

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

City Commission Budget Workshop & Special Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM

LaBelle Commission Chambers
481 West Hickpochee Ave
LaBelle, FL 33975

CITY COMMISSION:

Julie C. Wilkins., Mayor
Kevin Holland, Commissioner
Jackie Ratica, Vice Mayor
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 3:03PM.

2. 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

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

4. Presentations

A. FY2025-2026

Lilly Davenport provided a brief overview of the City of LaBelle's proposed budget. A 5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was suggested for all employees this year. The city experienced a 2.5% increase in healthcare costs and an overall rise in retirement expenses, although rates decreased for legislative officials and senior executives. Workers' compensation costs are budgeted with an average projected increase of 18%, though final numbers are pending. All general fund attorney fees have been consolidated under the Commission budget to streamline allocation; however, utility departments will continue to manage their own legal expenses. She provided a proposed millage rate of 5.1414, with a rollback rate of 4.8137. A discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to approve Resolution 2025-09 setting the proposed millage rate of 5.1414 and roll-back rate of 4.8137, 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

5. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn the budget workshop & special meeting. 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.

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There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 5:24 PM.


Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor


ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, MPA, MMC, City Clerk