



Gadsden County, Florida

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Quincy City Commission Joint Workshop

JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES
May 16, 2016 at 06:00 PM
Gadsden County Public Library System

Present: County

Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3 (absent)
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

Present: City

Derrick Elias, Mayor, District 3
Andy Gay, District 4
Keith Dowdell, District 1
Angela Sapp, District 2
Daniel McMillan, District 5
Mike Wade, City Manager
John Rudolph, Acting City Attorney
Sylvia Hicks, City Clerk

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order (Brenda A. Holt, Chairperson)**

Chair Holt called the workshop to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone present at the Workshop. She gave the purpose of the joint meeting. She discussed lobbying and aligned with the municipalities. She discussed formalities with the Joint Boards. She said she would like to start lobbying earlier. She asked for protocol on how to make the process smooth, so each person would be heard.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said the Chair should acknowledge who should speak.

Mayor Elias agreed with that process and they began with the general business discussion.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3 minute limit)

There were no citizen's requests to be heard at this juncture of the meeting.




General Business

2. Legislative Priorities (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)

Mr. Presnell reported on the Strategic Planning Workshop 2016.

1. Develop a marketing plan in order to highlight county resources.
2. Streamlining growth management by revising the comprehensive plan. Including stepping down land use planning.
3. Offer primary health care at the hospital.
4. Provide certification of 10 industrial sites pursuant to state guidelines.
5. Implement strategies to decrease infant mortality rates through education by 25%.
6. By the end of fiscal year 2018, develop a collaborative relationship and implement a plan between the cities, constitutional officers, and county to improve infrastructure (dirt road paving, sewer lines, interchanges, etc.) public safety, and economic development without incurring debt or raising taxes.
7. Implement strategies to establish two parks.
8. Hire and maintain competent staff to implement and carry out the overall county goals on an ongoing basis through the annual budget process.

Commissioner Dowdell voiced his concerns:

-  Business Park and providing jobs for the citizens. Try to get infrastructure in the business park.
-  Ditches on the south side of Quincy, other issues they are dealing with dirt road paving, sewer lines, interchanges, etc. public safety, and replace pipes (Flagler Street, Hamilton Street and Osceola Park area)
-  Economic development without incurring debt or raising taxes.

Commissioner Elias discussed how the County and City would work together.

Commissioner Holt said the City may have their own set of strategies.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie suggested as an entire body have a retreat yearly to focus on a 10 year development plan. He asked how we work collaboratively with the different municipalities. We should all be working for the good of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Hinson commented on the GCDC how it was formed.

Mr. Presnell said they should prioritize, for example he mentioned the G. Project and Support Agriculture & Municipal Water Projects.

Mayor Elias asked who will have the final say. He felt each municipality would be bias.

Chair Holt said it was her hope that they could come together for the good of the County.

Commissioner Sapp said this is a good start, but asked would this be an ongoing process.

Chair Holt said yes.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at this juncture about 630pm

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said a joint meeting should be scheduled with the School Board. They should be brought into this conversation each year.

Freda Bass Pruto, 329 E. King St., commented she would like for the county and cities to take a look at jobs, infrastructure and property values as a whole.

Commissioner Gay commented on the collaboration with the GCDC and the City.

Commissioner Taylor commented that all municipalities should be placed on the legislative agenda. She mentioned important factors such as Marketing of Annex Property, 267-E90, Infrastructure and Jobs.

Chair Holt mentioned Gretna Exchange lighting in Gretna. She mentioned lighting and beautification process was something hopefully they could make happen soon.

Commissioner Gay said he appreciated the BOCC working with the MainStreet and hopefully it would bring big benefits to Gadsden County. His other concerns:

- ✚ He brought up sewer study, which was in progress. He said they have issues due to the aging of infrastructure. He said they will probably need funds.
- ✚ Sidewalk Project along Strong Rd (grant applied)

Commissioner Taylor asked did they do the pricing. Mayor Elias said once the study is done, they will have more information on the sewer study.

Commissioner McMillian discussed the King St. repair and his major concerns:

- ✚ Infrastructure
- ✚ King Street (paving)
- ✚ Water Projects
- ✚ Replace underground cables
- ✚ Refurbish above ground tanks

Commissioner Dowdell said the collaboration of the County and different municipalities should have happened along time ago. He suggested a grant team. "One municipality can't solve all the problems of Gadsden County." He noted he was glad to see it happening now.

Commissioner Sapp said in some areas of the Pepperhill Community, two cars can't pass. Her other concerns were as follows:

- ✚ Infrastructure
- ✚ Paved streets to replace the “Alley Paving” in the Pepperhill Community

Chair Holt commented on the beautification project.

Commissioner Taylor discussed water projects. Replacement of water tank, refurbish of above ground.

Commissioner Taylor recommending after the one focus group with all the commissioners meeting, then the managers should meet. Discussion was held on annexation of property.

Mayor Elias said they have not come together with a unified list. He said he now understands what the County is looking for and they would go back and come up with a unified list.

Commissioner Dowdell commented on the TDC theme. “Do Something Original.” He mentioned the amphitheater, give citizens something to do, entertainment for kids and adults. He also commented on the CRA that doing murals downtown. He mentioned the Stewart TV and Coke Murals.

Commissioner Sapp brought up beefing up the appearance in downtown Quincy by burying powerlines and making downtown look good. She said approving the appearance of downtown would bring jobs and higher moral for Gadsden County.

Rev. Charles Morris, United Gadsden, Pastor of New Bethel, commented that this a great start. He said based on the town hall meetings Gadsden United held the important factors discussed were: infrastructure, job creation, health issues and school system.

Chair Holt commented on health issues and that they will at least start the process of discussion at the Community Health Symposium.

Commissioner Taylor also highlighted the importance of the Wednesday Meeting. “We are taking the steps to correct this issue.”

Chair Holt said if the information goes out and if it disseminates they all will be on one accord.

Mayor Elias asked when was the deadline to get the ball rolling. He suggested since they now understand what the County would like he suggested they take what was discussed and come up with a prioritized list.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie stated once the list comes together. The managers can come together after each municipality and come up with one unified list.

Mr. Presnell said he preferred for each municipality to provide a list and then the Managers could meet. He said they would do as directed by the Commissions or Boards.

Chair Holt suggested one joint meeting with all municipalities in a place large enough to hold all of them such as the Armory.

Commissioner Dowdell discussed how they received funding. Florida League of Cities, Florida County of Association

Chair Holt discussed protocol, etiquette when dealing with officials.

3. Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Appointment (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie discussed the CRTPA appointment. He said coverage is needed, since it has been extended to the municipalities. He suggested municipalities get together and choose one. He said municipalities need to get together and route the representation. He asked City Manager to get with other City Managers to select the appointment which is for 2 years.

Attorney Rudolph suggested the City Managers meet and from there, they choose a representative. He added it did not have to be a 2 year term it could be up to 4 years.

Mr. Wade commented on the length of terms.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said due to different language used. It should be nothing less than a 2 year term.

Consensus was to take back to municipalities and Managers would work together for the best option and selection of an additional person.

4. Infrastructure (Robert M. Presnell, County Administrator)

Refer to the Legislative Process to see what was discussed on Infrastructure.

5. General Discussion (All Board Members) - No other discussion was held.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

**Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Gadsden County, Florida**