

# CITY OF LABELLE



## MINUTES

### **City Commission Meeting**

Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 5:30 PM

LaBelle Commission Chambers  
481 West Hickpochee Avenue  
LaBelle, Florida 33935

### **CITY COMMISSION:**

Julie C. Wilkins., Mayor  
Dainel 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

### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkins at 5:34 PM.

### B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Vargas led the invocation, Commissioner Ratica led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins  
Commissioner Dainel Akin  
Commissioner Jackie Ratica  
Commissioner Bobbie Spratt  
Commissioner Hugo Vargas  
Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner  
City Attorney Derek Rooney

#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Fence Ordinance LDC Ordinance 2024- 05 (second reading)

Attorney Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2025 – 05 title into the record.

*Public Hearing Opened 5:44 p.m.*

One (1) resident had a concern.

*Public Hearing Closed 5:45 p.m.*

**Motion moved by Commissioner Vargas to approve Ordinance 2024-05, Motion seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed (4-1).**

**Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas**

**Voting Nay: Commissioner Akin**

- b. Resolution 2024 – 12 Fordson Church Variance

Attorney Derek Rooney read Resolution 2024 – 12 title into the record.

*Public Hearing Opened 5:47 p.m.*

*Public Hearing Closed 5:47 p.m.*

**Motion moved by Commissioner Spratt to approve Resolution 2024 - 12, Motion seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins**

- c. Resolution 2024 – 14 FDEP SRF Drinking Water Facility Plan (*Item Pulled*)
- d. Resolution 2024 – 15 FDEP SRF Clean Water Facility Plan (*Item Pulled*)
- e. Consider Utilities Rate Increase

*Public Hearing Opened 6:54 p.m.*

*Public Hearing Closed 6:54 p.m.*

**Motion moved by Commissioner Ratica to approve a Rate Increase of 50% Water and 80% Waste Water, Motion seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed (3-2).**

**Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Vargas**  
**Voting Nays: Commissioner Akin, Commissioner Spratt**

## **2. NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Nikki Yeager expressed concerns about Belle Arbor Beck Apartments.

## **4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- b. Approval of July Check Register
- c. Approval of Minutes
  - July 11, 2024 City Commission Workshop
  - July 11, 2024 City Commission Budget Workshop
  - July 11, 2024 City Commission Meeting
  - July 17, 2024 City Commission Budget Workshop
  - July 25, 2024 City Commission Budget Workshop
  - July 29, 2024 City Commission Special Meeting
- d. Approval of Staff Reports:
  - HCSO – Lt. Allen K. Hudson
  - Fire Department – Chief Brent Stevens
  - Building Department – Mark Lynch
  - Code Enforcement – Zane Mungillo
  - Planning and Zoning – Alexis Crespo
  - Finance – Lilly Davenport
  - Woodard & Curran
  - Four Waters Engineering – Laura Constantino

**Motion moved by Commissioner Spratt to approve Consent Agenda Items pulling items a Resolution 2024 – 13 and d Public Works – Mitchell Wills from consent agenda, Motion second by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt,**  
**Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins**

- a. Resolution 2024 – 13 Business Officers TCM Bank

Motion moved by Commissioner Ratica to approve Resolution 2024 - 13, Motion seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

Public Works – Mitchell Wills

Motion moved by Commissioner Ratica to approve adding Stop Signs to Clark Street, Motion seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

Motion moved by Commissioner Akin to approve Purchasing Three (3) Trucks and financing them at the best rate available, Motion seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

Motion moved by Commissioner Spratt to approve Public Works Report with no additional actions, Motion seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

e. CITY RELATED BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

- a. Commissioner Spratt – Kid Jones Park Improvement Plans

Motion moved by Commissioner Spratt to approve Copying the County's Exemption Ordinance, Motion seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

Motion moved by Commissioner Ratica to approve Derek Rooney to get 14 Oak Trees plus 7, Motion seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins

- b. Commissioner Akins
- c. Commissioner Ratica
- d. Commissioner Vargas
- e. Mayor Wilkins

Motion moved by Commissioner Ratica to adjourn the meeting, Motion seconded by

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**Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**  
**Voting Yeas: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Akins**

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the workshop at 8:08 PM.

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Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

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ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk