



DeKalb County Board of Ethics
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024
6:00 p.m.
178 Sams Street

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Robert Dallas, Chair
Chiquita Wright, Vice Chair
James Mathews, Secretary
Rosa Waymon
Thomas Clements
George Ference

Alternate Members Present

Jason Cecil

Board Staff Present:

Elisa Murphy, Ethics Officer
Kristin Rodgers, Ethics Administrator
Maiysha Rashad on behalf of the general counsel

County Technology Personnel Present:

DeKalb IT

Agenda

I. Call to Order

Ethics Board Chair Robert Dallas called the public meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to adopt the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of December 19, 2024. Board Member Ference seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

III. Administrative Items

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 17, 2024

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 17, 2024. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Ethics Officer's Monthly Report

Ethics Officer Murphy provided a monthly report of the Ethics Office.

C. Proposed 2025 Budget

Ethics Officer Murphy provided details of the Proposed 2025 Ethics Office Budget.

Motion: Board Member Mathews moved to table this item until after the Executive Session. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion after the Executive Session: Board Member Clements moved to approve the 2025 Ethics Office budget. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

D. 2025 Ethics Board Meeting Calendar

Motion: Vice Chair Wright moved to approve the calendar, but to also check availability for alternate dates for Juneteenth, which falls on the third Thursday, she proposed June 17, 2025 and June 18, 2025. Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

E. Proposed Changes to the DeKalb County Ethics Code

Ethics Officer Murphy presented proposed changes to the DeKalb County Ethics Code.

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to clarify DeKalb County Ethics Code Sections 22A(j)(3) and 22A (f)(2) by removing the word “verify” in the statute. Vice Chair Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

IV. Preliminary Cases

A. Robert Sims v. DeKalb County Fire Department

The Ethics Officer provided the alleged facts of the complaint. The Ethics Officer recommended the dismissal of this complaint.

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to dismiss the complaint due to a lack of follow-up by the complainant; Board Member Ference seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

V. Public Comments

Stephen Binney of Clarkston, GA; Mary Hinkel of Atlanta, GA; and Mike Cooper of Stone Mountain, GA provided comments.

VI. Comments from the Board of Ethics

Board Members Cecil, Mathews, Clements, Ference, and Vice Chair Wright made comments.

VII. Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

A. Motion to Convene an Executive Session

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to convene an Executive Session; Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

B. Motion to Adjourn an Executive Session

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to adjourn an Executive Session; Board Member Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

C. Motion to Approve the Executive Session Affidavit

Motion: Board Member Ference moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit; Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

VIII. Announcement of Next Regular Meeting Date of Thursday, January 16, 2025

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Board Member Clements moved to adjourn the December 19, 2024, Board of Ethics Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m., Board Member Mathews seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Approved:

Chair

Date