

July 11, 2019

CITY OF LABELLE
BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING

The City Commission of the City of LaBelle met in a Budget Workshop/Special Meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at City Hall to consider the proposed 2019/2020 budget for the City of LaBelle. Mayor Lyons called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

1. The first item on the agenda was the USDA Civic Center project. Finance Director, Ron Zimmerly gave the Board a brief update on the project. It included a list of things still to be done at the City's expense including refinishing the stage and the installation of some chain link fence to surround the air conditioning units that would protect them from being vandalized. The Board agreed the fencing should be done. Mr. Zimmerly also suggested that replacing all of the flooring should be budgeted in for next year.
2. Jobs Growth Grant application was next. Mr. Zimmerly told the Board that he had been in touch with Tallahassee and will be revising the application to make it more competitive. He told the Board that Private Capitalization could be strengthened.
3. The next item was the Budget Update. Under that category was the information provided by the Property Appraiser's Office. Mr. Zimmerly discussed that information. He then directed the Board's attention to the final Audit and pointed out several portions of it for their information. His final item on that issue was to recommend a 2% increase on water rates and a 5% increase on sewer rates. He also discussed the possibility of expanding the sewer system starting with zones (A) and (J) of the sewer expansion or septic to sewer conversion project.

An update on the health insurance was discussed next. Mr. Zimmerly told the Board that the overall increase was 6.7% and was a reasonable number, and that the cost for dental insurance was actually going down. He asked the Board to consider keeping the current plans. **Commissioner Zimmerly made a motion to keep the current medical and dental plan. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

The next item was property insurance. Mr. Zimmerly told the Board that the premiums for property insurance was going to be increased somewhere between 10 and 11% but, because of the hurricane and all of the damage incurred by it, he felt it was an equitable increase. **Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to accept the increase but, would look at possible coverage with Florida League of Cities for next year. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Next were the Special Assessments. Mr. Zimmerly told the Board that he was recommending a 5% increase for the Hendry County Sheriff's Department. Resolution No. 2019-11 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF

LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING UNIFORM RATES FOR PROVIDING POLICE PROTECTION PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-11. Commissioner Wilkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Zimmerly then introduced Resolution No. 2019-10 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING UNIFORM RATES FOR PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-10. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Zimmerly spoke briefly about purchasing another truck for Animal Control and then introduced Resolution No. 2019-13 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING UNIFORM RATES FOR PROVIDING STREETLIGHTING; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-13. Commissioner Zimmerly seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Zimmerly then introduced Resolution No. 2019-12 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING UNIFORM RATES FOR PROVIDING RECREATION FACILITIES, PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-12. Commissioner Wilkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

He brought the board's attention to some of the expense and revenue totals telling them that he didn't have all of the revenue information in yet. He asked them to take the Budget books home and review them and if they had any questions to call him or come in and he would be glad to answer any questions they had. He told them that the suggested increases in the water rates and sewer rates were reflected in the current budget.

There was some discussion on replacing some equipment and maintaining City owned buildings. Commissioner Wilkins asked about a storage container for files being stored in one of the two building on Park Avenue. That was discussed briefly.

The final item was concerning the bus. Mr. Zimmerly told the Board that it wasn't being used enough to justify keeping and that they could see what the Rec. Board wanted to do with it. There was some discussion on the E.D.C. Using it for the Leadership group as it only holds 25 people. Mr. Zimmerly was going to look at the expenses connected with keeping it.

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

APPROVED:

David A. Lyons, Mayor

Attest:

Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner