract, why are you extending?*

*Director Ransom: Correct. We went through a bid process and a new vendor has been identified, this is extending out the rest of the year.*

*Question TT: How many employees a year are tested?*

*Ransom: all new hires are tested and random testing for DOT Compliance. As of this month we have 1561 people for drugs and over 300 for alcohol. Anyone who holds a CLD has to be tested periodically.*

*Question TT: What about non safety sensitive positions?*

*Response provided by Director Ransom*

*Question TT: the roughly 2000 office jobs, once they are screened and hired they are no longer tested.*

*Ransom: Correct. We do a pre employee physical which includes a drug test.*

*TT: I'm getting different messages from you and some employees who are claiming they are being actively testing. Can you please provide the specific policy.*

*Additional information from Human Resources Staff provided*

*Question TT: Non safety employees can still be tested with reasonable suspicion; What is the concern for reasonable suspicion?*

*Ransom: If at least two supervisors have concerns for an employee coming to work intoxicated they can be sent for reasonable suspicion testing.*

*Question TT: I do want to point out this is now a medical marijuana state now. Low THC is allowed under the law that however can be picked up by testing, correct?*

*Ransom: Correct*

*Question TT: Why do we have this policy for employees when we now know medical marijuana is available and that it stays in the system long term.*

*Ransom: it is a challenge, we are going to be working with law about the issue.*

*TT Request: keep us updated on that review*

## Fire & Rescue

2023-1033 Commission District(s): Commission District 5  
SPLOST Funds Category 2A, Replace Existing Fire Station(s) and  
Construct New Fire Station(s) For Fire Station 14

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by  
Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for  
approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on  
9/26/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis  
Johnson**

*Information provided by Chief Fullum*

*Question TT: this is just for land purchase?*

*Fullum: yes, not to exceed 1 million*

*Question MDJ: is this in unincorporated dekalb?*

*Fullum: it is in Stonecrest*

*Question MDJ: Do we get assistance from the cities?*

*Fullum: Not that I'm aware of*

*Question MDJ: Has there been any dialogue for support?*

*COO Williams: There has not been any recent communications. For clarification this is a SPLOST I item. There has been  
communications regarding SPLOST II*

*LCJ: I would strongly suggest the ERPS Committee charge COO to have the necessary conversations related to this. Additional comments  
provided.*

*Question SB: How big is the land parcel?*

*Fullum: 6.1 acres*

*Question SB: Has the appraisal been completed?*

*Fullum: Yes*

*Question TT: regarding land disturbance, what is the typical footprint for fire stations?*

*Fullum: the smallest would be 3 acres. we would also want a buffer the facility and any homes or businesses nearby.*

2023-0866 Commission District(s): ALL  
CA - Cooperative Agreement for Public Safety Communications  
(Sourcewell Contract No. 042021-MOT): for use by the Department of  
Fire Rescue Services (FR) and Police Services (PS). This request is for  
the purchase of 30 APX 6500 radios for Fire Rescue, 223 APX 6000  
radios for Police and the associated accessories for the radios. Awarded  
to Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$1,263,842.00.  
**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Mereda  
Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for  
approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/26/2023.  
The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by Chief Fullum*

2023-1047

Commission District(s): All  
LB - Invitation No. 23-101586 Lithium Battery Powered Smoke Alarms: for use by the Department of Fire Rescue Services (FR). Consists of the purchase of 4,689 Lithium Battery Powered Smoke Alarms. Recommend award to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder: Batteries, Watts, & Things, LLC dba Batteries Plus Bulbs. Amount Not To Exceed: \$100,580.55.

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/26/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by Chief Fullum*

*Question TT: Are we trying to get as much out as possible?*

*Fullum: the purchase will be split between 2 years. We get as many out as we can through community events*

*Question TT: the grant was to purchase a certain amount?*

*Fullum: No, we looked for best price. Most of these batteries will end up in single family homes. We have a system to identify communities of high risk*

*Question TT: What should be our approach to apartment complexes?*

*Fullum:*

*Question TT: Are we limited in enforcement for smoke alarms in multifamily apartments? Should we require them*

*Fullum: Yes I believe we should. I can't speak to the legal requirements. Having a smoke alarm is really the first line of defense.*

*Question MDJ: for law is it anything requiring smoke detectors in apartments?*

*Comments provided by Chief Fullum*

*County Attorney: We would need to look at what the national fire code requires for single family and apartments. We can also review what our code currently has before we make a change. Additional comments provided by County Attorney Question MDJ: Could we also look into sprinklers?*

*County Attorney: That may be harder due to the infrastructure required. Additional comments provided by County Attorney Question*

*RP: I believe we have an ordinance requiring ICC Inspector report, that is typically where you would see that information.*

*TT: Request law department to review and come back to committee*

*Question MDJ: The item total is for both years?*

*Fullum: That is correct*

## Police Sevices

[2023-0842](#) Commission District(s): ALL  
REN - Contract Nos.: 1305010, 1305015, 1305018, and 1305021  
Ammunition (1st Renewal of 2 Options To Renew): for use by  
Police Services (PS), the Sheriff's Office, and the Marshal's Office.  
These contracts consist of the purchase of ammunition. This  
request is to exercise the 1st renewal option through September 30,  
2024. Awarded to Dana Safety Supply, Inc., Precision Delta  
Corporation, Gulf States Distributors, Inc., and Specialty Cartridges,  
Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$281,000.00.  
**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Mereda  
Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for  
approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on  
9/26/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis  
Johnson**

*Information provided by Chief Ramos*

*Question MDJ: Is there different grade for bullets for training verses actual  
patrolling? Ramos: Yes sometimes we use training bullets that are a lower grade*

[2023-1060](#) Commission District(s): All  
SWC - Statewide Contract (SWC) No. 99999-SPD-T20190814-0001  
Cloud Solutions and Services: for use by Police Services (PS). Consists  
of piggybacking off the competitively let SWC to purchase OpenGov  
software to assist in management and operation of the Permits Unit.  
Awarded to Carahsoft Technology Corp. Amount Not To Exceed:  
\$130,523.36.  
**MOTION was made by Steve Bradshaw, seconded by Mereda  
Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for  
approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 9/26/2023.  
The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

*Information provided by Chief Ramos*

*Question TT: What type of permits are they?*

*Response provided by Chief Ramos*

*Question TT: Didn't the state pass a law for hand gun permits?*

*Ramos: they can still be registered in case of thief, you are correct is not required. Additional comments provided.*

*MDJ: If the chief can get with legal to see what would need to be introduced I'm open to considering moving Hotel  
permits from police to code enforcement*

*Previously Heard Items*

**Board of Commissioners - District 6**

[2023-0679](#) Commission District(s): All DeKalb County Commission Districts A  
Budget Resolution for DeKalb County Repurposing Unspent Police  
Budget Funds for Community Services and Recruitment Investments  
**This agenda item was No recommendation to the Board of  
Commissioners due back on 9/26/2023 .**

[2023-0558](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
To Adopt a Resolution Establishing a Police Civilian Review Board in  
DeKalb County, GA to Review and Investigating Certain Complaints  
Against the DeKalb County Police Department (DKPD) and its  
Employees.  
**This agenda item was No recommendation to the Board of  
Commissioners due back on 9/26/2023 .**

Meeting Ended At: 3:31 PM

**MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Steve  
Bradshaw, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The  
motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Terry, Commissioner Bradshaw, and Davis Johnson**

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC