



DeKalb County Government

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

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

3:30 PM

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available

(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,

(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV

Meeting Started At: 3:31PM

Attendees: Commissioners Rader, Johnson, Cochran-Johnson, Terry

Present 3 - Commissioner Jeff Rader, Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Larry Johnson

I. MINUTES

2022-2003 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the July 26, 2022 Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Rader, Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Johnson

II. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

[2022-1845](#) Commission District(s): ALL
CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 1092093 for Auditing Services (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Finance. This contract consists of auditing services of the County's financial statements. Awarded to Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Amount Not To Exceed: \$29,500.00.

MOTION was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/23/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Johnson

No: 1 - Commissioner Rader

-information provided by CPO Horner

-Question JR: what public purpose could you identify for us to increase the rate of compensation by 7%? Is there some sort of justification? How many years is left on this contract?

-response provided by CPO Horner

-information provided by CFO McNabb

[2022-1837](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, to make Amendments to the County's Debt Management Policy
This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 9/13/2022 .

-information provided Dr. Obeng

-Question JR: so the expectation is that at our next FAB meeting you will be able to bring a draft for the committee to review?

K Obeng: that's correct

-JR: we will bring this back at our agenda for the next meeting, and will hopefully be able to make a recommendation

-item held in committee

III. STATUS UPDATE

Midyear Budget

-information provided by Director Sigler

-Question JR: could you work with our staff to get those proposals to committees of jurisdiction?

TJ Sigler: certainly

-Question JR: my hope would be that as you bring that forward, you work to identify a committee of jurisdiction for a budget amendment, and from that we can construct a committee substitute or endorse the amendment

-LJ: I've received calls around our street sweepers. Can we add 3 to that and send to PWI to review that item in North, Central, and South DeKalb? Secondly, we're losing a lot of people to the City of Atlanta; DeKalb is still at \$15/hr for many positions. All of this is COVID related, when you consider the costs of things increasing. That will require more permanent funding post-COVID. I am hoping you are thinking of a holistic plan to address this; perhaps an inflation range so people don't have to wait on only bonuses. I hope we have something at midyear that can be proposed to get people help

-JR: Mr. Williams do we have data from the HR department regarding wage inflation?

Z Williams: we do; we have been addressing this on an ongoing basis, as well as evaluating positions. We're on top of that.

Additional information provided by COO Williams

-LJ: if you could have a meeting to let people know that we hear you and we understand. They appreciate what the County has done, like the bonuses that have been given

-Question JR: do you have comparative data that can demonstrate the action the administration has achieved some level of parity with other jurisdictions?

-Z Williams: we do that; we need to ensure our departmental leadership is conveying that. With that being said, we still have to react to the fact that we're losing people and have to find a way to retain them. That's why we're constantly reviewing salaries

-JR: maybe you could produce something to speak to that

-Z Williams: yes we can do that

-LCJ: I understand Commissioner Johnson's sentiments. I don't understand why we don't understand the value of having adequately trained personnel. Either we are going to pay or we're going to pay. It's in our best interest to pay more to make sure we provide adequate service, as opposed to letting people go and we put in a filler for services, for instance in Sanitation.

Additional information provided by Commissioner Cochran-Johnson. On another note, Commissioner Larry Johnson I have asked that street sweepers be added to the PWI agenda, and requested an update on the routes that we are street sweeping. Regarding salaries, I look forward to a detailed report

-Z Williams: we'll be happy to bring to the appropriate committee a discussion. What you'll find over the past 5 years is consistent raises; we'll be happy to have the conversation in PWI or ERPS. More often than not it's not just pay; we have increased our recruiting efforts; we're not standing by and watching things happen

-TT: I would submit that the ERPS committee take up a resolution that the CEO raise the minimum wage for DeKalb employees and contractors. Part of that resolution, my colleagues would be pegging it to the consumer price index. We need to pay our workers a living wage. I would ask that in the midyear budget we set aside funds to do a staffing analysis -reviewing things like a 4 day work week to benefits to exit interviews, etc. Lastly, as we review a staffing analysis and raising the minimum wage, I would ask we infuse our Planning Department with resources to address the backlog, the land disturbance permitting process. Every dollar we put into Planning and Sustainability will be a tenfold increase in investment.

-LJ: I want to clarity, mine was to ask Staff to get the hourly rate, and a dialogue on communicating the need rather than just putting it on the agenda without people talking to each other. I'm not for a resolution without the discussion first

-MDJ: I would talk to a variety of sources first; I am for the dialogue and communicating to see what the issues are

-JR: our Central Staff should work with Mr. Sigler and develop agenda items as it relates to these items within committees, and how they can supplement or amplify the Administration's proposal

IV. DISCUSSION

KPMG Audit Findings - DeKalb County Water Metering and Billing

-presentation provided by Director Campbell

-Question LJ: regarding service delivery, based on the summary given, are we meeting the needs of the customer?

L Campbell: the answer to that is no; the issues have revolved around the needs for a new system

-Question LJ: that's being tied to the new enQuesta system?

L Campbell: correct that is something the new system would be able to address

-Question LJ: taking the pandemic into effect, how do you reconcile that in the expectation for the system to be up in April 2023?

-response provided by Director Matelski

-additional information provided by CFO McNabb

-Question LJ: will it be possible for the customer to have an app to view water usage?

-D McNabb: that's a good question; they will be able to come our website and do that. I don't think they'll have a separate app to do that.

-Question JR: can you speak as to the contribution of incomplete or remaining risks as it relates to our ability to collect the rates that are due us?

-response provided by Director Campbell

-JR: if you could provide an assessment of our accounts in arrears, as well as the degree to which customers are behind, and how that relates to us issuing debt

-response provided by CFO McNabb

-Question JR: could you produce a running account of our accounts in arrears, from the beginning of the moratorium to current, so that we can see the accounts in arrears that we have?

D McNabb: we can produce that

-Question JR: could you discuss the process of writing off bad debt?

-information provided by CFO McNabb

-Question LJ: some citizens have hardship. How will you balance the equation of having bad debt with people who don't have the income to pay when their water is cut off.

-D McNabb: we've been offering installment plans where people can finance their water bill for up to 7 years. Additional information provided by CFO McNabb and COO Williams

-Question JR: I wonder what we can do to make the proposed irrigation plan credit without the comparable sewer system usage a reality

-response provided by CFO McNabb

Meeting Ended At: 4:56PM

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Rader, Commissioner Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC