

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 19, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm, asked the audience to silence their phones, and asked the Commissioners to please stay on point. He said the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon wanted to add Item 22a-Redistricting for discussion, and Chair Green asked to not make it an agenda item and discuss it in his comments.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) Presentation

Becky Maas appeared before the Board and introduced Denise Vogulshang and she explained the benefits and the program.

CONSENT

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull items 4, 13 & 17 for discussion.

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

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. **November 21, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting**
4. **Approval of Artist Performance Agreements for the Bicentennial R&B Concert**
5. **Approval of Change Order #01 for Iron Bridge Road Improvements**
6. **Approval of the E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Agreement for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty and Maintenance**
7. **Approval of the E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Agreement for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance**
8. **Approval of the Judiciary Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Access Certification Statement**
9. **Approval of Bid Award for WA Woodham Building Elevator Modernization**
10. **Approval of the Florida Department of Health, County Matching Grant Application for Gadsden County Emergency Services**
11. **Approval of the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget Calendar**
12. **Approval of Request to Receive Reimbursement from the FL Division of Emergency Management for Hurricane Idalia**
13. **Approval of Gadsden County Sheriff's Office/Blue Line Solutions Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement**
14. **Approval of the Resolution for the New Chairperson Facsimile Stamp**
15. **Approval of the Agreement for Geographical Information System (GIS) Services with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**
16. **Approval of Agreement for the Gadsden County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**
17. **Approval of Allocation of remaining funds for American Rescue Plan (ARPA)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Approval of Artist Performance Agreements for the Bicentennial R&B Concert

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had a process and Mr. Dixon stated yes, the Attorney established a system.

Commissioner Holt asked to get the skinny on the contracts. Mr. Knowles explained these were just contracts for the acts. Mr. Dixon stated they were getting all of that stuff in place.

13. Approval of Gadsden County Sheriff's Office/Blue Line Solutions Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement

Commissioner NeSmith asked if everyone had an opportunity to see the program and ask questions. Chair Green stated each of them should have had an opportunity to speak with local law enforcement.

17. Approval of Allocation of remaining funds for American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

Commissioner NeSmith stated he knew it had been a while since they determined how they wanted to allocate those remaining funds and wanted to make sure it was consistent.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PULLED ITEMS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH 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.

Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, 30 Stillwater Lane Havana, FL

Ms. Shorter-Arnold appeared before the Board and wanted to speak on literacy and suicide prevention. She stated she received great feedback while before the Board but have not heard anything from them. She said the Board's float was cute but she heard it cost \$35,000 to build. She came to the source to find out the facts. She also mentioned the bad conditions of the jail.

Commissioner Holt asked if she had met with the Administrator earlier and she said no, she left her book but she could be available. She stated they had several programs before regarding this and it was time to have it again. Commissioner Holt stated they put in with federal lobbyists several years ago; the commission changed and they got rid of lobbyists.

Mr. Dixon said he met with the Sheriff and had lunch at the jail. He was a very big proponent of re-entry. He stated they had an ask-in this year of \$40-50 Million. As to the float, they may be spent \$2500.

Gekettia Harris, 122 North Cleveland Street Quincy, FL

Ms. Harris stated she will give her 3 minutes to Ms. Shorter-Arnold.

Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Drive Tallahassee, FL

Ms. MacFall stated she works with Humane Society of the United States. She mentioned that Allan Meeks was the first person to take an interest in animal services. She stated she was here to assist and support in an important way for the animals in Gadsden County.

Kafui Ablordeppey, Quincy Music Theater, 850-591-8923, 118 East Washington Street, Quincy, FL

Mr. Ablordeppey appeared before the Board and stated he sits on the Board of Quincy Music Theater. He was looking forward to more opportunities to work with the Board and the Community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

18. Public Hearing (Legislative)-Consideration of Ordinance 2023-06 (LDR 2023-01), amending Chapter 5, Development Standards of the Gadsden County Land Development Code by revising Section 5100, Residential Standards, and Subsection 5101, Residential Uses, and adding Subsection 5108, Accessory Dwelling Units

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and explained it was amending Chapter 5 of Gadsden County Land Development Code.

Justin Stiell appeared before the Board and stated it was for an addition of accessory dwelling units in the County.

Chair Green asked if anyone wished to make a comment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked him to repeat the last statement. He said it was to establish policy and procedures.

Mr. Stiell stated it would have to be a site-built home; mobile homes were not allowed.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if it applied to Ag1 and Ag2 and Mr. Stiell said it does not yet allow it, only to rural residential or urban service area land.

Chair Green asked for the will of the Board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

19. Public Hearing: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-08, An Ordinance Ordering and Providing For The Holding Of A Referendum Of The Qualified Electors Residing in Gadsden County To Be Held On November 5, 2024, On The Question Of Approving A Half-Cent School Capital Outlay Sales Surtax As Levied By The Gadsden County School Board Pursuant To FL Statutes Section 212.055(6); Directing The Clerk To Provide Notices To State Government; Authorizing Certain Incidental Actions, Providing For Severability, And Providing An Effective Date.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it seeks Board adoption of an ordinance with places on the November 5, 2024 Ballot a referendum of the qualified electors of Gadsden County on the question of approving a half-cent school capital outlay sales surtax. This will allow for this to go on the ballot.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles to send a copy of the ordinance and Mr. Knowles explained that it was in the packet.

Dr. Jackson, Vice Superintendent of School Board member appeared before the Board and spoke and reiterated the Board was not voting to raise the taxes. If voted on by the public, tax will go to benefit existing schools.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

20. Consideration of approval of Task Order for the Design of the Emergency Medical Services Facility on Joe Adams Road

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of a Task Order with Clemmons Rutherford and Associates under the County CCNA RFQ 23-01 Professional Architectural Services contract for the design for the Gadsden County Emergency Services Facility.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

21. Consideration of Joshua Ray's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks consideration of Joshua Ray's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

22. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-08 Emergency Debris Monitoring Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval to award RFP No. 23-08 Emergency Debris Monitoring Services.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator if funds would come from the budget already approved and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

23. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. Updates

Mr. Dixon said it was brought to his attention this weekend that the Board has not redistricted. He stated some districts are more than 40% out of compliance and there are those that may sue to make it happen. They have until sometime in February to complete the cause. He recommended they have a joint meeting with the School Board because their lines mimic the County's lines and they need to take an opportunity to draw their own lines. If they do nothing, lines may be redrawn and not by them.

Chair Green asked if they had data. Mr. Dixon said Havana and Midway were growing and those districts have gotten bigger faster than others. According to law, 10% off is indicator and one district is almost 40% off.

Commissioner Holt said she talked to 2-3 different people asking questions and they could take an opportunity to get into controversial chance to redistrict. They need to see if they can work with the school board to get this done.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had a number of questions. He asked if they followed the census or was there another entity that supplied the numbers. Mr. Dixon said generally, they follow the census.

Mr. Knowles said the statute is 124.01 and it requires the Board to look at their districts. He stated from seeing what other counties do, they could bring in a consultant to look at their districts and then apportion those districts appropriately so that they line up with the requisite case law that they have out. He suggested to move forward with the meeting with the school board; have an action workshop.

Mr. Dixon suggested to reach out to groups. He was not aware the law had passed to allow 270 days into the new year to do redistricting. He asked they make a motion and carry for a workshop.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE ADMINISTRATOR POWER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS RE-DISTRICTING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Dixon reminded them of the employee get together Thursday at 6:00 pm. He thanked them for their participation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

25. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he will be sending the Commissioners a few county attorney contracts from different counties.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

26. Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that they still have the hurricane sign on the Courthouse square and Ms. Daniels stated it will be tended to.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about debris and unwanted items on the ground that continue to exist in many areas. He thanked staff for contacting the State. He asked if they have a dedicated person that goes around in the ATV. Ms. Daniels stated Public Works utilizes ATV'S.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 7:24 p.m.

Ms. Steele said the next phase of the plan is to bring in cities and municipalities. They were already working on it.

Commissioner NeSmith hoped all Commissioners have had a chance to meet with the Administrator to discuss important issues regarding the Human Resource Department.

Commissioner NeSmith congratulated all FAMU fans and congratulated Coach Willie Simmons on the National Championship.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said they need a program in place where people should be ticketed if they are caught throwing trash out. They seem to be moving backwards in this process.

Chair Green stepped out 7:33 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated that other Boards need to take the training that the FACT lady mentioned earlier.

Chair Green returned 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said "Ms. Vivian" in Robertsville would be happy if animal control came and got every dog in Robertsville. She stated animal control went out to her house but there was no one home. She asked what happens in these situations.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board and stated they always try to leave a card if no one is home. If there is a violation, they leave a copy of it on the door.

Commissioner NeSmith returned 7:38 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said property was still being annexed out and the roads were not being included. Cities were not required to take a road in. They need to look at the legislation and see how they can get some attention on this.

Commissioner Holt mentioned event contracts and asked if they could get a plan in place. They need to know what needs to be done that they are not doing. They need to make sure everyone is paid on time.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Holt for making a point. He stated once conversations take place with the Administrator, things will move quickly.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for them to have workshops scheduled. She mentioned needing to have a workshop with Capital Health Plan and have a conversation with them to see how they could be a better partner.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that Commissioner Holt mentioned the homeless problem at the last meeting. She has started receiving calls and she was not sure if the Rec center is open. They need to look at and see who they can partner with to provide services to citizens that cannot get to Leon County.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if there was an actual policy for procurement and Ms. Daniels stated it was on the County's website.

Commissioner Simpkins announced that on January 1, she will be doing the third annual New Years Day brunch and she asked the Board for partnership for chairs, tents and tables.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO UTILIZE EQUIPMENT FOR NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins echoed Commissioner NeSmith in the congratulations to Coach Willie Simmons.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked everyone for a productive meeting and for all the hard work everyone is doing. He mentioned that the annual golf cart parade was canceled and rescheduled for December 30th and it will be a holiday parade.

Chair Green mentioned that there is a major problem on Joe Adams and Strong Road and he did not want a catastrophe to happen.

Commissioner Holt said they did have engineers and did some work with FDOT, they could maybe request for them look at it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if was tomorrow or Thursday for the Seniors Foundation and Ms. Daniels said Thursday 11-1 at the Rec Center. Commissioner Simpkins asked if once the website is up and running, will there still be Zoom available? Ms. Steele stated no. Commissioner Simpkins asked how would constituents participate and Ms. Steele stated they can submit requests through email to be heard.

Chair Green provided a Greenlight moment:

“The best part of this time of the year are the memories that we should be making, and if you are missing a loved one during this season, please remember the fond memories that were created that will allow them to forever live within your hearts.

Chair Green wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, CHAIR
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK