

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

City Commission Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop

Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 4:00 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 workshop was called to order by Mayor Wilkins at 4:12 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

City Attorney Derek Rooney

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

4. Non-Public Hearing Items for Consideration

A. City of LaBelle's Comprehensive Plan

Alexis Crespo provided an introductory overview of the comprehensive plan update, which is necessary to ensure our compliance with state law. The City of LaBelle is currently overdue for these updates, but we have been maintaining communication with the state through timely submissions, confirming that we are on track. However, recent changes mean that cities can no longer simply submit affidavits stating compliance; we must now provide proof that our comprehensive plan aligns with state law, which we have not yet done.

Patty Kulak provided an overview of the comprehensive plan update, emphasizing its broad scope, which includes everything from capital improvement projects to land use policies. Each section of the plan is designed to address specific goals, ensuring a well-rounded approach. The previous comprehensive plan was completed in 2010, and since then, significant changes have occurred, including state law updates requiring us to adopt necessary changes by the end of this year.

The primary objective is to preserve and enhance LaBelle's small-town character, a common sentiment shared by residents during commission meetings. This update aims to ensure consistency across the city's land development code, future land use code, and the comprehensive plan. Additionally, it will focus on improving the connections between various development impacts, such as traffic, wastewater, utilities, and schools.

The process begins with project initiation and background work, which we are starting today. Next month, we will present an updated plan with revised language. Ria Hunter is here to assist with this process and will help with the upcoming updates. In April, we will conduct an assessment report, followed by a community workshop on May 1, 2025, from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm to encourage resident involvement. This workshop is crucial for gathering feedback from

residents, local development groups, and community members through various channels, including social media. The input collected will help shape the final plan. A discussion ensued.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk