

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 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 5:34 PM.

2. Invocation and 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. Additions of Emergency Basis From Mayor, Deletions and Approval of Agenda Items

5. Presentations

A. Life Saving Plaque to Fire Rescue

City of LaBelle City Commission presented Life Saving Plaques to the Fire Chief and six (6) Fire Fighters.

B. LaBelle Fire Department Rate Study

Ian Walmack (Senior Associate, Fitch & Associates) gave a brief overview of the LaBelle Fire Department Rate Study.

C. Audit Report - Daniel Anderson, Partner, of Mauldin & Jenkins

Daniel Anderson gave an update on the City of LaBelle's Financial Annual Audit Report.

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:

January 9, 2025 City Commission Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2025 City Commission Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2025 Local Planning Agency Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2024 City Commission Meeting Minutes

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. Race Trac Plat
- E. L0059 Grant Agreement LaBelle Helms Road SR 80 Looped Lines and Water Main Upgrades
- F. Renew Dockwa Contract
- G. Night On The Town Temporary Use & Special Event Application
- H. Charity Ride Temporary Use & Special Event Application
- I. City of LaBelle's 2024 Audit Engagement Letter, Examination Letter & Vendor Ledger

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Consent Agenda Items, 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. Swing into Spring Temporary Use & Special Events Application

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Swing into Spring Temporary Use & Special Events Application, 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 Commissioner Ratica to allow Mitch to oversee Temporary Use & Special Events Application for use of the Civic Center, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Called for the question. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Ratica withdrew her motion, Commissioner Spratt withdrew her second.

- B. Resolution 2025 - 02 Opposing FDOT Crosswalk

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Resolution 2025-02, Seconded by Commissioner Akin. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed 3-2.

Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt

Voting Nay: Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Vargas

8. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

A. Resolution 2025-01 J. Blocker Parking Variance

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Resolution 2025-01 with staff recommendation of two (2) conditions, 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. Fire Ladder Truck

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to authorize Chief Steven to purchase the Fire Ladder Truck contingent upon compliance with procurement policies and the state grant, 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 Spratt to approve Ajax Paving Contract with additional street not to exceed \$350,000, 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

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

None.

10. City Related Business by Commissioners

A. Commissioner Vargas - Review City of LaBelle's Handbook & Policies

B. Mayor Wilkins – February 22nd, 1922, the Supreme Court voted unanimously in Leser v. Garnett to confirm the 19th Amendment's constitutionality, securing women's right to vote for future generations
- County Impact Fees – Staff Recommendation

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to adjourn meeting, 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

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk