

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD VIZ:**

Present: Lori Bouie, Chair, District 5
 Eugene Sherman III, District 1
 Wayne Williams, District 3
 Tammy Jimenez, District 4
 Tracey Stallworth, District 2
 Charles Roberts, At Large
 Beau Scott, Principal Planner
 Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bouie stated this will start as a workshop due to not having a quorum. Mr. Stallworth led into the invocation and Mr. Roberts led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Bouie read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(Workshop)

5.1. Public Hearing (Legislative) – Consideration of Ordinance 2025-01 (CPA 2025-01). Revising the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance, Chapter Six of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances.

Beau Scott appeared to provide a review of the above item.

Mr. Stallworth asked to re-state concerns that citizens had. Mr. Scott stated pastors were concerned with proximity and safety.

Mr. Scott re-stated the concerns of the pastors.

Randy Ross, 2660 Frank Smith Rd. Quincy, FL

Mr. Ross appeared before the board and stated he is the pastor at the church of Tallavana and the president of Tallavana Christian school, and he was shocked by this proposal. He stated with all the violence towards schools and churches they should be extending the safety barrier instead of removing it.

William Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL

Mr. Farr appeared before the board and stated he is a pastor at Providence Baptist. He stated they should keep people from alcohol rather than encourage it, and he suggested leaving the ordinance as is and not changing it.

Leroy McMillan appeared before the board and stated he spoke to several pastors in the community and not one pastor would be satisfied with the 500 feet being suggested.

Mr. Stallworth stated he vouches for himself, and this is hard.

Vera Moore, 5924 Memorial blue star Hwy.

Ms. Moore appeared before the board and stated something that has not been addressed is someone purchasing a drink(s) for an underage person and in this case, it would be easier to bribe someone to buy them a drink.

Gary Freeman, 504 Plantation Dr. Havana, FL

Mr. Freeman appeared to state he is against this ordinance being passed.

Ms. Bouie asked attorney Baptiste if there was any way to have a variance for restaurants.

Attorney Baptiste stated it would not be practical; they looked at area variances in other counties.

Ms. Bouie stated she was totally against having no distance between church and alcohol establishment.

Mr. Roberts asked for clarity about the distance.

Ms. Jimenez asked with it being a commercial area at i10 is there a way to develop that area. Attorney Baptiste stated no.

Ms. Bouie asked if they are currently saturated with alcohol establishment limit. Attorney Baptiste stated the law does not just say alcohol establishment.

Ms. Jimenez asked if it is one population license per 7500 people, so that would be 6 licenses? Attorney Baptiste stated he has not verified the numbers, but it sounds right.

Attorney Baptiste stated that the onsite consumption and sealed to go containers is not something they could break up due to Florida law that has already passed.

Ms. Jimenez asked if they had identified potential affected properties outside of city limits. Attorney Baptiste stated he has not seen a formal list of potential growth areas.

Nolan Coon,

Mr. Coon appeared and stated this ordinance could open a door to be lightened later on. He stated restaurants do not bring in a lot of economic development to the county. Asked for them to consider bringing in an industry that will bring in economic development.

Mr. Ross appeared again, and stated he thinks they can identify locations to bring businesses in and keep the ordinance as is.

Mr. Farr appeared again and stated they should bring training in for vocational jobs instead of forcing kids into college.

Brianna Carter, 37 Smith Lane Chattahoochee, FL

Ms. Carter asked if they could call a count of who is in opposition of changing the ordinance.

Attorney Baptiste stated there is a sign in sheet they could sign and notate if they are in opposition. He then asked for the public to stand to count who is in opposition.

40 citizens who were present are opposed to this ordinance change.

Leroy McMillan, 8931 Rice Road

Mr. McMillan appeared and stated he doesn't want them to fool themselves in thinking changing the ordinance will improve economic development. He stated getting the school systems straightened out would do that.

Mr. Roberts stated this was about location regarding businesses, but he understood where everyone was coming from.

George Wagner

Mr. Wagner appeared in opposition of alcohol ordinance.

5.2. Public Hearing (Legislative) – Consideration of Ordinance 2025-02 (CPA 2025-02). Revising Gadsden County Land Development Code, Chapter Five, Subsection 5003.

Attorney Baptiste requested to pull item 5.2 for further review.

Planning Commissioner's Comments

Mr. Williams stated this is the 3rd time speaking on this issue; He was shocked to see this many people in the audience. Agreed with the citizens but it is true they need to create business in the county.

Ms. Jimenez stated there was a lot of clarity in this workshop.

Mr. Stallworth thanked everyone who attended. He stated there are a lot of churches in this county, and he also said building owners are looking for tenants.

Mr. Sherman would like to request agenda item be updated as it stated they have not had the opportunity to speak with the community, but they have. Would like to request to preserve record of comments made by the community.

Mr. Roberts stated to keep open mind on this. Some concerns may or may not be met.

Chair Bouie thanked everyone for attending and stated it was important for them to voice their opinion.

Motion to Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR BOUIE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:42 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Lori Bouie, Chair
Planning Commission**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk