

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, January 09, 2025, at 5:30 PM

LaBelle Commission Chambers
481 West Hickpochee Ave
LaBelle, FL 33975

CITY COMMISSION:

Julie C. Wilkins., Mayor
Daniel Akin, Commissioner
Jackie Ratica, Commissioner
Bobbie Spratt, Commissioner
Hugo Vargas, Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION:

Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, Deputy City Clerk
Derek Rooney, Esq., City Attorney
Mitchell Wills, Superintendent PW

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkins at 5:31 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Vargas led the invocation, Commissioner Spratt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins

Commissioner Daniel Akin

Commissioner Jackie Ratica

Commissioner Bobbie Spratt

Commissioner Hugo Vargas

City Attorney Derek Rooney

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

4. Presentations

A. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Proclamation

City Commission presented the National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Proclamation to Lt. Allen.

5. Consent Agenda Items for Consideration

(Any commissioner or citizen may request to have an item removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for further discussion.)

A. Approval of December Check Register

B. Approval of Staff Reports:

-Building Department- Mark Lynch

-Planning and Zoning- Alexis Crespo

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve the Consent Agenda Items, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

6. Non-Public Hearing Items for Consideration

(Limited to 15 minutes per item: 3-5 minutes optional presentation time with the remaining time for discussion by the Commission)

A. Temporary Use & Special Event Application Swamp Cabbage Festival

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Swamp Cabbage Temporary Use & Special Events Application with beer, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

B. 725 West Hickpochee Avenue Tree Removal Permit

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve 725 West Hickpochee Avenue Tree Removal Permit, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

Mayor Wilkins requested the addition and discussion of the Southern Swamp Gala Temporary Use & Special Events Application.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Southern Swamp Gala Temporary Use & Special Events Application upon approval from the Recreation Board and receiving No Objection Letters, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed 4-1. Voting Yea: Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas
Voting Nay: Mayor Wilkins

7. **Public Hearings and/or Ordinances**

None.

8. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

A. Insurance Claim - John Glen Hallihan

John Glen Hallihan presented his reasons for filing his insurance case with the City of LaBelle. A discussion ensued. The City Commission table this agenda item until February 13, 2025 City Commission Meeting.

9. **City Related Business by Commissioners**

Commissioner Vargas wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Spratt wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Ratica announced that "Smoke Under the Oaks" will be held for the LDRC at Barron Park on January 18, 2025. Additionally, Tito Ortiz will be a special guest and will serve as a judge, alongside our Mayor. She advised that "Light Up LaBelle" was awesome.

Commissioner Akin thanked the Hendry County Sheriff's Office for their work on speeders and advised to keep up the good work. A discussion ensued.

Lilly Davenport and Superintendent Mitch Wills provided a brief overview of the current situation within Public Works and formally requested the emergency procurement of a bucket truck.

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve the Bucket Truck Emergency Purchase subject to the financing, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

Lilly Davenport informed the City Commission that the City of LaBelle is anticipated to receive the 2023 Audit Report either this evening or by tomorrow.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Akin. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk