

September 12, 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, September 12, 2019 at City Hall to consider the 2019/2020 legislative packet and adoption of the proposed 2019/2020 budget for the City of LaBelle. Mayor Lyons called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. All Board members were present.

1. The first item on the agenda was legislative packet due to Representative Byron Donalds on Friday, September 13, 2019. Mr. Zimmerly noted he paired down the list of legislative items to make it more efficient. He noted septic tank projects were still included, and the municipal road overlay projects were split into separate projects to make more appealing for FDOT to fund. Commissioner Wilkins noted the population had surpassed 5,000. There was discussion on employment numbers. Commissioner Wilkins asked about the stormwater quality improvement line item and if that work was already completed. Mr. Zimmerly noted this was not the completed work, but additional work on new projects. There was discussion on the work zones and funding from DEP. Commissioner Wilkins asked about funding for wharf improvements for waste removal from boats. There was discussion on the available facilities at Port LaBelle and in locations in the vicinity. Commissioner Wilkins also asked about the Downtown project funding and what the funding was for specifically. Mr. Zimmerly noted that was for various revitalization efforts and provided a brief listing. Mayor Lyons asked how much time would it take to complete the loop project due to the SR 29S widening project. Mr. Zimmerly noted there was discussion on breaking ground in Fall 2019 and the project needed funding. Commissioner Akin asked about pushing for additional sewer zones. There was discussion on performing a fee study and/or assessment, similar to an impact fee study. Mr. Rooney explained the process and timeframes for completing the sewer studies, and suggested seeking grant funding for such studies. Mr. Zimmerly noted the intent was to put less projects in order to prioritize funding and also ensure the projects could be completed if funded. There was discussion on Clewiston obtaining grant funding for generators. **Commissioner Wilkins moved to approve the legislative packet as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zimmerly. The motion passed 5-0.**

2. The next item was discussion on the Civic Center and final items to be addressed in the renovation. There was discussion on the breaker box/panel by the men's restroom. Mr. Zimmerly noted he would look into the issue. Commissioner Wilkins asked if flooring was in the 2019/2020 budget. Mr. Zimmerly indicated flooring is on his priority list but he is not sure if it will be able to be funded.

3. The next item was the Job Growths Grant application for infrastructure near the new LaBelle Brewery and restaurant. Mr. Zimmerly noted the grant application was resubmitted and he was checking in with the State on a weekly basis.

4. The next item was a detailed review of the 2019/2020 budget.

a. Capital Improvements

1. Mr. Zimmerly presented improvements to City Hall that he is hoping to achieve over the next year, in addition to the Civic Center flooring.
2. He also said he would come back with additional road projects throughout the year and the Commission discussed a working list that Michael Boyle had prepared.
3. There was discussion on irrigation at Barron Park and the pump replacement.
4. Mr. Zimmerly discussed the improvements to the Captain Hendry House, and explained the advertisement was delayed approximately one week while Staff explores alternative options for cost savings.
5. Mr. Zimmerly discussed sewer improvements

b. Water & Sewer Rates Discussion. Mr. Zimmerly asked to advertise water and sewer rate increases during the October meeting. The proposed increases are 2% and 5%, respectively. There was additional discussion on budget items. There was discussion on budget items relating to Barron Park, the improvement plans, and how to budget improvements.

5. Ms. Crespo presented an overview of proposed Land Development Code amendments relating to a site development permit process and procedure. She explained this would allow the City to review horizontal site construction activities, site clearing, excavation, and other development activities that occur before building permitting. There was discussion on making sure the new process did not put burdens on small landowners and businesses. Commissioner Wilkins asked Staff to look at a threshold for requiring a traffic study as those can be costly. There was discussion on a process to allow waivers from submittal requirements for projects based upon clear standards. There was consensus on directing Staff to prepare and advertise LDC amendments as presented.

There was discussion on timing of the commission packages, having advance notice of agenda items, and moving to an electronic agenda.

6. At 5:30, Mayor Lyons called the first public hearing to order. Mr. Zimmerly introduced Resolution No. 2019-15, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. There was no public comment on the resolution. Commissioner Wilkins asked for an explanation on the rollback rate, which was provided by Mr. Zimmerly. **Commissioner Zimmerly made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-15. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

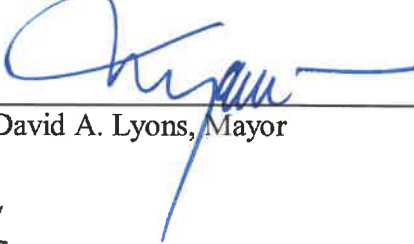
7. Mr. Zimmerly introduced Resolution No. 2019-16, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A PROPOSED

BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 FOR PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. There was no public comment. It was clarified the budget was balanced and the budget included the raises for employees. **Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-16. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

It was noted the final hearing on the 2019/2020 budget would occur on Thursday, September 26th at 5:05 p.m.

As there was no further business, the budget workshop was adjourned.

APPROVED:



David A. Lyons, Mayor

Attest:



Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner