

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 10, 2023 AT 4:30 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the special meeting order at 4:32 PM. Commissioner Green provided the Invocation and Chair NeSmith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Case No. 2022 CA 500

Mr. Knowles asked for motion to hire the Coppins Munroe law firm as trial counsel and will bring the contract to the Board on Tuesday to ratify what was decided at the earlier meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:32 pm

Commissioner Holt mentioned “Citizens to be Heard” and Chair NeSmith asked she read the statement aloud.

Chair NeSmith asked Madam Clerk and PIO if there were any requests to be heard and there was none.

Commissioner Hinson stated there would be a ceremony on May 12th at 6:00 pm, the Havana Community Development Corporation was having a pre-dedication naming ceremony for Coach Vernell Ross and he wanted to give a Proclamation for Coach Ross for his 94th birthday.

Commissioner Holt said she did not disagree with that but asked if that was to be discussed at this time or the agenda item.

Mr. Knowles said no action was to be taken, it was just a Resolution, or a Proclamation.

Commissioner Holt asked if the meeting was advertised and Mr. Knowles stated as special meeting to discuss FCI. Commissioner Holt felt they should take care of the advertised business first and have a vote and then Commissioner Hinson could address his items.

Commissioner Holt asked about the reputation of the firm. Mr. Knowles said they come highly recommended by numerous attorneys in addition to FAC and Leon County attorney among others.

Chair NeSmith asked the Attorney about the order of the discussion because he thought they would have voted under General Business as opposed to reading “Citizens to be Heard”, which came back under General Business.

Mr. Dixon explained it was in the wrong order.

Commissioner Green asked the Attorney to give enlightenment on this item for the benefit of the listening audience.

Mr. Knowles said he reached out to the Krizner Group as well as others and this was the one that had the capacity to come in and do it and did not have a scheduling conflict.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Attorney Louis Baptiste and mentioned he represented the Value Adjustment Board for the County.

Commissioner Holt stated to go ahead with the recommendation since they were short on time.

Chair NeSmith asked the pleasure of the Board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE COPPINS MUNROE LAW FIRM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a Proclamation for Coach Ross.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page. Commissioner Holt read aloud the above statement.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 10, 2023 – Special Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:42 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY FLORIDA

**KIMBLEN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk of Court