

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 4:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3-Absent  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

There was no quorum at the start of this meeting. Chair Taylor said per the Attorney there did not need to be a quorum present for a workshop. She then called the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Meeting to Order followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Check Presentation**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2. Overview of the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Mr. Presnell said there were some people present for presentation on the CDBG, but would like to do it at the end of the presentation

Taylor Teeple, DEO appeared before the Board and introduced himself to the Board and stated he was here to answer questions.

Roger Doherty, FCCM, CLEP, Planning Manager, introduced himself to the Board.

Mark Nixon, Grant Manager, introduced himself to the Board.

Mr. Doherty gave an overview of the block grant program and the types available. He explained their office gives and pays for a representative from the County to attend a 3-day training.

Commissioner Holt thanked him for coming and said they usually get this information at the Conference.

*Commissioner Viegbesie arrived at this juncture of the workshop.*

Mr. Presnell asked Mr. Doherty the timeframe on the County's ED grant.

Commissioner Holt said they had a few CDBG's out there and asked what incentive was out there to help stimulate tourism, etc.

Chair Taylor said when she was a City Commissioner there were grants they applied for and they were match grants.

Mr. Doherty said with their program, there was no match.

Commissioner Holt said there were a few schools that had been closed by the school board, asked if there were any grants available to help with refurbishing the schools and maybe use them as something else.

#### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Taylor asked Dee Jackson to come forward and thanked her for her due diligence and explained a lot of families would benefit from the County receiving the Grant as she spoke to the importance of the grant.

Mrs. Jackson thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as the Grant Coordinator and thanked the guests also.

Commissioner Holt said they did not disclose to the audience what the grant was for. Chair Taylor said she thought that had come out in Mr. Doherty's presentation and it was for housing.

Commissioner Taylor said she asked for this workshop, but was not really what she wanted. Instead she wanted a workshop for the master plan of applying for grants and said she wanted to see the needs for each district and how those needs could be met.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said in listening to Commissioner Holt's comments, he said she had suggested the approach was to not go to the specific department but create a Community Development Plan and maybe look at a retreat or workshop to come up with a long-range plan.

Commissioner Hinson said in Midway they have a community that has one-way in and out and if there is a train on the tracks and an emergency happened, there is no way residents could get out.

Commissioner Holt said she was not suggesting the Grant Department does that.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie said he felt both were saying the same thing but from different angles.

Chair Taylor said she had received a Speaker Request form and asked her to come forward.

Regina Davis, 315 W. Washington Street appeared before the Board and said she was with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Chair Taylor said she would yield to the Administrator.

Mr. Presnell said on ED grant applications, the County approach is every few months and things are vetted.

Chair Taylor asked the Commissioners to join her in the front for the presentation in the amount of \$750,000 for the housing grant.

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred with Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie regarding a Gadsden County Community Development Program and said to Mr. Presnell she felt they needed to look into the matter.

Commissioner Holt said she felt that should be with Chamber, not GCDC.

Chair Taylor said they needed to know what each city could embrace and know the community

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie felt the Community Development Plan should be a plan that GCDC would be able to use with what they had charged them to do

Commissioner Hinson felt everyone was 100% right.

Commissioner Holt said she met with cities last year and had not had a rebirth of that yet.

### **Questions/Comments**

Chair Taylor said in summation she felt they all were in agreement of a GC Development Plan. It was her suggestion they allow the Administrator to bring back in a detailed summary.

Commissioner Holt said she doesn't want it slowed down by group not meeting.

Mr. Presnell said most of the ideas for the group had come from dais already.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR  
DECLARED IT ADJOURNED AT 5:21 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**BRENDA HOLT, CHAIR  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**