

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday April 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Ricky Harcrow, Brent Rhodes, Ron Saferite, and Lester Black. (Absent was Commissioner Shane Wootten.)

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The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow who also delivered the invocation. Mr. Rhodes led the Pledge.

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It was moved by Mr. Rhodes, 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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## **Road Department**

Maintenance Update—Mr. Young reported that crews have been hauling chert in all four (4) Districts, getting roads ready for repaving, ditching and putting cross drains in, dura patching and cold patching.

Personnel—Mr. Young requested the Commission approve the following personnel changes:

- Hire Josh Connolly to replace Parker Higgins who resigned from (D2).

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the personnel changes, a second was made by Mr. Black, with all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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## **Engineer**

### Award CR-212/CR-209 Resurfacing Bid

County Engineer, Ben Luther presented the bids for resurfacing the intersection of CR 212 and CR 209 near the Landfill as follows:

Wiregrass Construction Company	\$137,297.00
Alabama Grading & Excavating	\$139,786.65
Rogers Group, Inc.	\$164,858.50

Mr. Luther recommended Wiregrass be awarded the contract as low bidder.

Mr. Saferite made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried, to award the resurfacing project to Wiregrass.

### CR-441 Speed Limit (D4)

Mr. Luther presented a request to lower the speed limit on a portion of CR-441 to 25mph.

It was moved by Mr. Black, seconded by Mr. Saferite with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-0414-03

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Commission on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation determines that the maximum speed permitted under Article 8, Title 32, Chapter 5A, Code of Alabama, 1975 for County Road 441 from County Road 514 to its Dead End is greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist on said paved road;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the proper maximum speed for County Road 441 from County Road 514 to its Dead End is set at 25 miles per hour at all times and no person shall operate a motor vehicle in excess of 25 miles per hour on said County Road 441;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that any violations of this Resolution shall be unlawful and punishable pursuant to Title 32, Chapter 5A, Code of Alabama, 1975.

ADOPTED this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026

 Shane Wootten District 1 Commissioner	 Ricky Harcrow, President	 Brent Rhodes District 2 Commissioner
 Ron Saferite District 3 Commissioner		 Lester Black District 4 Commissioner
ATTEST:  Matt Sharp County Administrator		

## Jail

Personnel – Chief Carl White requested the Commission accept the following personnel changes:

- Promote Cody Dupree to Lieutenant replacing Jason Melton who was promoted to Captain
- Promote Chase Matthews to Sergeant replacing Cody Dupree who was promoted to Lieutenant
- Move Bruce Vaughn from Alpha shift in the jail to transport replacing Divell Bell who moved to the work crew
- Hire Charlotte Powell for Alpha shift to replace Bruce Vaughn
- Accept the resignation of Dylan McCord who joined the military
- Move James Brothers from Delta shift to Alpha shift to replace Dylan McCord
- Hire Adam West for Delta shift to replace James Brothers
- Terminate Kaylynn Hulgán who works on Alpha shift
- Hire Daniel Bray for Alpha shift to replace Kaylynn Hulgán who was terminated
- Accept the resignation of Daniel Bray who worked 1 day and quit
- Hire Kristopher McCormick to replace Daniel Bray
- Hire William Baez for vacant position on Charlie shift

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve these promotions, new hires and transfers with a second from Mr. Saferite, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Federal Contract - Chief White also presented the updated contract with the United States Marshals that has been in negotiation for a while but was approved and went into effect on April 1, 2026. Mr. White asked that the Commission accept this approval. County Administrator, Matt Sharp added that the County has had the same dollar amount in place since 2007 with a daily rate of \$47.00 and the transport rate at \$13.00 per hour. The new contract will increase those amounts to \$60.00 for the daily rate and \$32.00 per hour for transport.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the contract, with a second from Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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### **Auburn Extension Proclamation**

Vanessa Roberts from the Auburn Extension Service informed the Commission that April 12-18 is Alabama Extension Week set forth by Gov. Kay Ivey. Ms. Roberts asked the Commission to join in recognizing Alabama Extension Week by also signing a proclamation. Commission President Harcrow agreed and a picture was taken of the signing:

**Alabama Extension Week County Proclamation**

**A Local Proclamation to Recognize  
April 12–18 as Alabama Extension Week**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, founded in 1915, serves as the primary outreach and engagement arm of the land-grant mission of Auburn University and Alabama A&M University, in cooperation with Tuskegee University; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Extension transforms lives and strengthens communities through research-based information, practical solutions and meaningful educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Extension employs agents, specialists, county directors and support staff who, in cooperation with local governments and community partners, serve residents in all 67 counties; and

WHEREAS, programs and publications from Alabama Extension provide the public with resources in various disciplines including agriculture, forestry & wildlife; lawn & garden; human sciences; water resources; food safety & quality; and urban Extension; and

WHEREAS, the youth leadership development program of Alabama Extension, Alabama 4-H, involves more than 110,000 students annually in clubs, livestock programs, skills competitions and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Extension supports economic growth by strengthening agriculture, small businesses, workforce readiness and natural resource stewardship across the state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Extension engages thousands of volunteers who contribute their time and talents to strengthen local programs and community initiatives; and

WHEREAS, residents of this community benefit from accessible, research-based programs and resources offered through local county offices, in-person educational programs and online platforms

Now THEREFORE, I DeKalb County (name), Resident (title) of the DeKalb Co. Commission (governing entity) do hereby declare April 12 through April 18, 2026 as Alabama Extension Week and encourage all of our local residents to learn more about the work Extension does to provide solutions for everyday life right here in our community.

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### **EDA-Elevate DeKalb Resolution**

Dr. Brett Johnson, President of the Economic Development Board, was in attendance to present the Strategic Economic Development Plan which began about a year ago. The EDA Board adopted this plan on April 8, 2026. He asked for the County Commission's support and endorsement for this resolution.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to adopt the following resolution endorsing the Plan, with a second from Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-0414-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSION ENDORSING  
THE ELEVATE DEKALB COUNTYWIDE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Commission recognizes that economic development is essential to improving the quality of life, creating employment opportunities, strengthening the tax base, and ensuring long-term prosperity for the citizens of DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Economic Development Authority serves as the lead organization for business recruitment, retention, expansion, and workforce development initiatives across DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Economic Development Authority, in collaboration with local municipalities, business leaders, education partners, community stakeholders, and regional partners, undertook a comprehensive planning process to develop a countywide strategic economic development plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the resulting plan, known as Elevate DeKalb, establishes a unified vision and strategic framework focused on both preparing for and pursuing economic prosperity in DeKalb County by 2035 and beyond, including initiatives designed to enhance competitiveness, strengthen workforce development, support existing industries, attract new investment, and promote sustainable growth throughout DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elevate DeKalb plan identifies target industry sectors for growth and recruitment that align with the State of Alabama's strategic economic development plan, CatALyst, and are tailored to DeKalb County's decades of industrial heritage, generations of workforce know-how, and unique geographic and infrastructural assets, thereby supporting regional competitiveness and strengthening DeKalb County's position within statewide economic development priorities; and

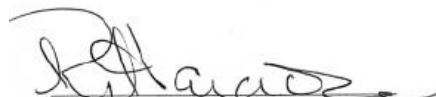
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the DeKalb County Economic Development Authority formally adopted the Elevate DeKalb Countywide Strategic Economic Development Plan on April 8, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Commission recognizes the importance of coordinated economic development efforts and supports the implementation of strategic initiatives that benefit all communities within DeKalb County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the DeKalb County Commission that the Commission hereby formally endorses the Elevate DeKalb Countywide Strategic Economic Development Plan, adopted by the DeKalb County Economic Development Authority Board of Directors on April 8, 2026, and expresses its commitment to supporting the implementation of the plan's vision of preparing for and pursuing economic prosperity in DeKalb County by 2035 and beyond. The DeKalb County Commission further affirms its intent to work collaboratively with the DeKalb County Economic Development Authority, municipalities, educational institutions, business leaders, and community partners to advance economic growth and opportunity throughout DeKalb County and to help elevate DeKalb County's economic competitiveness for future generations in alignment with statewide economic development priorities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.  
**ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSION:

  
Ricky Harcrow, President

ATTEST:

  
Matt G. Sharp, Administrator

## Elevator Bid

Maintenance Director Craig Shelton presented a request to update the main elevator at the courthouse.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to move forward with a bid, with a second from Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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## Council on Aging

County Administrator Matt Sharp presented a request for personnel changes on behalf of the Council on Aging.

- Resignation of Brenda Womack as Fyffe Senior Center manager
- Hiring of Brenda Pettry as the Fyffe Senior Center manager

Mr. Saferite made a motion to accept the personnel changes, with a second from Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

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## CED Board Appointment

President Harcrow requested that the Commission adopt a resolution clarifying the Board Members for CED, including officially reappointing Margie Annis on the Board. Her term ended on April 1, 2025. The new term will expire on April 1, 2031

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to adopt the following resolution reappointing Ms. Annis to the CED Board, with a second from Mr. Saferite, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried:

**RESOLUTION NO: 26-0414-02**  
**CED Mental Health Board**

**WHEREAS**, the Etowah-DeKalb-Cherokee Mental Health Board (also known as the CED Board), Incorporated, was incorporated on April 17, 1975, as recorded in Corporation Record Book 5, Page 189, Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama, with the certificate of incorporation being amended as recorded in the Corporation Record Book 13, Page 163 and Instrument #3353463 as filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama;

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned, by appropriate previous resolution, has become a member of said Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall be elected from the Alabama Counties of Etowah, DeKalb and Cherokee and cities of Gadsden, Attalla, Centre and Fort Payne and shall be nominated and elected by the governing body of each of said counties or cities approving of this corporation and becoming a member thereof; and

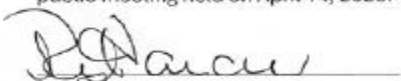
**WHEREAS**, the governing body of DeKalb County shall appoint three (3) members. The terms of office of the said directors shall be arranged so that the terms of office of approximately one-third of all directors will end at noon on April 1 in each odd numbered calendar year. Each member of the Board of Directors shall hold office until his successor has been appointed and qualified."

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to clarify Board members appointed to CED Board by the DeKalb County Commission as follows:


Position A	Emily McCamy	Term Ends April 1, 2027
Position B	Lester Black	Term Ends April 1, 2029
Position C	Margie Annis	Term Ends April 1, 2031

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

I hereby certify that the DeKalb County Commission duly adopted this resolution at an open public meeting held on April 14, 2026.

  
Ricky Harcrow  
DeKalb County Commission President

ATTESTED BY:

  
Matt C. Sharp

Before adjourning, Commission President Harcrow recognized Clay Chitwood, Roger Byrd, and the county inmates and work crews for the recent organization and work during the annual Spring Clean-Up. It was reported that approximately 57 tons of garbage was removed.

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Commission President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting would be May 12, 2026. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

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Ricky Harcrow, President

ABSENT

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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