

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 15, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Leann Jinks, Assistant BOCC Secretary

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated the below amendments:

Mr. Dixon requested to pull item 11g, Approval to Upgrade Aging Fleet Through a Lease Program with Truck Worx.

Request to be added under Consent:

7.d. - Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2024-25

Request to be added under General Business:

11.h. - Approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines

Approval of Agenda

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

6a. Parks and Recreation Presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Shawanna Moye.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Shawanna Moyer, Parks and Recreation Director, appeared before the board to provide updates and accomplishments in the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as presenting a power point presentation. Ms. Moyer went over upcoming events, activities for Parks and Recreation, as well as the plans, renovations, and goals for the future.

Chair Green asked if the process can at least be started in identifying a location for the High Bridge Community to have their own park, as the closest park is Sunset Acres and that is a City Park.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to see the schedule of renovations at the Parks.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if capacity has been reached for the advisory board yet, and Ms. Moyer stated no. Commissioner Simpkins stated Ms. Moyer just needs to go ahead with the names she has received for the advisory board and move forward.

7. Consent

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

7a. Ratification Memo

7b. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. September 17, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7c. Approval of State Aid Grant Agreement

7d. Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2024-2025

8. Items Pulled for Discussion

9. Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

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.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11a. Approval of FY2025 SC508 Small County Consolidate Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of FY2025 SC508 Small County Consolidate Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Department of Environmental Protection has provided grants for solid waste programs since 1988. This year's grant is in the amount of \$93, 750.00

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Williams if he had an opportunity to look over the agreement, and Mr. Williams stated yes, he had looked over the agreement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE FY2025 SC508 SMALL COUNTY CONSOLIDATE WASTE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11b. Approval of the Florida Commerce Agreement BB212 Awarding the County Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Florida Commerce Agreement BB212 Awarding the County Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) to renovate and expand the Chattahoochee library to provide a telehealth and career center. Florida Commerce issued a funds availability for the broadband multipurpose community facility grant due by October 5, 2024. We initially applied for \$86,000,000 and we were awarded \$4,000,000 for Chattahoochee, and \$2,000,000 for Havana. We have engaged with CareerSource as a willing partner. Mr. Dixon stated this is a cost reimbursement grant agreement.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon to clarify how the cost reimbursement grant program works. Mr. Dixon stated the money will be spent first, then they will be reimbursed.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Williams if he had an opportunity to look over the agreement, and Mr. Williams stated yes, he had looked over the agreement. Mr. Williams also stated he has looked over all the agreements on the agenda and everything is in order and there are no legal issues.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FLORIDA COMMERCE AGREEMENT BB212 AWARDDING THE COUNTY FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$4,000,000) AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11c. Approval of Agreement for Graphic Design Services with MediumFour, LLC

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Agreement for Graphic Design Services with MediumFour, LLC. The agreement is for 3 years, and is in the budget for the Public Information Department.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if this agreement covers the recording of infomercials, she stated in the past we have had to contract out for that. Also, she asked if \$4500 a month was necessary and if they were putting out projects monthly to need a Graphic Design Service. Ms. Steele stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson was confused about the \$4500 a month if it's just flyers being created. He suggested we bring in high school students to help create the projects, and maybe we could save some money.

Chair Green stated the need for Graphic design Service is not just for flyers. Chair Green asked Ms. Steele for clarification in which she was not able to provide at that time, however she did state that if this was an in-house position that it would still cost the \$54,000, they are agreeing to pay MediumFour LLC annually.

Commissioner Holt stated there are projects that need to be done professionally, often, and monthly, so yes, they need a Graphic design service. She stated there are multiple departments that put projects out, and we do have deadlines most of the time with the projects.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he agreed with Commissioner Hinson's comments on bringing in youth to help out, and as a matter of fact that would be a good addition to introduce to the summer youth program. He also stated he sat down with Ms. Steele as he was concerned with the monthly amount to be paid to MediumFour LLC and was provided statements from last year and all the statements he saw exceeded this amount and some by significant numbers.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 6:36 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 6:37 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES WITH MEDIUMFOUR, LLC AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11d. Approval of Agreement for Tourist Development Council Marketing Services with MediumFour, LLC

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Agreement for Tourist Development Council Marketing Services with MediumFour, LLC. The Tourist Development Council is able to approve their own contracts, but the board has to ratify. The funds are coming from the Tourist Development Council budget.

Mr. Williams stated to clarify that the Tourist Development Council can approve up to \$30,000, and anything beyond that amount has to go to the board for approval.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if everything related to marketing and Tourist Development Council will be done by MediumFour, as this agreement is \$150,000 annually. Ms. Steele stated yes, we will not be outsourcing. If there is a project that the Tourist Development Council need to outsource, they will be required to take it to the board for approval first.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Mr. Dixon did an RFP on this item. Mr. Williams stated there was an RFP issued for this item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the RFP was included in the documents he was provided for the meeting. Mr. Williams stated no the RFP was not included, and normally we do not put an RFP for a selected vendor, however the contract is included and it is here.

Commissioner Holt stated the Tourist Development Council advertised a couple of times for vendors. The Tourist Development Council can do that themselves and that's what the Tourist Development Council has always done. The Board of County Commissioners does not advertise for vendors for the Tourist Development Council. She stated the Tourist Development Council meeting was publicly advertised and recorded.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MARKETING SERVICES WITH MEDIUMFOUR, LLC AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11e. Approval to Confirm the Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval to Confirm the Chief Financial Officer.

Dr. Burroughs appeared and introduced the Chief Financial Officer, Janice Harris.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Harris for coming on board. He also stated the Clerk had heartburns about Chief Financial Officer title, as that is his title as well as the Clerk. He asked how they could have two of the same titles, and mentioned the letter from the Clerk addressing this issue.

Mr. Dixon stated there should be no problem with the title, as she is the Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners. He stated he will look into the title issue again with Mr. Williams.

Commissioner Holt stated the position is under the Board of County Commissioners, and the Clerk is a separate constitutional officer with the Clerk of Court, and if there are any issues Mr. Williams will let the board know.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO CONFIRM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

*****51:30 on the video on Clerk's website.

11f. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director

Dr. Burroughs appeared and introduced the Growth Management Director, Mr. Beau Scott.

Chair Green thanked Mr. Scott for taking the position, and also thanked him for his help the night before with the meeting in District 5.

Commissioner Holt also thanked Mr. Scott for accepting the position as she knows he'll be favorable to the people of Gadsden County in getting some development done.

Commissioner NeSmith also thanked Mr. Scott for his help with the meeting the night before for district 5.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO CONFIRM THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

~~11g. Approval to Upgrade Aging Fleet Through a Lease Program with Truck Work~~

Item pulled.

11h. Approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines

Chair Green stepped out at 6:58 p.m.

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines. This item is to approve the original priority list with the funds shift and/or to approve the priority list with contingency projects without the funds shift. We ask that the board moves on option one, which is to approve the original priority list with the funds shift.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought the board was going to have a workshop before voting on this item due to needing more dialogue on this subject, and he said it was stated at our last meeting we would have a workshop.

Chair Green returned at 7 p.m.

Mr. Dixon stated they were mainly wanting the approval for the shifting of funds. So, we can begin that process to make sure we're covered no matter what programs the board approves. Unless there are major changes in the prioritization of the programming, and if there is please let us know so we don't continue down this road.

Ms. Harris appeared before the board. Her only concern was that it was pushing the deadline, and they do need to obligate the funds. Especially need to work on the funds shift if that's what the board is wanting to do because it is going to require a lot of support. She stated time is of the essence.

Commissioner Holt stated she is very interested in the funds shift, and asked Ms. Harris if she was correct in her statement about how the shift would work. Ms. Harris said yes.

Chair Green recommended that the board have meetings with and hash it out with Mr. Dixon individually, and schedule the meeting so when we come back for the next meeting, we have a better understanding of this agenda item.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted clarification on option 1, to approve the original priority list with the funds shift. Chair stated she could modify the motion because if we're having uncertainty about obligations for a particular item we can amend and change the line items.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he met with the Chief Financial Officer and he was comfortable with this agenda item. Stated the board has discussed the 5 items in question regularly without much if

any opposition from the board on these items. The funds shift is only 2 million, and even after the shift takes place, the board can go back and add any new ideas they may come up with.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for clarification as to what was the amount of the funds shift that was being referred to. Ms. Harris stated anything that is allowable under Treasury rules, such as fire salary, EMS salary, equipment, etc.

Mr. Dixon stated it did not matter how much they shift; the idea is to cover it all so we don't give a dime back for any reason.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Harris' recommendation for the funds shift expenditures. Ms. Harris stated it can be anything made up under Treasury Rules that is allowable, such as fire and EMS salaries, benefits, and equipment.

Commissioner Holt asked if a total funds shift was done, how would that affect the items in discussion. Mr. Dixon stated it would not affect what the board decides to do with the money, it would just preserve more of the money. Ms. Harris stated she would have to see if doing a funds shift on all the money is even permissible.

Commissioner Holt stated she brought up the funds shift because if the board is voting on the funds shift then she wants to know what numbers they are voting on. Ms. Harris stated before she ever came on with Gadsden County that the board had already discussed, and put together a list of projects. Ms. Harris stated they identified the priority projects that could get obligated before December 31st. Ms. Harris stated the balance to complete all projects would be 1.9 million, so the board would have to funds shift 1.9 million.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was really not comfortable, because we are sitting here trying to figure things out, and I do not think we should vote on this item tonight. She wants to have a meeting to discuss this item further because it would be more beneficial for her to meet with Mr. Dixon, and also make her more comfortable.

Chair Green asked if they could pull the item, and asked the board how soon they could meet to re-address this item. Commissioner Holt stated Thursday, Mr. Dixon reminded everyone that Commissioner Simpkins has a community meeting Thursday already so that wouldn't work.

Commissioner Hinson stated to meet 4 p.m. before the next meeting, and then suggested next Tuesday October 22, 2024. Chair Green agreed Tuesday should be available.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he is just concerned because he doesn't want to send 1 brown penny back, and again he is comfortable with this item because he sat down with Ms. Harris who explained it to him.

Mr. Dixon asked to approve the funds shift itself since there doesn't seem to be a problem with that, the issue is how much money.

Commissioner Hinson stated they could wait a week, there was no harm in 1 week. He stated he wants to have the time to have the conversation about having a community center in the East and West part of Gadsden County.

Chair Green asked Mr. Dixon what difference would it make to discuss this next week, and Mr. Dixon stated there was no difference to wait 1 week. He stated every question that every commissioner has, would have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Harris, and then be able to come to the meeting on October 22, 2024 and discuss what we want.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO TABLE THE ITEM AND SCHEDULE A SPECIAL VOTING MEETING AT 6 P.M. TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2024 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated the first board meeting of November is on November 5th which is election day, and asked if the Board wished to reschedule the meeting to Monday November 4th. Commissioner Simpkins asked to just cancel the meeting.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION FOR THE NOVEMBER 5 BOCC MEETING TO BE CANCELLED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

14. County Attorney

No updates

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15a. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon about Neighborhood Services AC units and it was taking so long to get them up and working. Mr. Parks appeared before the board, and stated once they got

approval from the Board, then they went out and got bids, once the lowest and best bidder was chosen, then the contractor had to order the supplies, once the supplies came in, then the contractor would be able to get the units installed. Mr. Parks also stated this same contractor was working on both the Simon Scott building and Neighborhood services building.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Parks how long the bid process took, and he said about 2 weeks.

15b. Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked everyone who took time for him to answer any questions he had. He also thanked Mr. Williams for his communication and clarification on some of the agenda items.

Commissioner NeSmith stated Love Where You Live our bulky item pickup campaign is in full swing. He also asked Mr. Dixon if it was all County roads and not just main county roads, and Mr. Dixon stated yes, all county roads.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he had been doing some research and found there are 4 essential elements that make up a thriving community and they are; 1. A local community financial institution, 2. Thriving educational system which means we need our own Community College here in Gadsden County, 3. Good health care options and we don't even have a hospital here, 4. Local and community grocery stores.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need to emphasize the importance of STEM, as he talked about the new robot that Tesla owner Elon Musk has released.

Commissioner Hinson stated there is one pillar and that is infrastructure.

15.c. Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4



Commissioner Holt stated she has been trying to go on this trip for 7 years, to go see what the economic development will look like. It is a mindset and the community has to change its mindset in order to bring in the businesses we want to bring in.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for their participation in the voter rally Saturday.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Industrial Board, and that board being the only board that can borrow money. She also stated she did not think the industrial board had met in years, and we might need some more members.

Chair Green asked Commissioner Holt if she knew how the Industrial board came about, and she said she did not know as the board was there before she got here. Mr. Dixon stated that the Industrial board was created by the legislator.

Commissioner Holt invited anyone who was interested to attend the board's trip for economic development. Chair Green stated to Commissioner Holt that if people are interested and wanting to attend, they can, but at their own expense.

15.d. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Public Works for taking care of the cross-drain in Reston that blew out during the hurricane.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned striping and asked for updates. She stated there is no striping what so ever on Jameson Road or even lights so it's dark on that road and the residents can't even see to make sure they're on the right side of the road. Mr. Dixon stated he was hoping to piggy back off somebody's contract, due to when we put it out for advertisement, we don't always get good vendors and when we do, they are super expensive. He said they may have to come back with an RFP.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:58 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the thermoplastic on Hardaway highway cause right now it's just paint. Mr. Young stated the paint was temporary and it would be done with thermoplastic.

Chair Green asked what was going on with the paint and thermoplastic on spooner road. He wanted to know why use the paint and then go back to thermoplastic, why not just thermoplastic it from the beginning and not use the paint. Mr. Young stated it was because if they have any issues with the asphalt and need to resurface it, they can do so without having to strip the thermoplastic.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned volunteer fire departments and asked about paying course fees for the volunteers. Chief Hood appeared, and stated we can offer EVOC, BOS/CPR, and fire 1 free of charge, but it gets a little tricky when you get into the Fire 2 side of things because it is more hours.

Chair Green stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 8:06 p.m.

Chief Hood stated his concerns with paying for all the courses because if the volunteer is not a county employee and then we pay their way through school for 6 months to a year and they get their certification and go 2 counties over and make \$30, 0000 more per year than they would have here in Gadsden. He wanted to know how we would ensure getting our money back if the volunteer were to do that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to figure out how to recruit more volunteer firemen.

Mr. Dixon asked Chief Hood how Fire 2 works in terms of the educational length. Chief Hood stated it generally takes 6 months to complete, and then you have to take the state test.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Scott Town Park, and Mr. Dixon stated that there are workorders out there for this park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Parks and recreation along with herself will be partnering with a Hispanic car group to host a trunk or treat on October 26th from 4-7pm at Fantana Park.

Commissioner Simpkins will have a community meeting October 17th at Mt. Zion AME church on the glade at 6 p.m. regarding services available in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she is still waiting on a CHP workshop to be scheduled.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the email from the Clerk was sent to her because she called that morning and requested the information. The email did not come from the clerk, the email came from his employee. Chair Green stated he already had clarification of the situation.

Commissioner Holt stated we need to set aside money for Economic Development. She stated she doesn't know how we are going to do it, but we need to figure out how to do that.

Commissioner Hinson asked how its legal to allow a developer not even from Gadsden County to put 5-6 houses on 1 acre of land, but if I want to put my family close together on my property I can't because I am told the water quality would be bad and everything else that goes with it. Chair Green agreed with Commissioner Hinson, and asked that a workshop be scheduled to address this subject.

15.e. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green mentioned Boys & Girls club timeline, and options. He asked Mr. Dixon for clarity on the clearing of property on Strong Road, and Mr. Dixon stated they cleared some land to go in and look to see what is useable and what the property presents.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if there was a deadline to use this money, and Mr. Dixon stated yes there is, and he would get the commissioners the list of deadlines the next day.

Chair Green mentioned Mobile Health bus, and asked Mr. Dixon for clarity on the mobile health bus. Mr. Dixon stated the health council and Board of County Commissioners agreed during COVID to acquire a mobile unit.

Chair Green stated he is excited to serve the new area of his district after re-zoning and the community is happy as well that I am their commissioner.

Chair Green stated bulky item pickup is coming up in District 5. Chair Green requested proclamation for Bishop Williams who is celebrating 40 years of services to this community.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR PROCLAMATION FOR BISHOP WILLIAMS AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk