

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

City Commission Workshop

Friday, September 27, 2024, at 4:00 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 4:09 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Vargas led the invocation, Commissioner Spratt 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 via Teams

City Attorney Derek Rooney via Teams

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Commissioner Vargas attending the meeting via Teams, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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

4. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

A. Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Lilly Davernport presented the proposed budget, incorporating any final changes that may be discussed today. She explained the current column reflects the items previously discussed, approved, and proposed, serving as the final working copy. Any modifications made during today's meeting will be recorded in the green column. Also, she referenced prior discussion items to facilitate our review of previously considered options. While completing some forms, she noted that our allowable discount for ad valorem taxes is capped at 5%. Since our current discount rate exceeds this limit, Lilly proposed an increase in ad valorem collections by 13.5 to ensure compliance with state regulations. This adjustment does not alter our expectations for the total amount collected.

Lilly clarified, increasing our collections aligns with state law, which permits a maximum discount of 5%, implying that we aim to collect 95% of the total assessment. Furthermore, upon reviewing our discount rates for special districts—such as lease, fire, recreation, and street—I found that our current rate is significantly lower at 1%. To maintain a conservative approach, she recommended reallocating this revenue from the special districts to the ad valorem tax, ensuring that the budget remains neutral. A discussion ensued in reference to the proposed final budget and millage rate.

B. Marijuana Ordinance

5. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to adjourn the workshop, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Julie 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 workshop at 5:15 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk