



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Minutes - Draft

ERPS-Employee Relations & Public Safety Committee

Commissioner LaDena Bolton (Chairperson)

Commissioner Chakira Johnson

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

2:15 PM

178 Sams Street, Decatur, GA 30030
(Multipurpose Room A1201)

Meeting Started At: 2:18pm

Attendees: Commissioners Bolton, Johnson, Davis Johnson, Patrick, Massiah, Terry

Present

3 - Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, Commissioner LaDena Bolton, and Chairperson Chakira Johnson

I. MINUTES

2025-0702

Commission District(s): All

Minutes for the May 6, 2025 Employee Relations, and Public Safety Committee Meeting

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

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

II. DISCUSSION

County Pension Update

- presentation provided by Ed Wall, particularly on 2 aspects: 1) discussing with the Committee the options to provide either an ad-hoc change structure, a 1%, or .50% annual COLA within the Pension fund; and 2) discussing Pension Plan options of potentially moving Group 3 individuals to Group 2
- CJ: I want to see if we could eliminate the Group 3 plan and put those employees in the Group 2 plan to help with retention. Regarding the COLA, I think the .50% would be fair
- comments provided by Mr. Wall
- comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson regarding the ad hoc option
- discussion between Commissioner Terry regarding Pension plans and decision-making with respect to public safety personnel, as well as Group 3 recipients
- Commissioner Terry expressed support of going from Group 3 to Group 2
- questions on the Pension plan discussed among members of the Board and Mr. Wall
- Mr. Wall suggested the Commissioners speak with Director Sigler regarding budgetary impact on the County's budget with the options considered
- Question RP: what is the cost to go from Group 3 to Group 2 annually?
- Ed Wall: \$14.2 million
- LB: I would like to see the numbers would be if we made the adjustment to assume an annual COLA
- LB: we will make the request and that we bring this discussion back after additional numbers from Director Sigler as well

EMS Services Update

- presentation provided by Chief Fullum regarding EMS Ambulance Service Contract Extension Update and System Performance
- Question CJ: regarding Wall hours at the hospitals, how can we impact a change on that?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- Question CJ: regarding daily unit hours, are there other built in increases or will that be built into the contract?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- Question MDJ: regarding wait time at the hospital, what is that based on?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- comments provided by Commissioner Terry
- Question TT: did you say that the study committee at the State legislature has recommended setting a state law that mandates a 20 minute Wall time?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- Question TT: you were moreso saying that this could be an opportunity for us to go to the General Assembly and say that we like that idea, and that we would encourage our Legislators to work on this
- Question TT: how many more ambulances are we getting?
- C Fullum: the ambulances that the Board approved are what we have for now; additional comments provided
- Question TT: did you have to hire more EMTs and paramedics with the purchases of these vehicles?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- Question TT: regarding EMS capacity for DeKalb, what are you hearing from the staff regarding pay, benefits, pension, and the incentive for cadets to stay with the County for many years? Does keeping staff with Fire Rescue a good investment and something we should be going for, especially regarding the pension as well?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick
- Question RP: is the current utilization rate reflected by the fact that you've increased staff, or declining response times? What is the reason for that?
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick
- Question RP: how do these numbers compare with other jurisdictions
- response provided by Chief Fullum regarding a benchmark 50% utilization rate target
- Question RP: regarding penalties and system credits, when you come back to us should we expect the \$70,000 number be even lower than it is now? And what is the vacancy amount in Fire Rescue currently?
- response provided by Chief Fullum
- LB: Chief I will reach out to you regarding my questions

III. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items:

Fire Rescue (FR)

[2025-0416](#) Commission District(s): ALL
CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 1377240 Public Safety Communications Technology and Hardware Solutions (Sourcewell Contract No. 042021-MOT): for use by Fire Rescue (FR), the Marshal's Office, and Police Services (PS). This contract consists of purchasing through the competitively let Sourcewell contract for the purchase of APX radios, remote speaker microphones, chargers, batteries, and related accessories, device hardware, installation, and programming. This request seeks to ratify two (2) purchase orders totaling \$41,347.75. This request also seeks to increase contract funds. Awarded to Motorola Solutions, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$362,440.85.

MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 5/29/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

-information provided by Chief Fullum

-Question LB: was the other contract to fit vehicles and this one is for persons?

Police Services (PS)

[2025-0472](#) Commission District(s): ALL
REN - Contract No. 1381091 Helicopter Maintenance and Repair Service (Annual Contract - 1st Renewal of 4 Options to Renew): for use by Police Services (PS). This contract consists of providing helicopter repair and maintenance services for existing County helicopters. This request is to exercise the 1st renewal option through June 30, 2026. Awarded to: Rotor Resources, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$400,000.00.

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Chakira Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 5/29/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Bolton, and Chairperson Johnson

-information provided by Chief Padrick

-Question CJ: how often are we using the helicopter?

-response provided by Chief Padrick

-Question NM: are you saying those 2 helicopters had not been used prior?

-response provided by Chief Padrick

-Question NM: how often are the helicopters deployed or should they be?

-response provided by Chief Padrick

-Question NM: that maintenance repair cost for the 2 helicopters, where did that figure come from?

-response provided by Chief Padrick

-NM: if you wouldn't mind providing additional information as to where that cost would come from

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

Police Services (PS)

2025-0583

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Amendment to Contract No. 21-500571, Towing and Wrecker Services (Multiyear Revenue Generating Contract) for use by the Department of Police Services (PS).

This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 5/29/2025 .

-agenda item not discussed in committee

Board of Commissioners - District 1

2025-0683

Commission District(s): All Districts
To Approve a Resolution to Address Egregious Littering and the Illegal Dumping of Scrap Tires

This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 5/29/2025 .

-agenda item not discussed in committee

2024-1233

Commission District(s): All Districts
A Resolution Asking for The DeKalb County Police Department to Develop a Diversion Policy Regarding Unhoused Individuals that Considers Other Options to Arresting and Jailing Them.

This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 5/29/2025 .

-agenda item not discussed in committee

Board of Commissioners - Super District 6

[2025-0390](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution to Establish a Community Advisory Board for the
DeKalb County Police Department.
**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to
the Board of Commissioners due back on 5/29/2025 .**

-agenda item not discussed in committee

Board of Commissioners - Super District 7

[2025-0600](#)

Commission District(s): Board of Commissioners - District 7
A resolution placeholder for DeKalb County onboarding process.
**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to
the Board of Commissioners due back on 5/29/2025 .**

-agenda item not discussed in committee

Meeting Ended At: 3:30pm

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

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Davis Johnson, Commissioner Bolton, and
Chairperson Johnson**

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC