

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

City Commission Budget Workshop

Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 3:00 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 workshop was called to order by Mayor Wilkins at 3:03 PM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins
Vice Mayor Jackie Ratica
Commissioner Bobbie Spratt
Commissioner Hugo Vargas
Commissioner Kevin Holland
Acting City Attorney Nathan Cochran
Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. New Business

A. FY2026-2027 Budget

Lilly Davenport presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. The presentation included an overview of projected revenues and expenditures, followed by a departmental review. Revenues and expenditures are both projected to increase by 4.2%, with property tax revenues increasing based on maintaining the current 5.0 millage rate. The consultant also discussed personnel costs, capital improvements, contingency reserves, and the City's ongoing goal of increasing operating reserves.

The Commission reviewed departmental budgets, including the Commission, Executive, Finance, General Government Services, Law Enforcement, Fire, Building and Code Enforcement, Streets and Maintenance, Animal Control, Recreation, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and City Donations. Discussions included staffing adjustments, professional services, capital projects, vehicle replacements, reserve funding, and departmental operational needs. The Commission also discussed City Hall improvement costs, future rate studies, the use of General Government Services for shared expenses, fire service funding, building and planning services, street paving, animal control operations, recreation improvements, Civic Center projects, the Barron Park pavilion, CDBG program progress, and proposed community donations. Commissioners provided comments regarding employee compensation, travel and conference expenses, reserve levels, and the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility while planning for future needs. No formal action was taken, as the workshop was held for budget review and discussion.

5. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Spratt to adjourn the workshop, 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

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilkins adjourned the workshop at 5:18 PM.




Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, MPA, MMC, City Clerk