

Minutes - Draft

PECS-Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee

Monday, July 31, 2023

3:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 3:02PM

Attendees: Commissioners Johnson, Patrick, Terry, Davis Johnson

Present 2 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Robert Patrick

Absent 1 - Michelle Long Spears

I. MINUTES

2023-0898 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the July 11, 2023 Planning, Economic Development,
and Community Services Committee Meeting

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

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

II. APPOINTMENT

[2023-0908](#) Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Confirm the appointment of Mr. Alan E. Ferguson, Sr. to Post 5 of
the Development Authority of DeKalb County

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-interview conducted by the committee to Mr. Ferguson

2023-0909

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Confirm the appointment of Mr. C. David Moody, Jr. to Post 6 of the
Development Authority of DeKalb County

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry
Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to
the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion
carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-interview conducted by the committee to Mr. Moody

III. DISCUSSION

Camino Program

-presentation provided by Gary Rhymer, IT/Planning

-Question LJ: you are looking to go full fledge in September? Are developers trying this out before this is rolled out to work out the kinks?

G Rhymer: that's correct; additional comments provided by Mr. Rhymer

-Question RP: will this process same day permits?

G Rhymer: this is not the permit application - this is the actual guide. Additional response provided by Mr. Rhymer

-additional comments provided by Brandon White

-Question RP: regarding business license renewals, will people be able to access this as well?

G Rhymer: yes there is a business license module for use as well

-Question TT: this is moreso a 101 step by step guide for the steps in the process?

G Rhymer: that's correct

-Question TT: are there other languages available in this guide?

G Rhymer: not within this guide - just English only

-Question TT: can Spanish be added as a feature for this system, or just Spanish language access for business and contractors in the future?

G Rhymer: that is something that we can have completed in a different phase of the project

-Question TT: this is my first time hearing about it; what is the amount spent on this?

G Rhymer: the annual contract was \$34,000

-LJ: please bring this back in September so that we can get an update and information on the focus groups

IV. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items:

Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA)

[2023-0844](#) Commission District(s): 3, 6 and 7
To Reclass 2023 Park Pride Building Communities Grant Match for District 7

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-information provided by Director Ellis

-Question LJ: was money put in there for District 3?

-response provided by Director Ellis

[2023-0847](#) Commission District(s): All
Approval of Park Pride, Inc. Contract 2023
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-information provided by Director Ellis

[2023-0848](#) Commission District(s): 2 and 6
To approve the Tree Trim Easement with Georgia Power
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-information provided by Director Ellis

Board of Commissioners - District 6

2023-0902

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
To Approve a District 6 American Rescue Plan Funding of \$100,000 to Establish a DeKalb County Eviction Defense Fund to Assist Qualified Residents with Legal Representation

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

-information provided by Commissioner Terry

-Question LJ: this is for legal representation, but you are also asking for moving expenses to be paid for 3 months - that's a different bucket correct?

-response provided by Commissioner Terry

-additional information provided by COO Williams

-LJ: you need to bring back the distinct operation of these funds; it should also be available to homeowners being evicted and not just apartments; I want to be able to help our seniors, youth programs as well; please bring back the list, and let us look at the list and see how we can divide the \$5 million; additional comments provided by Commissioner Johnson

-Question LJ: how long do you need to come back with this

Z Williams: within this set of actions it may be 30 days and we can discuss that; additional comments provided by COO Williams

-Question RP: I was under the impression that ARP funds can only be used in a qualified census tract. How does that affect this?

Z Williams: at this point we have identified around \$5 million in ERA funds; we have not identified the specific funds for ARP

-TT: I'm happy to do 30 days and come back with a plan for the utilization of the ERA funds

-RP: motion to defer 30 days

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

Board of Commissioners - District 6

2023-0553

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
A Resolution to Establish an Environmental Justice Ad-Hoc Committee To Investigate to Make Recommendations to Mitigate Exposure to Marginalized Communities From Hazardous Waste, Resource Extraction, and Other Land Uses from Which These Communities Do Not Receive Benefits.

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

- information provided by Commissioner Terry
- comments provided by COO Williams
- additional comments provided by Commissioner Patrick
- comments provided by Commissioner Johnson
- additional comments provided by Commissioner Terry
- RP: motion to recommend holding in committee for 6 months

2023-0554 Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
To Reappropriate \$265,000 of Previously Allocated American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds for the "John Jay College" Program for Violence Interrupters Towards the Newly Established Department of Human Services Violence Interrupter Program.
This agenda item was recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners due back on 8/8/2023 .

- information provided by COO Williams
- COO Williams requests to defer this conversation to FAB as it relates to ARP funding
- comments provided by Commissioner Terry
- RP: Motion to defer to FAB Committee as part of the reallocation of ARP funds

2023-0526 Commission District(s): District 3, 6, and all commission districts
A Resolution to Encourage DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond to End the Executive Order Closing Intrenchment Creek Park and to Reopen It to the Public As Soon As Possible
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

- information provided by Commissioner Terry
- comments provided by COO Williams
- COO Williams requests a 60 day deferral
- RP: motion to recommend holding in committee 60 days

Board of Commissioners - District 1

[2023-0792](#) Commission District(s): District 1
2023 Mid-Year Budget Request to Support the Creation of a Small Business Revolving Loan Fund and Technical Assistance Program to Expand Decide DeKalb's Local Business Resources
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

*-information provided by COO Williams
-COO Williams requests a 30 day deferral
-RP: motion to defer 30 days*

[2023-0464](#) Commission District(s): All Districts
To explore the option of including additional fees for expedited plan reviews for development and building permits
MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 8/8/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

*-information provided by Brandon White - Planning & Zoning manager
-Mr. White requests a deferral for 30 days with a discussion during August 8th PECS
-Question TT: what is being researched here?
-B White: we are researching the feasibility of having an expedited plan review process
-comments provided by Commissioner Terry
-comments provided by Commissioner Patrick
-LJ: will you bring this back in 30 days?
-RP: motion to defer 30 days*

Meeting Ended At: 5:05PM

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

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Johnson, and Patrick

Absent: 1 - Long Spears

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC