

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2, appeared through Zoom
Eric Hinson, District 1, appeared through Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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.gov 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 on the County's website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon introduced T.J. Lewis.

2. Gadsden County Economic Development Plan Presentation

T.J. Lewis appeared before the board and introduced Caroline Smith, ARPC, who will be providing the presentation.

Ms. Smith stated they would love to hear feedback from the commissioners on the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan.

Plan Overview:

1. Gadsden County's Current Economic State
2. Community Engagement & Strategy Development
3. SWOT Analysis
4. Six Pillars Framework
5. Breakdown of Goals, Strategies, and Tactics
6. Implementation

Ms. Smith stated mentioned a concerning area that is the poverty rate. It has been above 20% for over 30 years. That now qualifies Gadsden County as a persistent poverty county by the federal government. The good news there is that that enables Gadsden County to pursue federal funding for projects.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:31 p.m.

Ms. Smith went through the 6 pillars:

Pillar 1: Talent Supply and Education
Pillar 2: Innovation and Economic Development
Pillar 3: Infrastructure and Growth Leadership
Pillar 4: Business Climate and Competitiveness
Pillar 5: Civic and Governance Systems
Pillar 6: Quality of Life and Quality Places

Chair Green stepped out at 4:50 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 4:53 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when this was due to the state. Ms. Smith stated there was no deadline.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:33 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk