



Draft
DeKalb County Board of Ethics
Regular Meeting
Thursday December 21, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tammy Greer – Board Chair
Robert Dallas – Board Vice Chair
James Scott Mathews
Rosa Darden Waymon
George Ference
Thomas Clements
Chiquita Wright

Alternate Members Present:

Cathea Simelton-Treminio

Board Staff Present:

Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Hakim Hilliard, General Counsel
Carley Adamson, Court Reporter

County Technology Personnel Present:

John Matelski, DeKalb County IT
2Host

Attendees (names as designated on Zoom platform)

Joe Hughes
Sbinney
Loretta Washington
Mary Hinkel
Rhea Johnson
Nadine Ali
Taylor Persley

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to adopt the December 21, 2023 Board of Ethics meeting agenda; Board Member George Ference seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

III. Administrative Items

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 16, 2023

Motion: Board Member James Scott Mathews moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of November 16, 2023; Board Member Rosa Waymon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

B. Approval of the Minutes for the Board of Ethics Retreat of December 1, 2023

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to approve the Minutes of the Ethics Board Retreat of December 1, 2023; Vice Chair Robert Dallas seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

C. 2024 Board of Ethics Public Meeting Schedule and Logistics

The Chair opened the floor for discussion regarding the 2024 meeting schedule and the manner in which the meetings are held. The Board asked IT Director John Matelski asked if technology exists at any of the County meeting locations to conduct an in-person meeting while also possessing the capability for someone to either call in or view on Zoom. Director Matelski indicated that in order to facilitate such a request, additional IT personnel would be needed; however, he would need to inquire of DCTV and get back with the Board.

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to set the Ethics Board 2024 meeting schedule to every third Thursday of the month; Board Member Thomas Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

D. 2021-5: Atlanta Air Tours, LLC v. Mario Evans

Motion: Board Member Rosa Waymon moved to table this item to the January 18, 2024 meeting; Board Member Chiquita Wright seconded the motion. Vice Chair Robert Dallas abstained from the vote due to a previous personal conflict. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

IV. Preliminary Case

A. 2023-10: B. Wilson v. Days Inn, Tucker, Georgia

Ethics Officer Murphy presented the facts of this complaint and recommended dismissal due to lack of jurisdiction. Ethics Officer Murphy stated that due to the nature of this complaint, she has forwarded this complaint to DeKalb County Police and Sheriff's departments. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to dismiss this case due to a lack of jurisdiction; Board Member Thomas Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

V. Probable Cause Hearing

A. 2018-2: Loretta Washington v. Thurmond, Towler, Clark & Rhinehart

Ethics Officer Murphy presented updates to this case, as this case was re-opened and previously heard at the previous board meeting of November 16, 2023. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to bring Ms. Loretta Washington forward for questioning; Board Member Rosa Waymon seconded the motion. Motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Board Chair Tammy Greer requested that Ms. Loretta Washington submit invoice evidence to Ethics Officer Murphy for this case.

VI. Public Comment

Stephen Binney of Clarkston, GA made public comments.

VII. Comments from the Board

There were not comments from the Board.

VIII. Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

A. Motion to Convene an Executive Session

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to convene an Executive Session; Board Member Scott Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

B. Motion to Adjourn an Executive Session

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to convene an Executive Session; Board Member Thomas Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

C. Motion to Approve the Executive Session Affidavit

Motion: Board Member Thomas Clements moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit; Vice Chair Robert Dallas seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

IX. Announcement of Next Regular Meeting Date of Thursday, January 18, 2024

X. Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Robert Dallas moved to adjourn the December 21, 2023 Board of Ethics Regular Meeting at 8:53 p.m.; Board Member Thomas Clements seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Approved:

Chair

Date