

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 19,
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
 Reginald James, Interim County Administrator
 Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice- Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. James stated the below amendments:

Request to add under public hearing:

- Item 10.b. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-041 and 2025-042 Budget Amendments for FY25
- Item 10.c. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-039 and Budget Amendments for FY2
- Item 10.d. Public Hearing Approval of Resolution 2024-040 and Budget Amendment for FY 2024-2025
- Item 10.e. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-043, 2025-044 and Budget Amendment for FY 2024-2025

Request to Add under General Business:

- Item 11.g. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between The Florida Department of Health and Gadsden County for The Emergency Medical Services Matching Grant

Mr. James requested to pull Item 10. a. from the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE AMENDMENTS AND
COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

Vice-Chair Green presented a proclamation to the Big Bend Rodeo.

Chair Hinson appeared at 6:06 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:11 p.m.

7. Consent

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes

1. July 25, 2025 Workshop

7.c. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

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 Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:13 p.m.

Linda Barkley, 530 Dusty House Rd Quincy, FL

Ms. Barkley appeared to discuss ARPA funds, CARES and if they still have that money. She also asked about SHIP. Ms. Steele stated they have her public records request already and they are working on it.

Richele Robinson, 318 Stanley St Quincy, FL

Ms. Robinson appeared before the board to discuss issues on the boys & girls club location, hiring a permanent county administrator, and increasing the starting salary. She opposed raising the millage rate.

10. Public Hearing

10.a. Public Hearing (Legislative)- 13480 Pat Thomas Parkway, Mainline Contracting LLC Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2025-01)

Pulled.

10.b. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-041 and 2025-042 Budget Amendments for FY25

Ms. Raynak presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10.c. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-039 and Budget Amendments for FY25

Ms. Raynak presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10.d. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2024-040 and Budget Amendment for FY 2024-2025

Ms. Raynak presented the above item.

Derrick Elias, P.O. Box 2171 Quincy, FL

Mr. Elias appeared before the board and asked if they prioritized that that was the best place for funding to go. He mentioned citizens needs versus parks and asked if that was the best use for those funds.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10.e. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-043, 2025-044 and Budget Amendment for FY 2024-2025

Ms. Raynak presented the above item and stated there are two parts to it.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11. General Business

11.a. Revised Gadsden County Indigent Burial Application

Dr. Ruiz-Vallar appeared before the board to discuss the revised amendments.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.b. Approval of 2025 Older American Act Program III Amended Contract

Mr. James presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.c. Approval of Bid Award to Sandco, LLC. For South Adams Street Sidewalk

Mr. James asked Mr. Young to appear. Mr. Young presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Wood asked to communicate better with Quincy on this to make sure they were on the same page.

11.d. Approval of the EAP Services Contract with Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare

Mr. James presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.e. Approval of the Medical Director Service Agreement

Mr. James presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.f. Park Presentation and Request

Ms. Moya appeared before the board to provide a presentation on parks.

Ms. Moya stated the department needs/ requests:

- Become a self-operating department
- Hire Additional staff in efforts to run an effective department
 - 3 park Attendants (Maintenance)
 - 2 part-time staff (Evening & weekend activities)
- Request of county funds to continue with completion of projects
- Permission to provide a presentation to the City of Quincy in efforts to lease the Robert Nealy Sports Complex
- Request additional funding to create sports and arts programs for youth & adults
- Permission to charge fees for park usage to assist the department in becoming revenue generating

Commissioner Wood stated he would like for cameras to be added to these parks. He also mentioned the possibility of Wi-Fi at the parks.

Commissioner Green stated in addition to the cameras, they need lighting at the parks. He thanked Ms. Moyer for all her work.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:16 p.m. and returned at 7:17 p.m.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:21 p.m.

11.g. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between The Florida Department of Health and Gadsden County for The Emergency Medical Services Matching Grant

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:24 p.m.

12. Clerk of Court

Mr. Thomas appeared to discuss reports and emails he has sent. He stated in January they provided a grants report and they have now revised it. There are 25 completed grants, most of them being road grants. There are 39 outstanding grants totaling \$52.8 million dollars.

Mr. Thomas stated when it comes to grants, it was important to remember that they need the money to front them. They must maintain a significant fund balance if they want receive these reimbursable grants. The second important thing to remember was the audit report.

Commissioner Green thanked the Clerk for this information and the emails he sent and stated he would love to see him more often to go through this information in a public meeting.

Mr. Thomas stated the cash report shows a total of \$34.3 million dollars in all funds combined. However, a good portion of that money is in funds that are either restricted or have a special use. The important thing is that there is \$11.2 million in the general fund.

Mr. Thomas stated there's dividends and interest earnings off the trust of \$2.8 million dollars. There is \$6.8 million in the indigent half-cent tax. Together, that was about \$9.6 million dollars that could be used for hospital. He stated in 2020, the board entered a new contract with HCA, which they no longer wanted the money from the indigent tax. There was a lot of money going into HCA to offset indigent healthcare that had not been distributed in the amount of \$6.2 million dollars. If the board was not going to do anything in regards to a hospital, he recommended them to end that tax and pay off the hospital debt.

Mr. Thomas mentioned an email he sent regarding the legislature looking at property tax, but it would not affect their budget in 2025-2026. But down the line, it possibly could. He stated they are a sub-division of the state of Florida, and if revenue is taken away, they are obligated to find a way for counties to make up some of that revenue. One of their options would be to allow counties to do sales tax. The problem with that is that it would require public approval and that could be a potential issue.

Mr. Thomas stated in the cash report, there is \$181,105.31 under Dori Slosberg. In 2016, the board passed an ordinance to add additional dollars to certain traffic tickets. This money has been set aside and he has brought it up a few times. Mr. James stated he will follow up on that.

13. County Attorney

No updates.

14. County Administrator

Mr. James thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the community in this capacity.

Mr. James mentioned there being 89 county vehicles and stated he was interested in reducing that as soon as he could. He thought that they could better utilize those resources.

Mr. James mentioned getting grant dollars spent and focusing on that. He was determined to get these projects going.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked the Clerk and stated they will continue to work together.

Commissioner Simpkins stated on August 21 at 6 p.m., they will have a meeting at Scottown Park with the community.

15.b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated he was helping Florida State hospital with a grant process. He asked Mr. James for a letter of support.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION FOR A SUPPORT LETTER TO FLORIDA STATE HOSPITAL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Wood mentioned needing a walkway from Gretna to Quincy.

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

Commissioner Holt stated they need to zone properties correctly in order for people to come in. Sewer lines are also very important.

Commissioner Holt stated they need a swimming pool to train people how to swim.

15.d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green welcomed their new interim county administrator and asked to continue the process of finding a permanent county administrator.

Commissioner Green asked for an update on the Kratom issue. Mr. Baptiste stated he drafted a preliminary kratom ordinance and is requesting a workshop on this. After that, they can have a hearing.

Commissioner Green mentioned the Champs Chance organization and is communicating with the owner, Ms. Bopp, with finding a location. He wanted to work with her since she has done a great job with the dogs in their community and he wanted to know how they could help her out.

Commissioner Green mentioned the Planning & Zoning Board not being able to meet due to not having a quorum. He stated he does have a new name he would like to appoint to that board. Mr. Baptiste stated he was going to request that the commission place this item on the next agenda so each commissioner can look at the member they each appointed and replace them if they are not attending the meetings.

Commissioner Green mentioned maintenance on McCook Road and stated he wanted to ride with public works on that road.

Commissioner Holt mentioned TDC being honored next week at the Governor's Conference of Tourism in Orlando. She also mentioned the idea of building condos.

15.e. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chair Hinson thanked Mr. James for accepting the position.

Mr. James wanted to mention that he received a letter highlighting Mr. Young and he wanted to share that in this meeting.

Chair Hinson mentioned the passing of Dr. Anderson who was 98 years old.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:37 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC F. HINSON, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk