

**AT A JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Board Attendance:

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4, Chair
Commissioner Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2, Vice – Chair
Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5 - out
Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1 – via phone
Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3 – via phone
Olivia Smith, Public Information Officer
Elizabeth Barron, Assistant County Attorney
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk**

PC Attendance:

**Commissioner Edward J. Dixon, Chair - Present
Commissioner Libby Henderson, Vice-Chair - Absent
Commissioner Regina Davis, At-Large Member - Present
Commissioner Gail Bridges-Bright - Present
Commissioner John Youman - Absent
Commissioner Marion Lasley – Absent
Commissioner Doug Nunamaker - Present
Commissioner Lori Bouie – Arrived late
Commissioner William Chukes - Absent
Commissioner Antwon McNeil - Absent
Commissioner Gerald McSwain - Absent
Commissioner Audrey Lewis, School Board Representative
Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner
Roosevelt Williams, Building Official**

AGENDA ITEMS

Invocation /Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Holt lead in a moment of Silence and then it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Holt commented the reason for the joint meeting was there were some concerns about not meeting due to not having a quorum and equal representation around the County.

Mrs. Jackson said that staff felt that it would be great to start with some bylaws that were taken from surrounding Counties. She said they could go line by line to put some bylaws in place. She said there was a concern with a quorum, how the Board is made up and that there were no bylaws.

Commissioner Holt asked did they think they need bylaws.

Commissioner Davis asked why they needed the bylaws.

Commissioner Bridges- Bright said she was interested in having some type of bylaws. However, she had looked through the suggested draft and they do not meet their needs totally. She said that people are absent and some have a legitimate reason for being out and they should not be penalized.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the PC Commission for their desire to serve. He said he felt the bylaws were needed. He said it would be beneficial to look into providing documents to help them facilitate their meetings.

Commissioner Nunamaker said they are saying they need rules instead of bylaws. He asked what the difference was.

Commissioner Dixon, Chair of the PC Commission thanked everyone for the gathering. He said when they have a quorum they do great work. He said he was not opposed to bylaws. They all operate under the Robert's Rules of Order. He said the quasi-judicial law states how they're running. He suggested that a 2-hour meeting is long enough because they were dry, dull and hard information was given. He said the people that aren't in attendance on a regular basis should be spoken to.

Chair Holt asked if they needed a reminder when meetings are scheduled and Commissioner Dixon said they all are contacted.

Commissioner Davis asked if there was something in the document that spoke to unexcused absences. Commissioner Nunamaker said it would have been great if they had it ahead of time.

Elizabeth Barron, Assistant County Attorney, commented most counties have some type of bylaws concerning appointed Boards and she felt this was a great start having dialogue.

Mrs. Jackson said staff would go through line by line. She said they could revise to have 9 members, missed 3 meetings then they have the inability to serve. She said they are just operating procedures for the Planning Commission. She asked that they adopt some.

Chair Holt asked that they decide if this was something they wanted to do. She said they were not pushing this on them. She spoke of the importance of Educational and Training Opportunities.

Commissioner Bridges- Bright said that she has been on the board some time. She said she has had the opportunity to receive different pieces of training. She spoke on walking communities and mixed-use training she attended. She said learning the language that is frequently used in the Planning Division would be helpful.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they should learn the language. There is no County that is unique. He said he would like to hear how other counties have handled land use issues. He said it was important to have knowledge of what you are discussing.

Chair Holt said they were working on the budget now and there were training monies that could be set aside.

Commissioner Dixon said he would not like to have a Commission of just professionals, real people were needed. He said they need to work on the growth of Gadsden County. He said they need to harness people like Commissioner Nunamaker and Commissioner Davis who have the knowledge to plan, but also people who do not but care about their County. He said they have to find a way to get people to the meeting.

Commissioner Davis commented that she was in favor of training opportunities. She said the vision for the growth of Gadsden County. She said they need to think outside of the box. She commented on the strength of the joint workshops and that the information presented as to what other rural communities were doing such as with solar.

Commissioner Bridges – Bright spoke in support of the educational training. She said every organization should have guidelines. She said whether they go forward or not they do quality work and it would not change.

Chair Holt said the educational training piece was important. She spoke of visiting other counties. She said it was important to plan for development you would like to see in your county. She said her goal was to get a bus and go on a trip.

Lori Bouie entered at this juncture at 5:45 pm; Commissioner Morgan phoned in at 5:48 pm

Commissioner Dixon commented on Hoover Wood Products when it went through the Planning process. It involved citizens, developers, and Commissioners being involved to get a resolution for all parties. He said with The Highway Patrol they wanted the issues clarified. He asked what the relationship between Ms. Jeglie and Mrs. Gutcher is.

Mrs. Jackson said that Mrs. Gutcher is a contractor with the County. She said sometimes they contract out work. She added that Mrs. Gutcher shouldn't bring anything before the Commission that has not gone through Ms. Jeglie.

Commissioner Bouie commented on Mrs. Gutcher that whatever she presented was almost like she had the final word.

Commissioner Nunamaker said he thought Commissioner Dixon made a good point in that most information is presented by the developers. He asked if there were certain areas they were encouraging more growth. He said he was of the belief that if they build, they will come, infrastructure was key.

Commissioner Viegbesie commented every year Leon County has a retreat. He mentioned the last one was at Amelia Island. They are working on a 10-year development. He said the County needed an identity, what they wanted as a County. He asked what they wanted Gadsden County to look like in the years to come and to plan for it.

Commissioner Holt spoke of doing a job without proper training was almost impossible. She said she felt there was a consensus among the group present that the Columbus, Mississippi trip would be a good idea to learn, to look at development. She asked that staff decide when the next workshop will be scheduled.

Commissioner Nunamaker said they need to be proactive.

Commissioner Dixon commented on a good process. He gave for example City of Midway and their growth.

Chair Holt agreed to the educational plan. She said it was her desire for the trip that the majority of both boards attend. She suggested for the next workshop they have a copy of the Future Land Use Map with plastic and dry markers for the next workshop.

Chair Dixon said Ms. Jeglie has the hardest job. He discussed regulation or help to the people so they understood.

Chair Holt said they get paid, she suggested they get stipends at least meet twice a month. She said it would generate better attendance. Chair Holt discussed them being on facebook live as another avenue to the public. She said it could be a benefit to the community. She suggested making sure the School Board representative is present.

Chair Dixon said increasing housing stock would get professionals to stay. He said if they can get ahead of the game, it makes the game that much easier.

Commissioner Holt asked for a date they can meet. Mrs. Jackson said that she would get back with everyone as to a date. She commented that this was a great conversation and she thanked everyone for coming.

Citizens requesting to be heard on Non – Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

There were no citizens requesting to be heard.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA HOLT, CHAIR
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK