

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3  
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1  
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared by phone  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk  
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order, Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and Chair NeSmith the led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Dixon asked to pull items 7 & 8 and add Item 8a-Emergency Approval of the Non-Profit Human Services Funding Agreement and Interlocal Agreement for Human Senior Services for FY22/23.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval to Accept Reduced Payment for satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens dated February 2, 2015**
- 3. Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-Access Certification Statement**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

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](mailto: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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page. Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Approval of Resolution 2023-005 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2023**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they were budget amendments to be approved. Mr. Dixon said the amount was \$10 Million.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION BEFORE VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

Commissioner Holt asked for the amount and Mr. Dixon explained he was looking at the wrong agenda item. He explained these were budget amendments for various roads, EMS grant award, DEO grant award and ARPA grant award.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**5. Approval to Accept Proposed Funding Agreement #F0098 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Construction of the Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for approval to accept the proposed funding agreement #F0098 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for construction of the new Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Approval of Budget Amendment 2023-033 to Move Budget from Reserve for Contingency to Purchase Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-0100-2426 Pat Thomas Parkway**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval for Budget Amendment #2023-033 to move budget from Reserve for Contingency for the purchase of property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100 - 2426 Pat Thomas Parkway.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**~~7. Approval of the Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.~~**

ITEM PULLED

**~~8. Approval of Gadsden County Indigent Burial Policy~~**

ITEM PULLED

**8a. Emergency Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreement and Interlocal Agreement for Human Senior Services for FY 2022/2023**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated there was money was already in the budget to fund \$60,000 to fund Gadsden Senior Services (GSS) and they were running low on funds. He further stated this money was needed to continue to operate as the County moves through the process to take over that position.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Green said he did not know what the funds looked like as of right now and was unsure if the \$60,000 would be adequate to ensure they were able to function until they got to the next step.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:14 pm (he had been on Zoom before arriving)*

Mr. Dixon said he hoped to have the Agreement finished by the next meeting and was hopeful additional funds would not be needed.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was fair to support other organizations as well as the Wellness program. He said Gretna had received their \$10,000 and asked why others had not received their money. He stated he was surprised GSS did not receive their money. He said if they approved this, they needed to make sure everyone received their money.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**9. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk stated there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**10. Updates**

Mr. Dixon said this was Black History Month and he listed named several activities that will be taking place around town.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**11. Updates**

Mr. Knowles stated he had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**12 Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

Commissioner Simpkins thanked staff for the movie in the park on Sunday.

She requested a workshop in regards to the ARP funding and wanted them to take a look at the County's Organizational chart. She asked if a meeting was planned regarding the local broadband and Mr. Dixon replied the Local Planning Team (LPT) will meet early March.

She invited them to the Carter Parramore Academy on Thursday at 9:30 for their Black History program.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt asked to rename the new Extension Center after Al Lawson.

Commissioner Hinson said there was also Dr. Henry Grant who worked there for over 30 years and was the first black Extension Director.

Commissioner Green asked the proper way to handle the process. Mr. Dixon said the proper way was to agenda this and hold a hearing.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO RENAME THE NEW EXTENSION CENTER AFTER CONGRESSMAN AL LAWSON AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Green said they all agreed with Commissioner Simpkins that Movie night was a success.

He mentioned the new school zone lights on Highway 90 at Robert F. Monroe after a child lost their life in an accident there. He asked if a plaque could be placed there. Mr. Dixon said he would reach out to FDOT regarding that.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he had hoped they could have a conversation with RFM regarding the traffic.

He mentioned infrastructure and said that was needed. They need to have meetings so they could start strategizing.

He asked for a Resolution for Rev. Mose Harris, whose son passed away. He also asked for one Dr. Gerald Hinson.

**CHAIR NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR THE RESOLUTIONS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Mr. Dixon also mentioned that Auburn Ford had passed away.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF AUBURN FORD AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Green said he was glad they mentioned Mr. Ford's passing and gave his service time that would be Sunday at 1:00 pm.

**Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3**

Chair NeSmith thanked the Commissioners and staff for the movie night.

He congratulated Commissioner Green for being honored by the Kingdom Light Tabernacle Church with the African American Trailblazer Innovator of the Year award for 2023.

He also thanked him for coming up with the idea for the movie night.

Chair NeSmith said democracy was a very delicate institution. They said they, as a Board, must focus on what was important in government. He said their primary job was to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. He asked for support to create a gallery to honor the great women of Gadsden County, FL that have done great things. He asked for a workshop between now and June to plan what the gallery would look like. Commissioner Holt said they have to remember in doing these things, they were taking staff away from their regular jobs and giving them more assignments.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:08 p.m.*

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:10 pm.*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**