

**AT A MEETING OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE BOARD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
ON JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 5:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt
Charles Hayes
Robin Watkins
Kerwyn Jones-Wilson
Stacey Hannigan
Richard Lockwood
Tracey Stallworth
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

WELCOME

Ms. Burns welcomed everyone and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.
Commissioner Stallworth led into Invocation.

OPEN ADVISORY MEETING

Ms. Burns stated next on the agenda was to elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman for this Board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH AND
CHARLES HAYES MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS
MOTION.**

**ROBIN WATKINS MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE KERWYN JONES-WILSON AS VICE-CHAIR AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE
THIS MOTION.**

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone in the Board introduced themselves.

**REVIEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – HOUSING ELEMENTS, HOUSING INCENTIVES, GRANT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES – CDBG**

Chair Stallworth stated next on the agenda was to review the comprehensive plan.

Chair Stallworth asked for a small overview. Ms. Burns stated that the following goals, objectives, and policies constitute the Housing Element providing for decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable costs and in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the existing and future population projected for the County. The Data and Analysis for the Housing Element are not part of the adopted comprehensive plan but serve as the basis for formulation of these goals, objectives, and policies. She mentioned that all of the information is also in the County's website.

Chair Stallworth asked if they have a marketing strategy to get this information out so that people will be aware of this. Ms. Burns stated yes, all of their information is on the website.

Ms. Burns asked if there were any questions regarding the summary of the incentives. She mentioned that on the right side of the chart were recommendations from the previous meeting and asked if there were any new recommendations.

Commissioner Holt stated any of those funds would be accessible to anyone in the County. Ms. Burns stated yes. Commissioner Holt mentioned about getting more marketing on some of the items that were in the packet.

Chair Stallworth asked when will this be presented to the County Commissioners. Ms. Burns stated the second meeting of February. But, if they needed more time, they could move it to the first meeting in March.

ROBIN WATKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Ms. Jones-Wilson mentioned that some of the ideas she had for housing was doing a parade of homes. She stated they have homes in Gadsden County that are near completion. She stated that if citizens go through the SHIP program, they may give them an extra incentive of some sort. Another idea she had was to do a tiny home village. They are also wanting to have their first-time home owners learn more about ownership. One of their last ideas was to do an annual marketing at the Courthouse where they can bring in builders and maybe bring in tiny homes to parade them.

Chair Stallworth stated he liked that she mentioned homeowner education. He would love to see some financial literacy education. He stated often time, new homeowners do not know how to manage their funds. Ms. Burns stated they do offer first time homeowner education classes. They have to complete 8-10 hours before they receive their certification.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Summer Youth Program and stated they will push forward for them to go learn about this.

Chair Stallworth stated Ms. Burns mentioned about having someone who works in the banking institution being on the Board and he stated that it read about having someone in real estate. He asked if there was someone here in that profession. Ms. Jones-Wilson stated she was in that profession.

Ms. Burns stated they will offer financial literacy and land ownership. Commissioner Holt stated she has requested more people in that department, they need minority preference and local preference.

Ms. Burns mentioned grant funding opportunities. Gadsden County has been awarded \$750,000. They were selecting applicants now for that program.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Ms. Burns stated they need to schedule a workshop and the next meeting.

Chair Stallworth stated the workshop will be scheduled February 8 at 5 p.m. and the next meeting will be on March 7 at 4 p.m. All Board members agreed on the dates.

Ms. Burns mentioned the single-family home repair loans and grants, which is a program by USDA. She stated it was increased to \$40,000 and they were trying to get the word out to apply because the money is available. Anyone can apply. It is a grant, not a loan. Applications available in office and can mail them.

ADJOURNMENT

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR STALLWORTH
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:49 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**TRACEY STALLWORTH, Chair
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk