

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 5, 2023 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  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk  
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

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

Chair Green called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon stated Commissioner Holt has asked to pull Item 3 and Commissioner Simpkins asked for Item 5 to be pulled for discussion and to add Item 5a under General Business.

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

**Awards, Presentations and Appearances**

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE COACH WILLIE SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CONSENT**

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Holt asked for Item 3 be pulled for discussion and Commissioner Simpkins asked for item 5 to be pulled for discussion.

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of the 2024 Board of County Commissioners Meeting Calendar**

3. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC  
Item pulled for discussion
4. Approval of the Department of Health County Awards Grant Application and Resolution 2023-043
5. Approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No. Q-308712  
Pulled for Discussion

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

3. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC  
Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item is for approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of this Grant. She mentioned page 3 of 26 and stated she hoped the group will include a black history trail. She stated Gadsden County has always been a predominantly black County. She would like for that to be included under #2 for mapping.

Commissioner NeSmith stated it was a reimbursement grant and asked if they have a plan in place on how they want to utilize the \$300,000. Mr. Dixon said yes.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH THE CHANGES OF ADDING BLACK HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS AND LANDMARKS AND TO INCLUDE BLACK HISTORY TRAIL AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

5. Approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No. Q-308712  
Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Simpkins asked this item to be pulled. It is for the approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No Q-308712. The new intranet will allow secure internal communications that will include easy access to information such as department policies and procedures, work unit schedules, training calendars/content, and other content to specific employee groups.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the Administrator to expound on it. Her concern was that they already have a contract with Granicus and they were not totally using the service and to add additional services was her concern, but he addressed her concern.

Commissioner Green asked when they could expect everything to be up and running. Mr. Jackson, I.T. Director, came forward. He stated with this phase, they have the website up. The next phase is adding Zoom and broadcasting on the website. It was an extension of the existing Granicus contract.

Commissioner Green asked when could they expect the website to be fully operational. Mr. Jackson stated the only thing missing was the adding of the video. It should be up in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner NeSmith said they entered into a relation with Granicus quite a while ago. He asked if these 2 services were not anticipated when originally entered. Mr. Jackson said they had staff changes and HR wanted to be able to reach all employees.

Commissioner Simpkins said animal control had their form out and asked what was the response time. Mr. Jackson said part of that is training, getting them trained on what they need to do.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if she would be able to get flow charts and he said yes.

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

**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](mailto: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.

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

**Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL 32341**

Ms. Watson appeared before the Board and asked to give her 3 minutes to her husband, Mike.

**Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road**

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board concerning Sycamore Road. He said Commissioner Hinson stated he had issues in his district that needed to be taken care of. He said he was also concerned with the way priority is given to roads.

Mr. Dixon said road submission is a competitive process. Roads are submitted and DOT decides.

**Tracey Stallworth**

Mr. Stallworth appeared before the Board concerning Item 3. He stated the history of Gadsden County was very important as it relates to black folks. He asked if there would be a task force and asked to be a part of it.

Mr. Stallworth stated about a month ago, he appeared asking for approval of his non-profit organization and was back again to request funding. Commissioner Green said they were waiting on a workshop. Mr. Stallworth asked to be excluded from the workshop and asked to be approved. Commissioner Holt asked to have up or down vote.

Commissioner NeSmith said he knew Mr. Stallworth but they needed to have a process in place. He supports Mr. Stallworth 100% but does not approve of the process.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$10,000 TO STALLWORTH ASSOCIATES AND GLOBAL, INC. AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Holt stated all they need is a motion and second to not approve any others until they have a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said if a commissioner already had prior knowledge about a process set in place, how could she vote on that. Mr. Knowles said he was not sure of a written, adopted policy on how non-profits are dealt with. Commissioner Simpkins said in the budget, they have a line item for non-profits.

Commissioner Holt said they required the non-profits to appear before them and provide reports. They need to look at the research.

Commissioner Green stated it was not difficult to support someone like Dr. Stallworth because of the services he has provided to Gadsden County. Commissioner NeSmith said he wanted a process. He stated that when he arrived to the Board, they were providing support for non-profits for years. But, when he asked for documentation of where that money went, he was not able to locate it. They need accountability.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE ANY OTHER NON-PROFIT FOR FUNDING UNTIL THEY HAVE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **5a. Consideration of Approval of Site Selection Analysis for proposed Boys & Girls Club and Community Center**

Mr. Dixon said this agenda item seeks approval of the site selection analysis performed for a proposed new COVID-19 sensitive Boys & Girls Club & Community Center within the corporate limits of the City of Quincy. He stated the MLK track field was available and would give an opportunity to build for 3.6 million.

Laura Youmans appeared before the Board and said they were appreciative to continue to serve this Community. She stated they support this site and look forward to the opportunity to work. She wanted to talk more about the next steps of the project.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Boys & Girls Club had any funding that they were going to put towards this project. Ms. Youmans stated they have not authorized any from the Board. They have earmarked funding for Gadsden County programs.

Commissioner Holt said she knew the track field needed to be resurfaced and asked if it would be incorporated? Mr. Dixon said the track field as is would go away but would be reincorporated in a new way. Commissioner Holt asked if the City of Quincy voted? Mr. Dixon said he has spoken with 1-2 Commissioners.

Commissioner Simpkins said there needs to be a workshop with the Board for Boys & Girls Club so that they are all on the same page. Commissioner NeSmith echoed part of what Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt stated. This is an opportunity to partner with the City of Quincy to create the Boys & Girls club.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the City of Quincy were planning to donate the property to the County. Mr. Dixon said that was what they are requesting. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was

going to be a Gadsden County Boys & Girls Club or Big Bend Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Dixon said the facility would be Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green said the first step is to get the property. Commissioner Hinson asked if the 3.6 million dollars is going to the building and Mr. Dixon said yes.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**6. Updates**

Nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**7. Updates**

Mr. Dixon stated he just wanted to remind everyone that the parade is Friday, it was canceled from last Friday due to rain.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**8. Updates**

Nothing to report.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE COACH WILLIE SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARDS VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson congratulated FAMU and FSU on their successful season.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Public Works and Facilities and Maintenance for great work. He said he had talked about giving bonuses because they are the hardest workers in Gadsden County. He stated they still have ARPC money and to look into giving a bonus for Christmas. He also mentioned EMS.

Commissioner Hinson Hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and also stated that he was at a Midway event yesterday for Push the Truck and stated it was beautiful.

**Commissioner Kimblin Nesmith, District 3**

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that he still has a legislative aide. He wished Chair Green a happy belated birthday.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he enjoyed the Gala for the County and hoped they could use Galas to raise monies.

Commissioner NeSmith stated the Gadsden County Summer Youth program will be here before they know it and stated it was extremely important to start working on the program. He asked if there has been any thought in bringing in someone full-time. Mr. Dixon nodded yes.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned trash all over roads around the County.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt stated that the Florida Rebuild will have a training program and that they need to partner with the School Board.

Commissioner Holt asked the Board to find \$100,000 for cold-weather shelter. Chair Green said it was a good suggestion and asked if they knew how many people used the Recreation Center. Commissioner Holt said she was not sure about the numbers and stated Havana may be one location and Chattahoochee another. They need to look into moving some money.

Mr. Dixon said the County will be involved in the next count of homelessness and it will be soon. They have reached out to Continuum of Care and they were looking at North Florida Network for additional funding.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if he had anything to discuss on private roads-surveys, deeding property. She said when cities were annexing property, they were not annexing roads. Mr. Knowles said they were not required to do that. Commissioner Holt stated they need something written up that they could request from the legislature some help in this.

**Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2**

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE RONALD MCCLLOUD AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE MARY BUSH SMITH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Fire Contracts and asked where they were with that and if they have met with municipalities. Mr. Dixon said he believed the Attorney was close to closing

out. They were going through the one on ones with each department. Mr. Knowles said Havana was passing their own extension. Chair Green said they were given the extension but did not want to wait until the end of the extension

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to address the ordinance from the last meeting. She asked if the \$5,000 was per event or per item. Mr. Knowles said he believed it was silent on that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they submitted any requests to federal lobbyists? She asked if there has been any return on the investment.

Mr. Dixon said the initial return has been in federal grants. He stated the formula they had did not work for Gadsden County. Now, they were looking for appropriations through agencies and there will be multi-million-dollar requests. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the County could expect a return. Mr. Dixon said they have had to redefine what the County wants and what they want to receive.

Mr. Knowles said there was nothing in the Ordinance stating per event. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it could come back to the Board to look at amending per event.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO BRING BACK ORDINANCE 2023-07 TO CHECK ON WORDING ON SPENDING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt said if they had more than one thing during an event, it needs to be discussed. If Billy Dean were coming, there may be X number of dollars and another individual will be X number of dollars.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lighting in parks and stated it had been put on the back burner. She asked where they were with parks and lighting.

Mr. Dixon apologized that it looked stagnant and stated they have already placed on the agenda funding for the next meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could keep the students in their prayers that were shot last week. She stated one has passed away today.

Commissioner NeSmith reminded everyone to review the strategic plan.



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

Chair Green thanked everyone for a productive meeting. He stated that on the 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a golf cart parade at Lake Talquin and he is the Grand Marshall.

Chair Green mentioned Parks and Rec and stated they have asked each commissioner for names for the board. He asked if they have started advertising the position and Mr. Dixon believed it was out there.

Chair Green stated he would like for directors to be on-line or in the meeting in case they have questions. Mr. Dixon said the policy is if a director has an item on the agenda, they have to be in the meeting, if they do not, then they would be on-line.

Chair Green asked about the policy on ditches in the county because of the rain this past week and he also stated that the ditches are not being maintained.

Chair Green asked what was Gadsden County known for. They need to have some type of festival to bring in people and they need to be creative to do something.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that she was having surgery tomorrow to take a screw out of her ankle.

Chair Green provided a Greenlight moment: Mistakes are proof you are trying-do not stop trying even if you mess up.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**