

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 14,
2025 AT 6:00 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 A. Holt, District 4
Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

1. **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led into a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Chair Hinson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to add to the agenda discussion of raises for employees. Chair Hinson asked Mr. Baptiste if they could add things to the agenda tonight.

Mr. Baptiste stated they were in a special meeting and they were set with limited notice. He wanted to make sure they follow notice requirement and recommended they add it to the May 20 agenda.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to bring it up because they may lose some key employees; she did not mind discussing it at the May 20 meeting. Mr. Baptiste stated they can amend the agenda for May 20 to add that topic for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADD ITEMS PAMS, MOBILE UNIT, AND EMPLOYEE RAISES FOR DISCUSSION TO THE MAY 20 AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND.

Mr. Baptiste asked for the motion to be withdrawn due to a limited capacity in this meeting. He asked Mr. Morris to add those items to the agenda for May 20.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:08 p.m.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

6. 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 Hinson read aloud the above statement.

7. General Business

7.a. Gadsden County Summer Youth Program

Mr. Morris stated staff is looking for direction on the summer youth program. He asked HR to appear.

Commissioner Green mentioned the pool process and stated none of them were aware of that. He asked about funding for additional slots.

Commissioner Holt stated to look at the qualified applicants that submitted everything on time.

Commissioner Green stated going forward, they should interview all applicants as part of the process and they should use a point system.

Commissioner Wood stated they need to do what they say they are going to do, that was the problem. He stated it would be impossible for staff to interview 200 people. He stated to add requirement of 2.0 grade point average.

Mr. Baptiste stated he conducted meetings with staff on this issue. Staff did comply with the process; the interviews were for placement purposes not hiring purposes.

Chair Hinson stated they added additional staff in January so they had more than enough time to do this. He asked about additional funding and Mr. Morris stated staff did look into funding.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:36 p.m. and returned at 6:38 p.m.

Ms. Raynak appeared before the board and stated they did look into other funding sources. The board directed her to take money out of summer youth to another initiative they wanted to support. The budget is at 442k now – almost enough money to cover additional students. They would need to find another 34-35k.

Commissioner Green stated if they have a funding source, to make it for the kids who turned in all of their information in a timely manner.

Mr. Baptiste asked if the motion does not seek to have 248 interviewed. Commissioner Green stated they did not have the time to interview all; the motion was to give employment to all 248 students.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR ALL 248 KIDS WHO FILLED OUT APPLICATIONS COMPLETELY. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Baptiste stated this will have to be on the next regular meeting's agenda as well for a budget amendment.

8. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ERIC F. HINSON, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk