

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:30 PM

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 5:45 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

Derek Rooney, City Attorney

Tijauna Warner, Deputy City Clerk

4. Presentations

- A. Project 447878-1 / SR 80 from North of Captain Hendry Drive to West of Forrey Drive - David Agacinski (Project Manager IV), Florida Department of Transportation, District One Southwest Area Office (SWAO)

David Agacinski gave a brief discussion of Project 447878-1/SR.

Adeline Contrena (resident) commented on Project 447878-1 / SR 80.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt, to approve removing and relocating the crosswalk, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

- B. National Diaper Need Awareness Week Proclamation

Mayor Wilkins presented the National Diaper Need Awareness Week Proclamation to Amanda Brunson, Community Engagement Director of Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.

- C. Honoring Mayor Julie C. Wilkins SWFLC President - Commissioner Jackie Ratica

Commissioner Ratica presented a SWFLC plaque to Mayor Wilkins in recognition of her dedicated service.

Alexis Crespo informed the commission that a notice regarding Old Grove PUD is forthcoming, and she aim to expedite the PUD to present it to the commission next month. She requested consideration of waiving the application fee for the school district. Given their timeline, she proposed conducting the first and second readings in November, with the Local Planning Agency (LPA) meeting scheduled for October.

5. Consent Agenda Items for Consideration

A. Approval of August Check Register

B. Approval of *Month* Minutes:

- August 1, 2024 Budget Workshop Minutes
- August 8, 2024 Budget Workshop Minutes
- August 8, 2024 City Commission Meeting Minutes
- August 15, 2024 Budget Workshop Minutes
- August 22, 2024 Budget Workshop Minutes

C. Approval of Staff Reports:

- HCSO-Lieutenant Allen K. Hudson
- Fire Department-Brent Stevens
- Building Department-Mark Lynch
- Code Enforcement-Zane Mungillo
- Planning and Zoning-Alexis Crespo
- Finance-Lilly Davenport
- Public Works-Mitch Wills
- Woodard & Curran-Glenn Burden
- Four Waters Engineering-

D. Bad Debt Write-Off - Utility Billing - April Aguilar

E. PRM 2024-2025 Renewal Proposal - Human Resource - Lisa Awbrey

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Consent Agenda Items without Item 5D (Bad Debt Write-Off), Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

Motion made by Commissioner Akin to approve Bad Debt Write-Off, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

6. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

- A. ORDINANCE 2024 - 08 (first reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN OFFICIAL VILLAGE SEAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION OF USE; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2024-08 title into the record and gave a brief explanation.

Commission consented to move Ordinance 2024-08 forward to second reading.

- B. ORDINANCE 2024 - 09 (*first reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; RELATING TO SCHOOL ZONE ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF LABELLE; AMENDING THE CITY OF LABELLE CODE, CHAPTER 12, CREATING A NEW ARTICLE IV, SCHOOL ZONES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2024-09 title into the record and gave a brief explanation.

Commission consented to move Ordinance 2024-09 forward to second reading.

- C. Rate Increases 80% Sewer and 50% Water

Item will be discussed at the October 10, 2024 City Commission Meeting.

Recess started 7: 32 PM

Recess ended 7:38 PM

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. County Water Rate and Billing

Commission consented to the County Water Rate Billing.

- B. RFQ 2024 - 03 Architectural Services LaBelle Fire Department

Commission consented to RFQ 2024 - 03 Architectural Services LaBelle Fire Department being solicitation October 1, 2024 until November 1, 2024.

- C. Utility Billing Service Application

Item will be discussed at the October 10, 2024 City Commission Meeting.

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Nikki Yeager comment on Beck Apartments-Belle Arbor.

9. City Related Business by Commissioners

- A. Commissioner Jackie Ratica - Live Streaming City Commission Meetings

Commissioner Daniel Akins

Commissioner Bobbi Spratt

Commissioner Hugo Vargas

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins

Commissioner Ratica proposed live streaming the City Commission Meeting, which initiated a discussion regarding the necessary requirements. She also requested that Department Heads complete evaluations for their employees and informed the commission about an upcoming grant webinar. Furthermore, she suggested that the city establish an internship program for specific positions and conduct a paygrade study.

Commissioner Akin suggested decreasing the speed limit within the City of LaBelle on Highway 80.

Commissioner Spratt emphasized the need for the City to address the issue of H2A housing located in residential areas and expressed concerns with the garbage pick-up schedule.

Commissioner Vargas provided an update on several matters, including his discussions with FDOT regarding safety concerns related to crosswalks. He also reported on the veterans' ceremony he attended in September at Veterans Park and shared updates on Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, he informed the commission that he has reached out to legislators regarding issues related to H2A housing.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve adjourning the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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 8:48 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk