



# DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street  
Decatur, GA 30030

## Minutes - **DRAFT**

### FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

*Commissioner Ted Terry (Chairperson)*

*Commissioner Michelle Long Spears*

*Commissioner Chakira Johnson*

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Thursday, July 17, 2025

3:00 PM

1300 Commerce Dr, 5th Floor  
BOC Multi-Purpose Room

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#### Special Called Meeting

#### Meeting Started At: 3:07PM

Attendance: Commissioners T. Terry, C. Johnson, M. Long Spears, M. Davis Johnson, and N. Massiah

**Present**      3 - Chairperson Ted Terry, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears,  
and Commissioner Chakira Johnson

#### I. DISCUSSION

##### FY25 Budget Amendments

##### Juvenile Court:

*CJ: Comment*

*NM: Comment*

*TT: Pay & class study - Is this for all positions? Is this for 2026? (COO Williams responded)*

*TT: Will we get more info. on IT plan? (COO Williams responded)*

*TT: What is solution for Juvenile Court now? (COO Williams responded)*

*TT: Can you have information/done by next Tuesday?*

*NM: Comments*

#### II. AGENDA ITEM

*New Agenda Items*

**Board of Commissioners - District 6**

- [2025-1060](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
A Placeholder To Approve The 2025 BOC Mid-Year Budget  
Amendment Requests  
**This agenda item was No recommendation to the Board of  
Commissioners due back on 7/22/2025 .**

*COO Williams asked that administration have time to review funding regarding budget amendment requests  
District 5 discussed SPLOST II item*

**Executive Assistant - Chief Operating Office**

- [2025-1039](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
Approve award of a contract with The Urban League of Greater  
Atlanta for the establishment and operation of the DeKalb County  
Office of Water and Sewer Customer Advocacy.  
**MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by  
Chakira Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for  
approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on  
7/22/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:**  
**Yes: 3 - Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Long Spears, and  
Commissioner Johnson**

**Questions:**

*MLS: How many staff members and do you plan to hire additional for DeKalb?*

*MLS: Amending timeline?*

*MLS: Trying to see how it would look as a system? Want to make sure system works well between admin, advocate etc. (COO Williams responded)*

*MDJ: Comments*

*NM: Comment*

*NM: Any estimate of what quote would be?*

*MLS: Anyone met with Finance team?*

*MLS: Phase II - Location, are you looking for single or multiple locations?*

*MLS: How are we going to work them through procurement process in 2 weeks? (COO Williams responded)*

*MLS: First tranche \$3M?*

*CJ: Can you give information to district offices as soon as possible so Commissioners can distribute?*

*CJ: What are indirect costs?*

*MDJ: Physical locations not widely used - regarding demographics -where are the people that have the need? TT: If approved today, is the cope of work what is in the presentation? (Coo Williams responded)*

*TT: For stakeholders - the goal would be that Urban League presenet to the stakeholders in September MLS:*

*Separate cover - What was presented on agenda item- requesting more detail, scope of work, and budget*

*CJ: Would you be open to mobile unit?*

*MLS: Agenda item- Should there be more detail in the "need" area of agenda (Per COO Williams M. Welch will have sub on 7/22*

*Previously Heard Agenda Items*

**Board of Commissioners - District 6**

[2025-0814](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution Requesting the Implementation of a Means-Tested Water Bill Amnesty Program for Income-Qualified Customers and Requesting a Targeted Review of Uncollectible Debt in Blighted Condominium Communities

**This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 7/22/2025 .**

**Questions:**

*CJ: How many customers enrolled? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*CJ: At what point is debt forgiveness given after enrolled? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*CJ: Any programs that didn't work? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*MLS: Regarding case studies - What has been done in decade prior to 2019? Anywhere in country? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*MLS: Regarding Baltimore program - How is water office doing? Helpful to constituents? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*MLS: City of Buffalo - What was outcome? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*MLS: Comments*

*MDJ: On time payments -concurrent on time payments? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*MDJ: Recurring debt forgiveness - How does that work? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*TT: Confirmed previous comment*

*TT: Other city models: What is average median income? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*TT: Writing off bad debt - What is statute of limitations? Should we be looking at that? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*NM: Comment*

*TT to COO: What are your thoughts regarding program and maybe implementing? (Z. Williams responded) TT*

*to COO: Will admin look at possibly pausing water shut offs? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*CJ: What happens to customers who don't complete program? (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded) CJ: Question (not confirmed)*

*NM: Comments*

*MLS: Other jurisdictions - Any other counties to use as an example? Only see cities used (Atty. at Legal Defense, NAACP responded)*

*NM: How is it impactful to focus on multi-units? (Commissioner Terry responded)*

*NM: Friendly amendment - recommendation/suggestions*

*NM: Not understanding how we are supporting our resolution by referring to other jurisdictions?*

*NM: Thoughts on how we intend to phase out process etc.? (Commissioner Terry and COO Williams responded)*

*Atty. M. Welch: Suggestion - Everyone come together to look at all suggestions and put what Commissioner Massiah suggests in Section I.*

*NM: There are two challenges - Single family homes as well as businesses (LLCs)*

*MLS: Section II - Financial piece ready for 7/31? Is that still valid? Coe Williams responded*

*CJ: Referencing Chicago/New York -Do they have multi-family?*

**Meeting Concluded At: 5:07PM**

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC