

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday April 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were, President Ricky Harcrow, Shane Wootten, Brent Rhodes, Ron Saferite and Lester Black.

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The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Mayor Ables (Geraldine) delivering the Invocation, and Mr. Saferite leading the Pledge.

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It was moved by Mr. Wootten, seconded by Mr. Saferite with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

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President Harcrow announced a special guest attending the meeting, Miss Olivia Black. He asked her to stand, stating Miss Olivia is the Granddaughter of Commissioner Lester Black.

President Harcrow also welcomed Ms. Martha Lavender and Executive Director Dr. Farah Hayes, who were in attendance to give a brief update and overview of the Challenger Learning Center of NE Alabama which is located in Rainbow City. The Center's goals are to educate students in local schools from twelve counties, offering training in their new Stem Center which will include a Challenger Space Simulator as well as a regional Stem Center offering a number of activities.

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### **Road Department**

Update—Mr. Young stated that crews are hauling chert in District's 1 & 2, bush-cutting and durapatching in all four districts, clipping shoulders in District 3, and have started reclaiming roads in District 2 that are on the County's paving list for FY25.

Personnel—Mr. Young requested approval for the following Personnel items:

- Accept the resignation of Adam Price
- Hire Matthew Spurlock—Tire Man (replaces Lucas Jones)
- Hire John Lampi to replace Terry Wadsworth's position in D2 (resigned after 33hrs)
- Transfer Matthew West to D3 from the Yard Crew to replace Adam Price's position

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Black All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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### **Engineer**

Drone Bid Tabs—On behalf of Engineer Ben Luther, IT Director Heath Crowe presented Bid Tabs for selling an Enterprise 2 Advanced Drone. One bid was received from Bradley K. Willingham for \$2,800. Mr. Crowe made the recommendation to accept the bid.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Wootten. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to award the bid to Bradley K. Willingham.

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### **Sheriff's Office**

Personnel— Chief Edmondson asked the Commission to accept the following Personnel requests:

- Accept the resignation of Clerk Katie Little and CH Security Officer John Jackson
- Hire Allie Cowart as Clerk to replace Katie Little
- Transfer Deputy Kerry Monroe from Transport to FT Courthouse Security to replace John Jackson

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

## **Jail**

**Personnel**—Chief Wright asked for the Commission’s approval for the following personnel requests:

- Accept the resignations of CO Kindall Blevins and Jail Sgt. Kadin Keck
- Promote CO Chase Mathews as Sgt to replace Kadin Keck
- Hire Ivan Dougan (formerly on Military Leave) in Transport to replace Kerry Monroe and hire Ronnie Brooks back off retirement as PT Road Crew.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to approve the personnel requests.

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## **Probate**

### **Personnel**

Judge Osborn requested approval to transfer Taby Goza from the Commission Office Receptionist position to Driver’s License Clerk in the Probate Office to replace Rita Bryant who retired April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Rhodes. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

**Guardianship Appointment Authorization**—Judge Osborn addressed the Commission requesting approval for authorization to appoint a Guardian position on contract to assist with indigent and incompetent citizens in the County at a cost of approximately \$2,000/month, plus travel.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmative, motion carried giving Judge Osborn the authorization to make the Guardianship appointment.

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**Revenue Commissioner**—Revenue Commissioner Tyler Wilks requested the Commission’s approval to hire a Receptionist at the Rainsville Tag Office.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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**Animal Shelter**—Mr. Sharp requested approval on Ms. Ledbetter’s behalf, for her to attend the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Veterinary Conference in August, 2025.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

## **COA**

**Personnel**—County Administrator Matt Sharp at the request of COA Director Ms. McCamy, asked the Commission to accept the resignation of Kathy Gledhill (Admin. Assistant), and Ady Garcia (Outreach Coordinator) and to hire Linda Daniel as staff assistant to fulfill the duties of both positions.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Rhodes. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

**TARCOG SHIP Contract**— Mr. Sharp presented the Council on Aging TARCOG SHIP contract at the request of Ms. McCamy and asked for the Commission’s authorization to execute the 26-SHIP-Dekalb Contract.

Mr. Wootten made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried granting President Harcrow and County Administrator Matt Sharp authorization to sign the aforementioned contract (on file in the COA Office).

**Freezer Bids**—County Maintenance Supervisor Craig Shelton requested the Commission’s approval to put out bids for eleven (11) upright freezers located at the county’s Senior Centers stating they are no longer needed in the facilities.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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**Blake Fire Department Board Appointments**

President Harcrow, at the request of the Blake Fire Department Board members, made the recommendation to appoint Mr. Marlon Lands as Board Director replacing Mr. Kenneth Black who recently passed away. Mr. Lands will serve the remainder of the term expiring March 2029. He also made the recommendation at the request of the board, to reappoint Mr. Hugh Phillips to serve another six-year term, expiring March 2031.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to adjourn. The President declared no objections, and ordered the meeting adjourned.

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Ricky Harcrow, President

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Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

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Brent Rhodes, Commissioner District II

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Ron Saferite, Commissioner District III

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Lester Black, Commissioner District IV