

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024, 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 5:39 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Vargas led the invocation, Commissioner Ratica 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

Derek Rooney, City Attorney

Tijauna Warner, Deputy City Clerk

4. Additions of Emergency Basis from the Mayor, Deletions and Approval of Agenda Items

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to move Item 8A Ordinance 2023-12 to the first item on the agenda, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

- A. ORDINANCE 2023 - 12 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF LABELLE ZONING MAP FOR A 15.95+/-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF STATE ROAD 80, WEST OF E. FORT THOMPSON AVE; AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT SINGLE-FAMILY-LOW DENSITY (R1-A) TO THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney sworn in all speakers for the Ordinance 2023-12 Public Hearing.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2023-12 title into the record.

Mayor Wilkins opened the Public Hearing

John Wegner (resident), Penny Noel (resident), Dennis Johnson (resident), Christina Davidson (resident), Jonathon Myrtil (resident), Daniel Rodriguez (resident), Steve Coder (resident) advised they are not in-favor of Ordinance 2023-12.

Mayor Wilkins closed the Public Hearing

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to deny Ordinance 2023-12, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Vargas withdrew his motion, Commissioner Spratt withdrew her second.

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Ordinance 2023-12 with all amendments outlined by Planning Staff Alexis Crespo, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed 3-2. Voting Yea: Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas Voting Nay: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica

Mayor Wilkins called a 5 Minute Recess.

5. Presentations

A. LaBelle SAHFI Drinking Water Facility Plan, Resolution, & Task Order

Justin deMello presented the SAHFI Drinking Water Facility Plan, Resolution, & Task Order.

Public Hearing Opens

Public Hearing Closed

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Drinking Water Facility Plan, 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

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Resolution 2024-33, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Drinking Water Task Order, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

B. LaBelle SAHFI Clean Water Facility Plan, Resolution, & Task Order

Justin deMello presented the SAHFI Clean Water Facility Plan, Resolution, & Task Order.

Public Hearing Opens

Public Hearing Closed

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve the Clean Water Facility Plan, 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

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Resolution 2024-34, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Clean Water Task Order, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

C. LaBelle Stormwater Facility Plan & Resolution

Justin deMello presented the Stormwater Facility Plan, Resolution, & Task Order.

Public Hearing Opens

Public Hearing Closed

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Stormwater Facility Plans, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Resolution 2024-35, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Stormwater Task Order, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

6. 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 *Month* Check Register

B. Approval of *Month* Minutes:

October 24, 2024 LPA Meeting Minutes

- October 24, 2024 City Commission Meeting Minutes
- November 14, 2024 City Commission Meeting Minutes
- December 2, 2024 City Commission Final Budget Special Meeting

C. Approval of Staff Reports:

- HCSO-Lt. Allen Hudson
- Fire Department-Chief Brent Stevens
- Building Department-Mark Lynch
- Code Enforcement-Zane Mungillo
- Planning and Zoning-Alexis Crespo
- Finance-Lilly Davenport
- Public Works-Mitch Wills
- Woodard & Curran-Justin deMello
- Four Waters Engineering- Laura Constantino

- D. Donation to LaBelle Heritage Museum - Lilly Davenport
- E. Amendment No. 1 FDEP Grant LPA0179
- F. Amendment No. 2 FDEP Agreement LPQ0020
- G. Purchase of Animal Control Vehicle - Doug Morgan
- H. ARPA Funding Priorities
- I. Ajax Paving Agreement
- J. DEP Agreement No. WG041 Change Order No. 2

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Consent Agenda excluding Items G, I, and L moved to Item 7, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

7. 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. CPH Professional Engineering Services Proposal and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Contract

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve CPH Professional Engineering Services Proposal and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Contract once it's approved by the City Attorney, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. 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. RESOLUTION 2024-32 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SML, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Resolution 2024 - 32, 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

- C. RESOLUTION 2024-29 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR ON BEHALF OF AND AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE PER THE 2023-28 RESOLUTION, APPROVING THE SWAMP CABBAGE FESTIVAL AND SWAMP STOMP 5K TEMPORARY USE & SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPLICANTS TO SUBMIT A ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE'S ANNUAL EVENTS.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Resolution 2024-29, 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

Motion made by Mayor Wilkins to approve the Swamp Cabbage Temporary Use & Special Event Application without alcohol, Seconded by Commissioner Akin. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed 4-1.

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

Voting Nay: Commissioner Ratica

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve all Contracts associated with the ARPA Project, 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

- D. Direction of Review of South LaBelle Village Amendment

A discussion ensued in reference to having a planner for this specific project.

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

- A. Insurance Claim - John Glen Hallihan *(rescheduled to January)*

9. City Related Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Akin expressed concerns about the status of the Interlocal Agreement with the County and a discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ratica informed the commission that she met with FDOT, and they had a copy of the petition, and they were listening to the residents.

Commissioner Spratt wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Vargas advised he met with a consultant in reference to South LaBelle Village and that the Legislative Committee ended up with our top two priorities being affordable housing and impact fees with brief explanations. He thanked Woodard & Curran for being the tree sponsor for Light Up LaBelle, it was an excellent event.

Mayor Wilkins wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. 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 9:06 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk