

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 7, 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  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

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

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone, Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation, and Chair NeSmith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Items 14 and 15 from the Agenda.

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

**Awards, Presentations and Appearances**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Women in Construction Week (March 5 – 11, 2023)**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was Women in Construction Week. The representative was not present at this time and Commissioner Holt asked to hold the plaque in case they showed later.

**2. Presentation Regarding a Community Garden in Chattahoochee**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and Ms. Pam Medley, President of the Chattahoochee Main Street.

**Ms. Pam Medley** came before the Board regarding this project.

**Katherine Beck, State Coordinator for Mainstreet** was present and gave a little more information regarding the program.

Ms. Medley said the benefactors of the community garden would be the seniors and citizens of the area. She went before the Board to ask they partner with them. Commissioner Holt said this could be a model project they could use.

**CONSENT**

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

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
  - a. **January 31, 2023 Workshop**
  - b. **February 7, 2023 Workshop**
5. **Approval and Signature on the E911 2023 Spring Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance**
6. **Approval of Animal Control Interlocal Agreement with the City of Chattahoochee**
7. **Approval of the Planned Service Agreement with Johnson Controls for Inspections and Diagnostic Test for the Sprinkler System at the Gadsden County Jail**
8. **Approval of Time Clock Plus, LLC (Aladtec) Agreement**
9. **Approval for Gadsden County Emergency Services to Submit the Application for the SAFER Grant**
10. **Berger Singerman, LLP Transition**

**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.

Commissioner Hinson read the above statement aloud.

**Jeanné Freeman, Chief Executive Office of Neighborhood Medical Center**, appeared before the Board regarding Neighborhood Medical Center and said they have been there since 2013.

She explained the services they provide and they are offered on a sliding scale. They have just received funding to build a new location.

Commissioner Green said he was glad to see her and asked for a copy of her statistics.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board has partnered with them in the past and has donated two dental chairs to their program.

Commissioner Green asked if she could provide something showing services they provide.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they serve the uninsured and she said yes.

**Patrick Brown, Chief Medical Officer, North Florida Medical**, appeared before the Board and is the Chief Medical Officer of the North Florida Medical Jessie Furlow Medical Center. He mentioned the services they provide.

Chair NeSmith said the was great information and was worthy of a workshop.

**Emanuel Sapp, 821 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he approved of Item 9 and said senior programs were vital in this community.

**Kathy Brown, 1592 Salley Brown Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and was t representing the Gadsden Senior Center. Since the item was pulled, they had one question, if funds have been released to the GSS and when would the money be made available.

Mr. Dixon said funding was released to GSS, they did not have funding and the Board released additional funding so they could maintain their level of funding until they could work out kinks in regard to the situation. They are using money to continue to pay people to be there. Mr. Dixon asked if they went on their trip and trip was to be tomorrow and she said there was no funding. He said funding was authorized yesterday. He also said it would be worked out.

**Edwin Rush, 416 W. Crawford Street, Quincy, FL** he said the question they have on a daily basis is when will the money be coming so they can plan the trip. The trip was changed because the money was not there.

Mr. Dixon said they had to give them emergency money to make ends meet until they could work things out. He thought the funding was able to get there so they could make their trip.

Commissioner Holt said they all get the same amount of time. He approved the money for the trip yesterday. When he realized they did not have the money, he meant for them to make the

trip and bill the Board for that. Commissioner Holt said when something is approved, they do not write the check, it has to go to the Clerk's Office for the check to be written.

Ms. Brown wanted to make sure she understood, was the \$60,000 was it being used? Mr. Dixon said that money was being used for the employees right now. They were trying to finish their process and this should be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Green said in the future they need to figure out how they could help with sponsoring activities to avoid these sorts of problems.

Commissioner Hinson said the elephant in the room was the Board was asked specifically about the \$60,000 and he mentioned the money should go for outreach.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:03 pm*

Commissioner Hinson continued and said if the check was written Friday; they should have received the money and been able to go on this trip.

Commissioner Green said in defense of staff, he was sure they understood why the money was not there for the trip, the bigger picture was making sure they could sustain the center.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:04 p.m.*

Commissioner Green continued and said they had to make sure business was taken care of at home before trips were taken.

Chair NeSmith said obviously there was a hiccup, but it will be resolved.

Mr. Rush asked if this was the first time that amount of money was allocated to the center and was told no. He asked where the money was.

Chair NeSmith said the money was to fill a gap and was not the intention of the Board for this situation to happen and they will do everything to make sure this does not happen again.

Commissioner Simpkins said they were making sure they will not have these issues they currently have. They are working so that they will not come in and say they were not working for the seniors. They have not gotten all the kinks worked out. It will be laid out at the next meeting.

Ms. Brown said they love their staff and did want them paid, they work very hard to take care of the seniors.

Commissioner Holt thanked them for coming and was glad because she was asked on several occasions to explain what was going on.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to earmark money to the seniors. When a Commissioner directs the Administrator and staff to do something, it has to be done.

**Gary Murray, 484 Woodberry Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board regarding Woodberry Road. He said he received a letter in July from the BOCC that they would be getting started on that road. Chair NeSmith asked if he had spoken with the County Administrator and he said he has called numerous times and has never received a call back. Mr. Dixon said things were not going as fast as they would like them to but would try to move things along.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **11. Public Hearing-Legislative-205 Glade Road, Peavy Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2023-01) Ordinance 2023-01**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for consideration of the adoption of Ordinance 2023-01 and its transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Development for a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment cut to change the future land use designation from commercial to agriculture 1 on a 16.72-acre parcel.

*Commissioner Green stepped out 7:16 p.m.*

Mr. Dixon said Mr. Stiell would present the item.

**Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board and said it was for consideration of adoption of Ordinance 2023-01 and its transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan and is for Parcel ID Number: 2-14-3N-2W-0000-00243-0300.

*Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:18 pm*

*Commissioner Green returned at 7:19 p.m.*

Mr. Stiell continued explaining the property and said the applicant's intent, once the amendment is approved, is to split the current 16.72-acre parcel into a 5.67-acre parcel and a 11.05-acre parcel for agriculture uses and residences associated with such use was compliant with the Gadsden County Land Development Code. At the February 16, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommended approval of this item.

*Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:19 p.m.*

Mr. Stiell explained the options to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to review this and agreed with it.

**Greg Smith, Esquire, Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was representing Mr. Peavy if the Commissioners had any questions.

Commissioner Hinson said if there were no questions, he would like to make a motion.

Chair NeSmith asked if there was anyone who wished to make any comments and there was no one.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a well already on the property and was told there was no well or septic tanks. There are wetlands and that will be addressed at the site plan. She asked if the entire property would be Agriculture 1 and Mr. Stiell said yes.

Mr. Stiell said this allows 1 house per 5 acres.

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

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**12. Approval of Task Order with Alday Howell, Engineering, Inc. for the Survey and Design of CR 274 (Providence Road Resurfacing Project)**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute a task order with Alday Howell, Engineering Inc. for the survey and design of CR 274 (Providence Road) resurfacing project.

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

**13. FDOT Grant Applications – Resolutions**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for FDOT's SCRAP, SCOP, B-SCOP and CIGP application cycle that was currently open. Staff has put forth for their review the following roads:

- Aspalaga Road, Goodson Road - SCOP
- Dogtown Road, Rowan Road - SCRAP

- Mt. Pleasant Road, W. L. Martin Road - CIGP
- Ochlocknee Relief, Cane Creek – B-SCOP

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

**14. ~~Approval of the Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.~~**

Item Pulled

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

Item Pulled

**16. Approval of the Medicare Fee Schedule**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to approve a new Medicare Allowable Fee. He explained the current rate fell below the accepted standard and was recommended by the billing company to revise the agency charge rates.

**Kris Hood, EMS Director**, appeared before Board and said it had been four years since the rates had been raised.

Commissioner Holt asked if this raised the fee schedule for the patients and Mr. Dixon explained that was between the patient and their provider.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they should have a workshop on this. Commissioner Green said this was a general scale that was going across regional.

Chair NeSmith said this was standard.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**17. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**18. Updates**

Mr. Dixon said a schedule was given to them and was Commissioner Simpkins suggested to have daytime meetings during the week to not take up weekends. They were trying to get in some of the activities they had spoken of. Currently the Strategic Planning workshop was scheduled for Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. and the ARPA workshop could be moved to a Monday or Thursday.

Commissioner Green said that was a good idea because Saturdays was busy for him with services.

Chair NeSmith said he was amenable for weekday meetings as well.

Commissioner Hinson suggested everyone bring their personal calendar to the meeting and then they could schedule meetings.

Commissioner Hinson also said too many things was going on with infrastructure and the Bicentennial. There was also ARPA money that needed to be spent by next year.

Commissioner Holt said with her sitting on the TDC, she hoped they would have a Bicentennial Celebration. She asked why they were having the State of the County Address on a Monday, it should be 10 minutes before the meeting. Chair NeSmith said this would be different and they wanted the community invited to the State of the County Address. She asked where it would be held and he responded they had to decide on a location. Commissioner Holt said usually that should cover what happened the past year and that would be towards the end of the year.

Mr. Dixon thanked them for their confidence during Black History Month and hoped the events were to their liking.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**19. Updates**

Mr. Knowles stated they were at the point in litigation with the Figgers Communication lawsuit that he was requesting a shade meeting for March 21<sup>st</sup> and asked for an affirmative vote.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HOLD A SHADE MEETING ON MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> REGARDING THE FIGGERS COMMUNICATION LAWSUIT.**

He said he will bring this back at the next meeting after receiving a little more information, there is a program through the Florida Bar that offers legal interns to municipalities and they provide a certain amount of funding each year to assist local governments and may come back at the next



meeting in conjunction with potential probate seminar along with probate interns through the Certified Legal Intern clearance.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **20. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to give thanks to the Administrator and staff that played a part in the Black History celebration and said hats off to them. She also wanted to make sure they were continuously working on the Fire rating issue with the ISO and was moving along with that and told the Administrator she hoped to see a plan soon.

#### **Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt wanted to let everyone know there was damage done to the round-about and they were looking at getting that taken care of and she and the Administrator have talked and were looking at a plan to repair.

She said she and the Board needed to look at a flow chart on contracts and when looking at contracts regarding Fire, Animal Control, etc., if they could look at getting those scheduled at the same time. She said that way they could compare what was being done and what the services were.

She said they were still looking for a permanent budget director and a grant writer. She also asked for a flow chart on all grants, funding, and contracts.

#### **Bostic Road Upgrade**

She said she was cornered by Seniors and the road was looking pretty rough. She said Mr. Young told her one day they were still patching until something was done with it and it was on the schedule.

She said she had written down about the dental in Chattahoochee and it was very important.

#### **Hospital**

The half cent tax was passed for a hospital and it stated "for other health care services" but the first item that was seen on the ballot was the hospital. She said they have to address that and if they cannot address that, they have to provide the services there. She said Chattahoochee was driving too far to come to Quincy or go to Marianna and people at the Georgia line was trying to get to Bainbridge or to Quincy. The other thing was, and she wanted to ask the doctor and knew she could not, out of all the people seen by them, how many had Medicaid that had to go to Leon County, Jackson County or Bainbridge, because that was where the money went. They need to look at capturing that money in this county.

She wanted to thank the Administrator and staff for the good job done regarding the Black History celebration.

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

Commissioner Simpkins asked with the strategic planning workshop, she would like for them to look at the Organizational Chart.

Commissioner Green said it was important to say thank you to the Administrator and staff regarding the Black History activities.

He wanted to make sure they were on target for the County celebration and wanted to see it take place and have a discussion. He said he believed there was a date given but hoped they could reconsider the date due to the fact there was a conference going on with National NACo in Miami at the same time.

He again asked for a schedule for striping of the roads. Mr. Dixon said they were striping now. **Curtis Young, Interim Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board and said that the list could be gotten to him.

**Hiring Process**

He said they have been looking for an Economic Development Director for a while and asked if there have been any additional applicants that applied? Do they need to come back to the table as it related to funding or salary and asked about the hiring process for supervisors and managers? Mr. Dixon said regarding the Economic Development Director, the body has the last say-so, not him. Commissioner Green said he was aware of that as it related to that position, but asked how it related to the HR Director or Public Works Director or any other directors. He asked what was the process for directorial positions. Mr. Dixon said every department recommends to HR someone to be hired, HR has the say before that person was offered the position because of having to do the background checks, etc. Once that happens, that person or the paperwork was generally brought before him to sign off on. Commissioner Green asked about the interview process.

Mr. Dixon explained each department was different. If it is a Department Director, there will be other directors and sometimes outside directors who help hire that position. Generally, they are people at or above the level of the hire making up those committees. He said the committees change every hiring process and that was intentional.

**Stephens School Update**

He asked if there were any updates regarding the school and Mr. Dixon said they received a letter that told them they needed to do a full-scale environmental study, which will set the project back and they were to do nothing else until that study was approved by DEO. He said

they were meeting with their lobbyists and others to see why this was happening now. Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board and said they received verbal confirmation with the documents that were submitted on Monday they would be approved. At that point they could sign a contract with the engineer so they could begin the environmental review process.

Mr. Dixon said several counties have written DEO about these types, several projects have been delayed and they had no idea that a full-scale environmental study would need to be done. He said they were working their “other strategies” to try to minimize those situations so the deadline could be met.

### **Upgrades on Parks**

He asked how they were looking and said one thing he would like to see that has become popular was a pickle ball court. He said he has to travel to Tallahassee for pickle ball and it is a great activity and more seasoned adults were playing it. He asked if they could have a pickle ball court in some of the county parks.

Mr. Dixon said they were working, and he was not the only one on him about the parks. The engineers were looking at the parks now and hoped to come to them very soon with a plan to doing some parks this year and some next year. They all were looking aged and dated.

Chair NeSmith said with regard to the Economic Development Director, his question was not answered and he spoke with the HR Director and was informed her office has expanded the listing and was on several employment sites now.

### **Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked and dittoed what the other Commissioners said about the Black History committee and everyone did a great job.

Mr. Dixon said the City of Quincy already asked if the County would get together with them on a regular movie night, etc. He said the enthusiasm was there.

Commissioner Hinson said the Havana Community Development Corporation was having an All Black Legacy Party presented on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 12 AM and will have a young lady from Havana, Ms. Denesia “Blue June” Andrews there and she will be celebrated at the event. He added it was posted on One Gadsden Facebook Page. He asked for a Proclamation.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR MS. ANDREWS.**

Commissioner Hinson said the AKA’s wanted to host a biz crawl on the Courthouse square on June 10<sup>th</sup>. He also asked for a proclamation for Dr. Gerald Hinson.

Commissioner Green said he also wanted to offer condolences to Sheriff Young on the transition of his Father.

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

Commissioner Simpkins congratulated Commissioner Green on the opening of his store (Railroad Square in Tallahassee) and wanted to challenge them, as she listened to Leon County and City Commissioners and wanted them to take up the challenge to help small businesses like they have.

Chair NeSmith thanked Commissioner Simpkins for reminding them of this. He said there was a comment made asking why he was always thanking staff, etc., and he hoped that person saw this Board had a different spirit.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a workshop and was unable to make the grand opening of his store.

Chair NeSmith said democracy was a very delicate institution and last week he had the opportunity to represent citizens at the 2023 NW Florida Economic Symposium and brought back a plethora of information.

He reminded them if they had not done so, to pre-register for the Small County Coalition that would be downtown in Tallahassee on March 14<sup>th</sup> between 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

He congratulated Commissioner Holt for being the longest serving female commissioner and Commissioner Simpkins for being the first female commissioner from her District to serve on the Commission.

**Greenlight Moment**

Commissioner Green thanked everyone for their comments and congratulations to him.

As it relates to the “Greenlight Moment”, he wanted to reflect on a mindset.

“A powerful mind can achieve anything, but you have to challenge the mind, informing the mind that you are in control of it. Set challenges for your mind. In other words, read things you don’t normally read, go somewhere you don’t normally go or don’t like to go, find something likeable about everything that you did not like. That is changing the mindset. Stop eating something that you love but may not love you; that’s mindset.”

He said that because he just recently did that on a seven-day journey of no sweets and no sugar and did so because he wanted to challenge his mind.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
March 7, 2023-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FL**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**