

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 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

Mayor Wilkins led the invocation, Commissioner Vargas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

5. Presentations

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 March Check Register

B. Approval of March Minutes:

March 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

-Public Works - Mitchell Wills

D. National Donate Life Month Proclamation

E. FRS Health Insurance Subsidy - Lisa Awbrey, HR Director

F. Centennial Events Approval

G. Fitch & Associates Proposal

H. Axis Infrastructure, LLC Piggyback Agreement (South LaBelle Village)

I. Tetra Tech Proposal for Design of the SR 80 Potable Water Main Loop

J. Tetra Tech Proposal Helms Road Water Main

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Consent Agenda Items with the removal of Item C (Code Enforcement Report) and Item H (Wheeler Agreement Extension), Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued.

Motion amended by Commissioner Spratt to approved Consent Agenda Items with the removal of Item C (Hendry County Sheriff Office Report & Code Enforcement Report)

and Item H (Wheeler Agreement Extension), Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Code Enforcement Officer Zane Mungillo and City Attorney Derek Rooney provided an update on the City of LaBelle's ongoing efforts to address issues related to H2A Housing in residential neighborhoods.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Code Enforcement Report, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Pat Bedingfield expressed concerns with migrant workers living in single-family zone neighborhoods. A discussion ensued.

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. Wheeler Agreement Extension

Derek Rooney gave background information on Wheeler Agreement Extension and the easement. A discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Wheeler Agreement Extension with the \$65,000 settlement, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve Hendry County Sheriff Office Report, 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. City Dock Recommendations

C. Tortilla Plant Tree Removal Permit Application

D. Rate to Charge Port LaBelle Utility

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approved Option 2: Outside City Rate (\$8.70/1000 gallons), Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Belinda Herrera expressed concerns with not being able to put up a fence in the front yard because of the neighbor's aggressive dog. A discussion ensued.

10. City Related Business by Commissioners

Motion made by Mayor Wilkins to approve appointing Commissioner Ratica as Deputy Vice Mayor, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Mayor Wilkins to approve appointing Commissioner Ratica to the Recreation Board, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. 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 7:27 PM.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk