

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 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

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 via Teams

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

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

None.

5. Presentations

A. Water, Septic, and Infrastructure Project Update - Justin deMello

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 February Check Register

B. Approval of *Month* Minutes:

November 9, 2023 City Commission Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023 Local Planning Agency Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2023 City Commission Special Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop Minutes

February 13, 2025 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

D. Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation

- E. Grant Agreement L0061
- F. Vehicle Equipment Disposal Request

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign surplus vehicle titles, 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 Ratica to approve Consent Agenda Items, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the questions. 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. Termination of Fluoride in Water

The City Commission discussed terminating fluoride in the City's water and determine more information is required.

- B. Water and Wastewater Master Plans

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve the Sewer & Water Master 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

- C. Parks & Recreation Contribution

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve meeting the terms of the Interlocal Agreement subject to budgetary restraints, 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. Comprehensive Plan Flyer

- E. ITB 2025 - 01 Fully Equip Ladder Truck

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve moving forward ITB 2025-01, Mayor Wilkins signing the contract, and affirmed at the April Meeting, 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

Alexis Crespo advised she received a request to administratively amend the DAV Flea Market PUD and requested direction from the commission. A discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to not charge the DAV fee, 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

Mayor Julie requested directions from the commission in reference to food trucks. A discussion ensued. Alexis will work on this item and bring it back to the commission for discussion.

8. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

None.

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Scott Morrison Jr. requested to host a Haunted Walk in the parking lot of the Civic Center.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve allowing a Haunted Walk on City Property with clean-up by 2:00 pm on Saturday, 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

Jay Johnson provided information about United Veterans Home of Hendry & Glades County and asked the Commission for referrals. A discussion ensued.

Joe Logan, Sherry Yarbert, and Brandon Jeff inquired about the renovation of the Selma Daniels School. A discussion ensued.

Shelly Rollins Amherst on behalf of Swamp Cabbage thanked the Commission for participating in the parade and for making another Swamp Cabbage Festival a success.

Jeff Alexander, Director of Business Development for Abel gave a brief description of the company.

10. City Related Business by Commissioners

11. 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 8:03 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk