

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 4, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Rev. Flowers provided invocation and Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he had amendments to the agenda:

Request to be added under Awards, Presentations and Appearances:

1a. Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary for Gadsden County Senior Services

Request to be added under Consent:

18a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

Mr. Dixon stated item 3 will be pulled.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Proclamation National Homeownership Month

Mr. Dixon presented this item.

Commissioner Simpkins read aloud the proclamation and Ms. Burns and the Housing staff appeared to accept the proclamation. Ms. Burns gave her thanks.

1a. Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary for Gadsden County Senior Services

Chair Green presented the proclamation to Gadsden County Senior Services.

2. Recognition of Arnita Green

Commissioner NeSmith presented a proclamation to Arnita Green for her retirement.

3. **Recognition of Rev. and Mrs. William Hinson**

Pulled

4. **Presentation by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) of progress to develop the Gadsden County Economic Development & Resiliency Plan**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Mr. Lewis stated he will present the speakers and give a background on this. He stated on August 15, 2023, the Florida Department of Commerce awarded Gadsden County the competitive Florida Partnership Grant to complete a review of the existing economic development and resiliency documents to facilitate public participation, outreach, and engagement with the residents and prepare an action-oriented economic development and resiliency plan for incorporation to the county's comprehensive plan. This presentation will provide an update on the status of this initiative by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. On May 7, 2024, Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Commerce providing the County with state funding in the amount of \$59,475.50 for the reassessment and update of the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Lewis introduced Caroline Smith and Alex Valdez from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

Caroline Smith and Alex Valdez appeared before the Board. Ms. Smith stated Gadsden County selected ARPC to lead the county with planning activities required under Competitive Florida Partnership Grant and to provide coordination and admin support services to Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 6:23 p.m.

Caroline Smith and Ms. Valdez went through the PowerPoint providing a project update for Economic Development & Resiliency Plan.

5. **Presentation by Purvis and Gray of Gadsden County 09/30/2023 Audited Financial Statements**

Ryan Tucker, Purvis & Gray, appeared before the Board and went through their PowerPoint regarding the Audited Financial Statements for the county.

Mr. Tucker stated they were issuing an unmodified opinion on the county wide financial statements and each of the five constitutional officers. It was referred to as a "clean" opinion and was the highest level of assurance that they could receive from a CPA firm. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting were reported under Government Auditing Standards. They had to do a single audit for the major federal and state programs. The reports were clean and had no deficiencies.

The BOCC did not perform a comprehensive inventory of capital assets and reconcile that inventory to the underlying capital asset subsidiary records. Mr. Tucker stated they were still looking to resolve the inventory of fixed assets. They got about 50% of that done and were still working to complete that. The County does not have a centralized location for its lease and software arrangements and needed their assistance in preparing comprehensive inventory of these items.

Florida Statutes require each County Officer to make an annual report of revenues and expenses within 31 days of the close of the fiscal year. The Sheriff's books and records were not closed and ready for audit until February of 2024. They recommend procedures to be implemented to ensure that the books and records are closed in a timely manner.

Mr. Tucker went through county-wide expenses. The total program expenses were \$56,304,872 for 2023.

Mr. Tucker mentioned the federal and state grant activity - 50 grants combined totaling \$12,284,215. Mr. Tucker went through capital asset activity and long-term debt activity. Commissioner Hinson asked about general funds. He asked what was the number needed to look at in reserve. Mr. Tucker stated minimum of 2 months in reserve.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the findings for 2022 and if not corrected, what was their time frame? Mr. Tucker stated the correspondence will go to the Sheriff's office – the board did not really have to do anything. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was referring to the BOCC findings. Mr. Tucker stated it was the second year for that one, so if they have it again next year, then they would get a letter from the joint legislative auditing committee.

Commissioner Holt mentioned indigent care tax to open hospital or recruit another hospital company.

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

CONSENT

Chair Green asked for a motion. To approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about item 18a. Commissioner Hinson asked for a brief synopsis on Items 8, 9. Commissioner NeSmith pulled item 16 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 16 AND ITEM 18A AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

6. Ratification Memo

7. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

- a. May 07, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
 - b. May 11, 2024, Emergency Meeting
8. **Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Iron Bridge Road**
9. **Approval of the GA Food Service Agreement with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs**
10. **Approval to Accept the Florida E911 Rural County Grant Program Agreement to Replace the Current 911 Call Handling System with Motorola VESTA 911 Call Handling System**
11. **Approval of Modification #3 to the State-Funded Small County Emergency Operations**
12. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Removal Services with Crowder Gulf**
13. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Removal Services with DRC Emergency Services**
14. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Monitoring Services with Tetra Tech, Inc.**
15. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Monitoring Services with Thompson Consulting Services**
16. **Approval for an Emergency Purchase of Two Air Condition Units for the Simon Scott Building**
17. **Approval to Apply for the Healthy Kids Initiative Funding Provided by Play & Park Structures for Shiloh Park, St. John Park, Sawdust Park, and Fantana Trail Park**
18. **Approval of the Florida Council on Aging Partnership Memorandum of Understanding with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs**
- 18a. **Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

8. **Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Iron Bridge Road**
Mr. Dixon stated they asked the state for increased funding for Iron Bridge Road.
They funded \$662, 540 and need additional money due to increases in the budget.

9. Approval of the GA Food Service Agreement with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs

Latoya Fryson appeared and gave explanation on this item. She stated this was an annual agreement that provides meals to site.

16. Approval for an Emergency Purchase of Two Air Condition Units for the Simon Scott Building

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the condition on units at Havana and Chattahoochee

Mr. Dixon state Massey building units were refreshed and they were doing work in Havana to the building.

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

18a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

Mr. Dixon presented the item.

Chair Green asked if this was already included in the budget.

Mr. Hayes appeared and stated yes. They currently had 31 interested bicyclers. The cycle route will run through Quincy to Havana and back.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to continue to widen roads for bikers.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about what was left in the budget. Mr. Hayes stated they had enough money to cover this, he believed they had \$17,000 left in that line item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when she looked at that line item, she saw about \$9,000 left. Mr. Hayes stated he was not sure of the exact number it showed but they made sure there was enough money.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not seeing the 15k that was left for that. She had received information from the Clerk's office.

Chair Green asked if there were different forms or documents and Mr. Hayes stated no.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if this was coming from the Tourist Development Council and Chair Green stated this was under the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Green stated this could wipe all funds out and he could not support it. They have maximized funds they could spend.

Commissioner Holt stated the difference in 9k and 15k did not bother her. She stated a couple thousand people would go and they would get tourism. They need to offer something to get them back. They had funds in TDC to help with this.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were still doing the gospel concert and Chair Green stated not with this funding they were not.

Chair Green stated he wanted to make sure there were accurate numbers.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned public-private partnership. He asked where they would be riding and Mr. Hayes stated from Havana to Quincy

Mr. Hayes stated it would be an all-day race, they will get here on Saturday afternoon.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was \$9,000 available in that fund that she received from Clerk's office.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Commissioner Holt mentioned about transferring funds from TDC – if they were going to do that then fine. They need to make sure the funding is there.

Commissioner Holt stated she agreed with Commissioner Simpkins on funding; had no problem voting on it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this event is on June 23. They need to do a better job at planning in advance.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the attorney what happens if it storms and the attorney stated they would re-schedule the event.

Commissioner Hinson asked when they came up with this idea and Mr. Hayes stated a couple months ago.

Chair Green stated the courthouse square did not look the way it looks now several years ago. Looking at the Clerk's report, he stated he can move to approve.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

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.org 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.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mr. Watson appeared to discuss Sycamore Road. He invited commissioners to ride the road.

Tricia Brooks, 605 Chinquapin Rd. Monticello, FL

Ms. Brooks appeared to discuss Champs Chance.

Daniella Flores, 924 W Pensacola St. Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Flores appeared and is a coordinator at Champs Chance. She provided a background on Champs Chance.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8 p.m.

Alicia Bopp, 376 Milton St. Quincy, FL 32351

Ms. Bopp appeared before the Board to discuss Champs Chance. She went through the background of what they do for the dogs. They have adopted over 200 dogs. They were looking at properties but funding was their issue. She stated the neighbors have yelled at their volunteers. She mentioned water contamination issue. Ms. Bopp thanked Commissioner Green for coming out to visit and asked Commissioner Hinson for a conversation on property in his district.

Kate Macfall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Macfall appeared. She stated they need a new location for Gadsden County Animal services. She wanted the board to accept a grant and asked the commissioners to visit animal services.

Mr. Dixon stated he was aware of the grant and they were trying to find out the long-term effects.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about funding for that grant. Ms. Macfall stated she knew of funds.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to see requirements of that grant.

Daniel Read, 445 Lonradi St.

Mr. Reed appeared and talked about Champs Chance as well.

Brittani Bradwell, 2962 McCall Bridge Rd

Ms. Bradwell appeared and stated she was unable to get a home at this time. Currently pending with Clayton Homes.

Mr. Dixon stated this was one of those cases where their laws and rules were impacting her. He asked Mr. Morris to appear and Mr. Attorney stated they should not discuss this.

Mr. Dixon stated Planning has not ruled on this yet.

Attorney stated she was entitled to due process with planning & zoning. Anything they say today could be used against them.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

19. Public Hearing – Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-02: School Zones Speed Detection System

Mr. Dixon stated this was presented by the Sheriff's department due to alarming number of traffic speeders in school zones. This item was to approve an ordinance for automated traffic enforcement instruments inside school zones within the county.

The Attorney stated the Sheriff's Department was on board with this Ordinance. If approved, it would allow devices to be placed and program to start.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it includes day care centers and Mr. Dixon stated just schools.

No comments from audience.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

20. Approval of Lease Agreement for St. Hebron Park

NO MATERIALS PROVIDED TO CLERK

Mr. Dixon stated this seeks approval from Board.

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

CLERK OF COURT

21. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

22. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated Commissioner Simpkins will be guest speaker for Women's Veterans Day Recognition on June 12.

Mr. Dixon requested a proclamation for Probation Week.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PROBATION WEEK AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

23. Updates

No updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

24. Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned neighborhood health. He asked to have a meeting to discuss this. The County Attorney stated he contacted the director; their attorney will draft a lease.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned property; riding around a store in Midway. The road is bumpy and if the county was responsible, they should look into that.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Havana Senior vans. Mr. Dixon stated he thought they could get it through a lease; insurance policy took it through the roof.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to schedule a meeting with the Fire Department. Mr. Dixon stated they were going to start talking with members of nonprofit departments about a contract.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned looking into a library in Midway.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Chair Green stepped out at 8:28 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they have a gap between school ending and summer youth starts.

Chair Green returned at 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Burroughs appeared and stated they have 318 students in the program. They were working with CareerSource and they have 90 applicants. Technical College was ready to go with the students.

Commissioner NeSmith stated the priority was taking care of their youth. Commissioner Hinson stated they need as many 14-year-olds.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about welcoming signs. Chair Green stated signs needed updates. Ms. Steele stated signs were being developed.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked them for work done on Hardaway Highway.

Commissioner NeSmith stated other counties have grooves in middle of roads and asked if that could be incorporated. Mr. Young stated they could apply that to the grant.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned the upkeep of parks like Friendship Park. If any destruction on parks, they need to try to enforce the time limits on parks and call the police.

Commissioner Holt mentioned guidelines for proclamations. She had people ask her if there were any.

Commissioner Holt stated she received a call about renting space at the hospital and wanted the Attorney to look into that.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in favor of a county owned fire station and they needed to look into the cost of funding it. She also mentioned striping and reflectors on roads.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need striping on Jameson Road and St. Hebron Road. Mr. Dixon stated they reached out to other counties; hopefully one or two counties could come in and do the striping.

Commissioner Simpkins also asked about lighting and Mr. Dixon stated they reached out to Crypta and DOT for a feasibility study.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Robertsville being staffed and Mr. Dixon stated yes. She asked to get a rating on that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to take a look at where the overage was taking place with the budget amount.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there should be a process for County vehicles. They are not personal items so it should be running like a government entity. Information should be readily available as to who has what vehicles. She would like for the Economic Director to be focusing on economic development.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Scott Town Park and wanted to make sure it was included. Mr. Young appeared and stated they do regular maintenance on that park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated east Quincy did not really have anything and asked if they could start looking into that.

Commissioner Holt asked why didn't the attorney write a lease agreement for that property. Mr. Dixon stated they were working on a timeframe and wanted to help the attorney out.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a system in place for county vehicles and Mr. Dixon stated they submitted the listing to the Clerk's office. Every new car they buy has a gps tracker on it.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need infrastructure. They need the economic director to go after funds.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:58 p.m.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green mentioned Code Enforcement. They were having several issues in the County with this and asked how they were staffed with that and how they were meeting those requests. Mr. Dixon stated they just hired a new Code Enforcement Officer.

Chair Green stated he liked the idea of recognizing new businesses. They should consider this quarterly. He asked to get emailed the guidelines for proclamations. Commissioner Hinson stated if the Board wanted to recognize someone, they should just do it.

Chair Green mentioned job availability and asked where they were with being fully staffed. Mr. Dixon stated he believed they were fully staffed and they just hired a new Health and Human Services Coordinator; Ms. Burroughs stated they will start on the 25th.

Chair Green thanked the park director and citizens with the upkeep of Shiloh Park.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:14 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk