

CITY OF LABELLE



MINUTES

Regular Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 08, 2025, at 5:30 PM

LaBelle Commission Chambers
481 West Hickpochee Ave
LaBelle, FL 33975

CITY COMMISSION:

Julie C. Wilkins., Mayor
Kevin Holland, 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 5:30 PM.

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to allow Commissioner Spratt to attend the meeting via phone, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question.

Motion passed (3-0).

Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Vargas

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Julie C. Wilkins
Commissioner Jackie Ratica
Commissioner Bobbie Spratt via phone
Commissioner Hugo Vargas
City Attorney Derek Rooney

ABSENT

Deputy City Clerk Tijauna Warner

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

A. Approval of Appointing Kevin Holland as Tax Assessor Commissioner

Motion made by Mayor Wilkins to approve the appointment of Kevin Holland as Tax Assessor Commissioner, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

B. Swearing-In Ceremony - Newly Appointed Tax Assessor Commissioner Kevin Holland

5. Presentations

A. Supporting Mobility in LaBelle - Western Transportation Institute (WTI)

Natalie Villwock-Witte and David Kack gave a brief overview of roadway mobility in LaBelle.

B. Margaret England Certificate of Recognition

Moved to June 12, 2025, City Commission Meeting Agenda.

C. Mary Bartoshuk Certificate of Recognition

Moved to June 12, 2025, City Commission Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Wilkins called Shandeya Thomas (Vice Secretary, Ford and Sunset) to the podium to request changing the name of Collier Street to Nora's Lane.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve moving forward with the name change of Collier Avenue to Nora's Lane, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.
Voting Yea: Mayor Wilkins, Commissioner Holland, Commissioner Ratica, Commissioner Spratt, Commissioner Vargas

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 April Minutes:

April 10, 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

D. CAP Piggyback Agreement

E. Approval to Close Inactive Bank Accounts

F. Wheeler Grove Settlement Agreement

G. Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation

H. Ten-8 Fire Safety Ladder Truck Proposal

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve the Consent Agenda removing Item H Ten-8 Fire Safety Ladder Truck Proposal, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve the Ten-8 Fire Safety Ladder Truck Proposal, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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. Tortilla Plant Tree Removal Permit Application - Patty Kulak

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve the proposed tree removal permit, subject to the replanting of twenty-five (25) Live Oak trees on-site, each meeting the minimum size specifications outlined in the Land Development Code, Seconded by

Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Patty Kulak requested a letter or document approving staff to continue with the process of adding a mural under the bridge.

Motion made by Commissioner Ratica to approve staff to proceed with a mural and authorizing the Mayor to send a letter to FDOT, Seconded by Commissioner Vargas. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

B. Termination of Fluoride in Water

Motion made by Commissioner Vargas to approve removing fluoride from the city water, Seconded by Commissioner Ratica. Mayor Wilkins called for the question. A discussion ensued. Motion passed 4-1.

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

Voting Nay: Commissioner Spratt

C. Audit Status Update - Lilly Davenport (Finance Director)

Lilly Davenport gave a brief update on the audit status.

D. FY2026 Budget Preparations - Lilly Davenport (Finance Director)

Lilly Davenport gave a brief update on preparing for FY2025-2026 Budget.

E. Hendry County Impact Fee Interlocal Agreement

Derek Rooney reviewed the Hendry County Impact Fee Interlocal Agreement with the commission. A discussion ensued.

8. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances

A. ORDINANCE 2025-1(*first reading*) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY YEAR-ROUND LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION MEASURES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Derek Rooney read Ordinance 2025 - 01 title into the record.

Public Hearing comments provided by the following: Jimmy Orlinski

The City Commission gave consent to move forward with second reading.

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

(Limited to 3 minutes per person)

10. City Related Business by Commissioners


11. Adjournment

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


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

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



Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor



ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, BAS, MMC, City Clerk

