

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 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 5:31 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 Jackie Ratica
Commissioner Bobbie Spratt
Commissioner Hugo Vargas
City Attorney Derek Rooney
Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

ABSENT

Commissioner Daniel Akin

4. Presentations

- A. Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization - Marybeth Soderstrom, Staff Services Director

Mary Soderstrom gave a brief presentation about Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization history, mission, goals, and responsibilities.

- B. Woodard & Curran Year 3 O&M Budget Surplus - Glenn Burden (Area Manager/Senior Principal)

Glenn Burden presented the City of LaBelle with a check for \$67,846 after budget reconciliation.

5. 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 October Check Register
- B. 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 Crepos
- Finance- Lilly Davenport
- Public Works- Mitch Wills
- Woodard & Curran- Justin DeMello
- Four Waters Engineering- Laura Constantino

C. RFQ 2024-03 Recommendation of Award Letter

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Consent Agenda Items removing Item 5D. City of LaBelle Closure New Years, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

6. 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. City of LaBelle Office Closure New Years

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve half day on December 23rd, 24th & 25th off, half day 31st & off on January 1, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

B. Streamline LLC & BOCC (110 Broward Avenue) Tree Removal Permit Application

Mayor Wilkins recessed the commission meeting at 7:14 PM.

Mayor Wilkins called the commission meeting back to order at 7:20 PM.

Dessie Thomas advised she is not in-favor of the tower due to a study stating it may cause cancer.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Tree Trimming in the effort to save the tree, if the tree dies the company will replace the tree per city code, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

C. LaBelle Heritage Museum Donation Request

Sue Moss gave a brief description of the LaBelle Heritage Museum and asked for donations to pay everyday expenses of \$6,500. A discussion ensued.

D. Request to Purchase UTV - Chief Brent Stevens

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve the Request to Purchase UTV at the lowest quote, Seconded by Mayor Wilkins. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

E. Road Closure for MLK Parade

Dessie Thomas gave a brief description of the upcoming MLK Parade and requested approval for road closure from the commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Road Closure for the MLK Parade, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

F. LaBelle Fire Department Pension Board Member Appointment

Chief Brent Stevens requested the commission approve the appointment of Kendall Owens to the LaBelle Fire Department Pension Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve the appointment of Kendall Owens to the LaBelle Fire Department Pension Board, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

7. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

- A. ORDINANCE 2024 - 07 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CITY OF LABELLE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE IV, SECTON 4.71; AMENDING REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2024 - 07 title into the record.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:50 PM

Public Hearing Closed at 7:51 PM

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Ordinance 2024-07 Downtown Business District Architectural Guidelines, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

- B. ORDINANCE 2024-10 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-03 FOR THE OLD GROVE PLANNED UNIT

DEVELOPMENT (AKA OAKBROOKE LAKE) LOCATED NORTH OF HELMS ROAD, SOUTH OF COWBOY WAY, AND ¾ MILES WEST OF STATE ROAD 29, CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CONDITIONS AND SCHEDULE OF USES; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2024 - 10 title into the record.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:51 PM

Public Hearing Closed at 7:52 PM

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Ordinance 2024-10 Old Groves PUD amendment with the following conditions as outlined in the staff report, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- C. ORDINANCE 2024-11 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-06 FOR THE WHEELER GROVE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT; A 56+/-6 ACRE PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. AND SOUTH OF STATE ROAD 80, CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE ZONING CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2024 - 11 title into the record.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:54 PM

Public Hearing Closed at 7:55 PM

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Ordinance 2024-11 Wheeler Grove PUD Amendment with the following conditions as outlined in the staff report and amended as follows: ten (10) year extension, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Ramiro Rodriguez requested the City Commission Meeting to be live-streamed. A discussion ensued.

9. City Related Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Vargas provided a brief update on the events that have occurred since the last commission meeting. He shared that he had been nominated to serve on a board and informed the group that the Administrative Policy Committee had discussed adding the H2A Housing issue to their agenda for presentation to relevant representatives.

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Commissioner Ratica informed the group that Rotary has expressed interest in collaborating with the Recreation Board on various projects.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Motion passed unanimously.

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

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk