

CITY OF LABELLE
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of LaBelle met in Regular Session on Thursday, May 12, 2011. Mayor Puletti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Lyons led the opening prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance. A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Bone made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing:

- 1.) April 2011 vouchers and paid bills
- 2.) Minutes from the April 14, 2011 Regular Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerly seconded the Motion. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND CITIZENS CONCERNS
contained the following:

Mr. Joe Thomas addressed the Board representing the LaBelle Heritage Museum. He discussed the museums plans to move the building at 150 S. Lee Street to the newly acquired property at 360 N. Bridge Street. He asked the Board to consider an appropriate placement somewhere near the City Wharf, for the rotary steam engine designed and built by Edward C. Warren that once was used on the McBeth Yacht. A plaque would describe the engines significance and direct the public to the nearby museum for further information. There was discussion on the matter. Mr. Thomas asked that the engine have some sort of covering to protect it from the elements and that the original colors be maintained. The Board agreed to work toward those arrangements.

Old Business

Amendment 1 to the State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement was explained by Finance Director, Ron Zimmerly. **Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve Amendment1. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

New Business

The Interlocal Agreement regarding Occupational Licensing was discussed by Finance Director, Ron Zimmerly. The County would retain 20% of the collected fees for providing the service. That percentage could be reduced in the future. Mr. Zimmerly recommended that the Board go forward with this agreement for a 1 year trial period. **Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement contingent on the agreed upon verbiage being included. Commissioner Zimmerly seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Kevin Coop with the Division of Forestry, and a LaBelle resident, addressed the Board as an *Agenda Addition*. He advised that he would like to see the City of LaBelle become a Tree City, U.S.A. and he spoke about what that designation would mean. There was a brief discussion on the matter. It was decided that Mr. Coop would provide the Board with some written information for their review and would return for the June meeting for more discussion.

Under Staff Reports:

Fire Chief, Ray Pittman, reported that calls were up recently. The Fire Department is working with a full roster and has been providing mutual aid to Glades County. They have also been put on standby for Lee County several times in the past few weeks. Training has been going very well with all but the 2 newest firefighters obtaining Firefighter I Certifications.

Chief Pittman advised the Board that he had been approached by board members from Hardee County and asked if they could come to LaBelle to observe and learn how our local fire department operates. They consider our fire department to be one of the best volunteer departments in the state. Commissioner Zimmerly thanked Chief Pittman for all the department did when she had a fire at her house last month.

Chief Pittman reported that a recent rash of blow outs on the military trucks provided to the department, in part, by the Forestry Division, has caused the units to be grounded while new tires can be purchased and installed. There was further discussion on the cost associated with providing mutual aid, particularly when it comes to Glades County. Mayor Puletti advised that the City should bill Glades County for those calls. There was some additional discussion. Commissioner Lyons asked that Staff determine the cost for providing mutual aid to Glades County and report their findings at the next meeting.

H.S.C.O. – Lt. Bryant was not present.

City Engineer – AIM Engineering – David Whidden had no report.

City Engineer – ATM Engineering – Tim Taylor reported on the adjustments being made to the existing water treatment plant to help prevent iron from collecting on the membranes which results in more frequent cleaning.

On the new water treatment plant, he reported that all of the documents had been submitted to R.U. S. for review. There was a brief discussion on the permitting and bidding processes.

As for the wastewater plant, Mr. Taylor reported that headwater issues were still being addressed. Superintendent Boyle discussed it briefly.

City Attorney – Jimmy Luckey advised the Board that recent legislation adopted by the State, was waiting to be signed by the Governor. City Planner, Shellie Johnson, reviewed for the Board, some of the most significant changes that would affect the City.

She also discussed the pending South LaBelle Village D.R.I. She told the Board that the final Public Hearing was scheduled for the August 11th meeting. However, the Project Manager, Mr. Dan DeLisi, would not be available that night. She asked the Board to consider holding a special meeting or to change the date of the regular meeting. It was decided the matter would be reviewed.

Mayor Puletti asked about the status of the new trash containers and was advised by Superintendent Boyle that they had been ordered.

Mayor Puletti asked the Board to consider amending the City ordinance regarding yard sales to exclude non-profit organizations. He asked Attorney Luckey to work on preparing something that would allow non-profits to just come in and get a permit for a yard sale.

Superintendent of Public Works – Michael Boyle – reminded the Board of the \$100,00 grant awarded to the City, for the alternative water source, by Water Management District. He advised that the process was taking longer than anticipated and could not be completed by the June deadline. He asked the Board to allow the contract to be cancelled to prevent being in violation of the agreement. Hopefully the funding will be there again next year and the City can reapply at that time. **Commissioner Bone made a motion to cancel the contract. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Superintendent Boyle advised the Board that he had asked Attorney Luckey to prepare an ordinance stating the franchise agreement the City has with Waste Services, Inc. and addressing the matter of construction debris.

City Planner – Shellie Johnson – had no additional report.

City Finance Director – Ron Zimmerly – had no report.

Under Correspondence Requesting Action, was a registration form and information on the 2011 Institute for Elected Municipal Officials. Mayor Puletti suggested it might be a good opportunity for new Commissioners if anyone would be interested.

Not Requesting Action, was South Florida Water Management Districts Regional News.

Under Business By Commissioners Commissioner Bone asked if any action had been taken on the issue of the abandoned houses in Sunset Park. Superintendent Boyle advised that the appropriate steps were being taken and the matter was moving forward.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Paul K. Puletti, Mayor-Commissioner

Attest:

David A. Lyons, Clerk-Commissioner