

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 5:30 PM

LaBelle Commission Chambers
481 West Hickpochee Ave
LaBelle, FL 33975

CITY COMMISSION:

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor
Jackie Ratica, Vice Mayor
Kevin Holland, Commissioner
Bobbie Spratt, Commissioner
Hugo Vargas, Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION:

Tijauna Warner, MPA, 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 5:30 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation by Commissioner Vargas and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Commissioner Spratt.

3. Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins

Vice Mayor Jackie Ratica

Commissioner Bobbie Spratt

Commissioner Hugo Vargas

Commissioner Kevin Holland

City Attorney Derek Rooney

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

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

Motion made by Vice Mayor Ratica to approve pulling Resolution 2026-10 from the agenda and add Tree Removal to Non-Public Hearing Items for Consideration, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Vice Mayor Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Holland

5. Presentations

A. Bird Election - David E. Nicholson II, Art Teacher Country Oaks Elementary

David E. Nicholson and students presented their selected birds for consideration in the election process to represent the City of LaBelle.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve the Cow Bird as the official bird of the City of LaBelle, Seconded by Vice Mayor Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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 April Check Register

B. Approval of Minutes:

- March 12, 2026 LRDC Workshop Minutes
- March 12, 2026 LPA Meeting Minutes
- March 12, 2026 City Commission Meeting Minutes
- April 9, 2026 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
- Woodard & Curran- Justin deMello

D. Two (2) Vehicle Disposition of Property Report (Auction)

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Consent Agenda Items pulling ITB 2026-01 LaBelle Fire Department - Hardening and Addition Award Recommendation, Seconded by Commissioner Holland. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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. ITB 2026-01 LaBelle Fire Department - Hardening and Addition Award Recommendation

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve ITB 2026-01 LaBelle Fire Department - Hardening and Addition Award Recommendation, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

B. John Paul Land Transfer

(Awaiting documents)

C. LDRC Increase Funding Request

(Item moved to July 9, 2026)

D. RESOLUTION 2026-11 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMMUNITY ARTISTIC FEATURE (CAF) TO BE LOCATED WITHIN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHT-OF-WAY BENEATH THE BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE ON DESOTO AVENUE; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR AS THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE CAF AGREEMENT WITH FDOT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Resolution 2026-11, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

E. LaBelle Museum Funds Request

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to pay the LaBelle Museum FPL Bill over the summer, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

F. Enterprise Fleet Management Proposal

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Enterprise Fleet Management Proposal, Seconded by Commissioner Holland. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

G. Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps)

Comments by the following: Careline Bross(*in-favor*) and Steve Coder(*in-favor*)

Motion made by Vice Mayor Ratica to approve adding two (2) sets of speed humps, Seconded by Commissioner Spratt. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

- A. ORDINANCE 2025-09 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-04 FOR A PROPERTY KNOWN AS KMJ INVESTMENTS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, A 2+/--ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF STATE ROAD 80, APPROXIMATELY ¼ MILE EAST OF HUGGETTS ROAD INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2025-09 title into the record.

Patty Kulak gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 2025-09.

Public Hearing Opened

No comments.

Public Hearing Closed

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve Ordinance 2026-09, Seconded by Vice Mayor Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- B. ORDINANCE 2026-07 (*second reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE V, SECTION 4-82 OF THE CITY OF LABELLE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AMENDING USES REQUIRING SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPROVAL IN THE STATE ROAD 80 OVERLAY DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2026-07 title into the record.

Patty Kulak gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 2026-07.

Public Hearing Opened

No comments.

Public Hearing Closed

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Ordinance 2026-07, Seconded by Commissioner Holland. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- C. ORDINANCE 2026-05 (*first reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, ANNEXING A 74+/-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF W SR 80 ROAD AND NORTH OF HELMS ROAD, INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANNEXATION PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 171, PART II, FLORIDA STATUTES; REDEFINING THE BOUNDARY LINES OF SAID CITY IN CONFORMANCE THEREWITH; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL BOUNDARY MAP OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT EXISTING FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS REMAIN UNTIL CHANGED BY THE CITY ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2026-05 title into the record.

Patty Kulak gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 2026-05.

Public Hearing Opened

Comments by the following: Mitch Hutchorage(*in-favor*)

Public Hearing Closed

City Commission gave consent to move Ordinance 2026-05 forward to the second reading.

- D. ORDINANCE 2026-06 (*first reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A SMALL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FOR A 84.04+/-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF W SR 80 ROAD AND NORTH OF HELMS ROAD; AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION FOR THE PROPERTY FROM UNINCORPORATED HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN "MULTI-USE" DESIGNATION TO THE CITY OF LABELLE "OUTLYING MIXED USE" DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2026-06 title into the record.

Patty Kulak gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 2026-06.

Public Hearing Opened

Comments by the following: Mitch Hutchorage(*in-favor*)

Public Hearing Closed

City Commission consent with moving Ordinance 2026-06 forward to second reading.

Mitchell Wills gave a brief explanation of the walk-on tree removal bids request for Barron Park.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Hunter Tree Service for tree removal, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Julie called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

James Delrymple advised the commission of a noise complaint with his neighbor's semi-truck. A discussion ensued.

Mathew Howard proposed equal space sharing for Children's Theater Program and Fire House Theater.

10. City Related Business by Commissioners

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Vice Mayor Ratica to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Julie called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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



There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.


Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, MPA, MMC, City Clerk