

**AT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE
CITY OF QUINCY HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Sean Pittman, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Frida Bass-Prieto, Mayor
Dr. Beverly Nash, District 5
Rob Nixon, City Manager
Gary Roberts, City Attorney
Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the Workshop to order at 4:12 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Opening Remarks

(Chair NeSmith, Mayor Frieda Bass- Prieto)

Chair NeSmith introduced the Commissioners. Mayor Bass-Prieto introduced Dr. Nash, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Dixon introduced his staff: Ms. Daniels, Mr. Stiell, Chief Hood, Laurel Bradley. City Manager, Robert Nixon, introduced his staff.

2. Future of Fire Services

(County Administrator, Kris Hood EMS Director)

Chief Hood gave a presentation on the future of fire services. He stated the current factors affecting Fire Departments are:

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- Money and Manpower
- Limited number of certified volunteers
- Training
- Water Sources
- 911 Dispatch
- Station conditions/ locations
- Multiple departments potentially working against one another.
- No unity when it comes to equipment and not being interchangeable. (Example: air packs/bottles, extrication equipment, etc.)

Chief Hood mentioned ways to improve fire coverage:

Step 1

- Identify which Cities would like to participate in the fire assessment
- Once identified, these cities along with Gadsden County will be included in the fire assessment.
- For the best outcome, it is recommended that the Cities located within Gadsden County participate in the fire assessment.

Chief Hood explained what this would do for the entire County:

Step 2

- Identifies and develops unique funding and service delivery for fire services.
- Provides a consulting group to identify the County's strength and weaknesses.
- Provide a complete program that will fully satisfy the entire County's fire services requirements.
- Identify a continuous funding source for fire coverage throughout the entire County.

Chief Hood mentioned Scope of Service:

- Legal Review
- Service Demand (call volume)
- Assessment roll

- Assessable Cost
- Assessment Methodology
- Reports & Presentations

Chief Hood showed a map of where the Fire Departments are.

Commissioner Simpkins arrived at 4:46 p.m.

Mr. Dixon stated they were trying to look at this holistically. They are looking to improve fire services across the County in the future.

Commissioner Green asked who gives authority for each municipality to participate in the assessment. Commissioner Green stated they need to think of ways they could be creative as it related to volunteers.

Dr. Nash asked which fire stations are volunteer. Chief Hood stated all of them except the City of Quincy. She stated, in doing the fire assessment, they need to identify what level, either Community or City. Dr. Nash stated they need to identify a mission or vision statement.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they already have a fire assessment tool. Mr. Dixon stated no they do not. He stated they need to do an RFP first.

Mayor Brass-Prieto stated she thought they were there to discuss fire contract. She stated when she looked at the agenda, she did not see the main reason for the meeting. She came to the meeting because of funding issues.

Mr. Nixon stated they still had questions about what to do with fire protection now. He stated he wanted to hear from the Fire Chief where they were in the consideration for discussing the fire contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not aware of discussing the fire contract. She stated she is aware that there are issues that need to be discussed as it relates to fire services for the County and the City.

Chief Baker provided some details of the City of Quincy Fire.

Commissioner Green asked if he could get in writing the numbers given by Chief Baker.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they needed to bring municipalities to the table as it relates to contract.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated the City of Quincy spends more time in the county than in the city.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was not fair to the County Commissioners. They need to postpone this meeting to have one voice and one sound.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked about the contract being presented to the Board. Mr. Dixon stated it was.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they understand the cost as relate to fire services. She stated they were sitting there blind. They need to have a conversation and look at where they are.

Commissioner Green stated he did not know what they were coming for today. He stated he did get the agenda but did not know what the expectations were. He stated they need to prepare for things on the agenda.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:07 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to be prepared in advance.

3. Economic Development

(County Administrator, T.J. Lewis Economic Development Director)

- **Process**
- **Strategy**

T.J. Lewis appeared to provide presentation on Economic Development.

Mr. Lewis talked about the process and strategies they were working on.

PROCESS

Clarifying policies and rules for the proactive engagement of local government, growth management / planning professionals and local stakeholders in the process of business engagement and site readiness activities.

No-wrong-door approach to engagement with local government.

Dedicated economic development operations to allow county to be quicker to respond and more competitive with job-development opportunities.

STRATEGIES

Using public investment to entice a multiplier factor private investment (2x, 6x, 10x etc.)

Development of county-wide strategic plan for economic growth.

Encouraging and prioritizing higher quality land-use practices.

Employ state-of-the-art technologies and public-facing platforms to allow 24/7 service to business community.

Mr. Lewis went through the Proposed Project Approval Process Flow:

Gadsden County Economic Development:

Originates, analyzes, and performs due-diligence for competitive projects and economic development initiatives. Makes recommendations for approval.

Gadsden County Development Council:

Serves as stakeholder advisory board for Economic Development. Reviews staff analysis, proposed projects and economic development initiatives and makes non-binding recommendations to Gadsden County Commission.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners:

Reviews staff analysis, proposed projects and economic development initiatives. Receives recommendation from GCDC. Makes independent and final decision.

Mr. Lewis stated they will soon be located at the Marie Brooks Art Gallery which is projected to open 3Q 2023. He stated they just won a Grant of \$59,475.50 from Competitive Florida. The Grant will help the County to create an economic development strategy through innovative planning and public engagement.

Mr. Lewis mentioned the major public investments coming soon:

- Gadsden County Emergency Operations Center
- Gadsden County Sheriff's Department HQ
- Public Safety Complex
- Joe Adams Road Improvements
- Boys & Girls Club (Quincy)

4. Legislative Agenda

5. Discussion (All)

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Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:51 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk