

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 29, 2018, AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, District 4, Chair, - Present (arrived late)
Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2 - absent
Eric Hinson, Vice- Chair, District 1 – Present (arrived late)
Gene Morgan, District 3 - absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 - Present
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Angela Sapp (City Commissioner) – Present
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

Steven’s School

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Stevens School Community Meeting.

Vision:

The vision of Stevens Multipurpose Cultural Arts Center is to create a one-stop facility that is driven by the needs of the Gadsden County Community.

Mission:

To create a comprehensive facility that provides and increases public safety, health and wellness, economic development, youth education and enrichment, recreational activities and cultural awareness.

Commissioner Taylor welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in the groundbreaking ceremony that had just taken place led by the Board of County Commission. The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. She commented the groundbreaking ceremony was great and they should be happy. Mrs. Inez Holt lead in the song “I feel good” and everyone joined in.

Commissioner Taylor presented the Old Stevens School Construction Schedule. She said they needed to make sure the inside would be conducive to what they wanted to see.

- April 2 – 6: Demo and cleanup, utility location, begin site work for storefront and eco-friendly parking.
- April 9 -13: Remodel restrooms to ADA compliance
- April 16 – 20: Bring building up to N. E. C. 2014 Electrical Code; add lighting throughout the building, security lighting on the outside, solar street lighting, have a phone, Internet cable wiring installed prep for security system on the building.
- April 23 – 27: Install new HVAC ductwork and new exterior
- April 30 –May 4: Install drop ceiling varnish floors and begin painting.
- May 7 -11: Begin construction of storefront, sidewalks, and parking area complete painting.
- May 14 -18: Install new curtains, landscape area and install a canopy over the storefront

- May 21-25: Clean building and have security phone cable systems activated

Commissioner Sapp said they were changing things and they wanted to revamp the park.

Mrs. Ford read the first phase. The door will have a more decorative look, parking friendly, and eco – friendly.

Mr. Collins explained eco-friendly. He said they would start work around April 2 -6, 2018 and were tentative start dates per Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson said they were working with a small budget, once they decided on phase 2 and 3 then they would shape up to look like to 2 and 3. She said there was work to be done to bring up to standards; it would not look super fancy. She said Phase 2 and 3 would be an upgrade, not sure of the monies.

Mr. Due made comments on the project as to what services should go in the new building.

Commissioner Taylor responded respectively they had decided what will go in the building on the first phase.

Mrs. Anderson committed on Black History going in the building. She mentioned it happened in a previous Commission meeting where a vote took place and she would like for them to honor that request.

Mrs. Ford said there would be a gallery and it would occur in the second phase.

Mr. Jesse Albert Conway had comments on improvements that should be noted. He said he loved Gadsden County and it had the potential to be great if the right people were put in the right positions. He said there are so many things they were overlooking such as the projects they put on hold. He said he was referring to the substation with the electric company. He said that was never resolved and they were getting further behind. He then made points on God and the community.

A point of order was given by Commissioner Taylor. She reminded everyone that they must be respectful and everyone has their own beliefs.

Ida Thompson had questions on the money. Mrs. Taylor reminded them how they previously discussed that they would go the Legislature, it was later determined that they did not qualify because it was not on the historical registry per Mr. Al Lawson. She said she was happy they agreed to move forward. She further stated they could take the \$460,000 to build the building and when more money was available, they could build phases two and three. She added they did not want to put too much on the outside of the buildings.

Arrie Battles commented that they have already decided what would go in the first phase of the building.

Mr. Due said they had already done step 1 and now was the time to start planning for the next phases.

Commissioner Sapp steps on the historic national registry. Mrs. Jackson, it was done and should be approved.

Mr. Jones will be the eyes and ears to monitor the project.

Commissioner Taylor voiced by May 1st, they should see some work being done on the first phase.

Commissioner Taylor said to give them 2 months for the next meeting around the end of May or first of June and to have it at the new building. She said the Educational, Health and Wellness and Entrepreneurship, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Cheer clubs were already in the building previously. Mrs. Stevens had artifacts that she would like to see it go up and once the build-out came, there would be business incubators.

Commissioner Sapp said they would have to think about and be selective about what went in there.

Chair Holt said that should be set up. She suggested they set up a committee as to who was responsible for what. Commissioner Taylor said they have a model, Walker–Ford in Tallahassee that was run by citizens. It should be a mixture of people so it could be fair. She said they would elect the board.

Mrs. Anderson said that the Black History would like to see the new building that has some African artifacts. She suggested glass cabinets to hold the artifacts.

Mrs. Ford committed on a security system that would need to be installed to protect the building and all the equipment and artifacts in the building. Mrs. Jackson said they would get on it.

Mr. Collins said that there would be Sonitrol and ADT in the building.

Commissioner Taylor said nothing good can be stopped and she thanked them for working with her and the County on this project. She ended the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 4:53 P.M.**

BRENDA HOLT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK