

AT A WORKSHOP HELD FOR LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 16, 2025 AT  
4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS  
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1  
Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5  
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2  
Shawn Wood, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator  
Thornton Williams, County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk  
Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called meeting to order at 4 p.m. Chair Hinson led into moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments

5. Approval of Agenda

7. General Business

7.a Discussion and Direction on Legislative Priorities

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks dialogue from all the City's to submit to the Legislatures, Corey Simon and Gallop Franklin. He stated he found out that the small County coalition is also going to do the same thing. Mr. Morris stated they have a packet in front of them that shows some of the ideas that represent the County.

Commissioner Wood requested to add to the record everyone introducing themselves.

Everyone presented themselves to the group.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:05 p.m.*

Chair Hinson stated he used to speak with Bill Montford all the time. He stated he wants the City's to state their 2 biggest requests.

*Commissioner Green returned at 4:07 p.m.*

*Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:08 p.m.*

Mr. Morris mentioned funding programs and their funding availability like Library, State aid program, Broadband, volunteer fire, etc.

*Antonio Jefferson appeared at 4:10 p.m.*

*Reginald Cunningham appeared at 4:11 p.m.*

Commissioner Green asked if each municipality has what they want to present to legislature ready to present.

Georgette Daniels asked for clarity on the funding available under the GAA and Mr. Morris stated yes.

Commissioner Wood stated water was going to be main funding this year for his 3 Cities; They were 10 with ISO rating in his part of the County, and because of this rating some people's insurance went up \$1000. He stated he wants to see main arteries for water so they can start fighting the ISO ratings and it will encourage development. He mentioned new City Hall downtown Chattahoochee, wanting the old Gadsden state bank building, and a new lift station. He stated the superintendent has asked for help with \$38-40 million dollars on schools to increase the budget to finish what they're going to do at the new K-8.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the Sheriff will be looking into the funding for DEM and the 911 system programs.

Michael Wade stated his top item is replacement of the Town hall/Community Center as it's from the 1950's. He stated it has a lot of issues like wiring and safety; would be about 3 million for engineering and construction.

Mr. Wade also mentioned they need a brush truck for fire department being one of their 2<sup>nd</sup> top priorities as the one they have went down 2 weeks ago. He stated the down truck is a 2008 with over 220k miles on it; would be about \$200-250k for new brush truck.

Mr. Jefferson stated their top priority was a 350-gallon ground storage tank for I10/highway 12 that would be about \$2.4 million. Has active permit with DEP for the construction for that project. Mr. Jefferson stated their 2<sup>nd</sup> priority is approval for fire truck funding, with cost being about \$750k. Mr. Jefferson stated their 3<sup>rd</sup> priority would be for funding for old Gretna elementary school to use for post disaster location for support services, would be about \$1.2 million.

*Elijah King appeared at 4:28 p.m.*

Kendrah Wilkerson, town of Havana, stated her top priorities. She asked for replacement for 2 lift stations that are in critical condition, estimated cost would be \$880k each. Ms. Wilkerson stated they hoped to be further along than what they are with the public safety complex construction project with the \$1 million they already received the last funding cycle but if they fall short, she will be requesting the difference of \$100-200k. She also

stated Havana was on board for water infrastructure. Mr. Morris asked if Havana has capacity for growth for water and sewer, and Ms. Wilkerson stated yes.

Henry Grant, City of Midway, stated Public Safety facility as his #1 priority. Mr. Grant stated his 2<sup>nd</sup> priority would be to address structural issues with one of the fire stations. He stated it would be about \$2 million for both projects, \$1 million each project.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Grant where they were with the Public Safety Project and Mr. Grant stated it was in the design stage.

*Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:36 p.m.*

Mr. Morris stated the rustling pines property has changed hands and mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance and there being an issue with crossing railroad tracks. With the property changing hands they will have to go back to the design phase and make sure the new owner wants that.

Ms. Daniels, with City of Quincy, stated their #1 priority would be replacing sewer plant, and she did not have price on that today, but she could have it tomorrow. Also stated they want to replace the Water and sewer lines as they are aging, and the cost is around \$4-5 million. Stated they would like to extend infrastructure at I-10 interchange.

Cunningham stated need to discuss with the state on extending infrastructure at I10 interchange as the state owns most of that property.

Chair Hinson stated they have to put an emphasis on infrastructure.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:48 p.m.*

Mr. Cunningham stated his focus was on senior projects like a senior center and VA services. He stated it was time to build nice facilities, if they build it, they will come. He stated the 25 acres off Strong Road that the County owns could be used for a senior center and a VA Center.

*Commissioner Green returned at 4:53 p.m.*

Superintendent Elijah Key stated his main request was for additional funding for the completion of the k-8 school in Quincy. Raising millage rate or half cent sales tax would have benefitted. They need something to keep their schools updated. \$30-40 million dollars to build k-8 school that will be for about 1500 kids.

Commissioner Green stated a lot of people were not educated in regard to the half-cent sales tax and that was why it did not go through.

Commissioner Holt mentioned needing to condense the list, as they were already running out of time cause they're already meeting in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Green asked if they have the leg work to go along with these projects, as the tentative date for the senators and representatives to come is February 10.

Commissioner Simpkins wants everyone to comeback with their priorities ready to go when senators come on February 10.

Ms. Daniels stated they have all given their top 2 projects, and most of them have already been working on those priorities and what the costs are. When they come together again, they should be ready to bring forth what they have.

8. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:43 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**Eric F. Hinson, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**