

**CITY OF LABELLE
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

Mayor Lyons opened the regular April Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Ron Zimmerly, Finance Director, led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was taken, and all Commissioners were present.

PRESENTATIONS

Ron Zimmerly introduced Robbie Chartier with Public Risk Management (PRM) to present “Group Health & Property/Casualty”. She introduced Andy Cooper and Michele Jones with her team. The representatives from PRM provided an overview of the company and services provided. Ron summarized the substantial benefits that PRM provides the City. There was discussion on the struggles with hurricane claims. The Commission thanked PRM and Mr. Zimmerly for bringing forward the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Lyons asked for a motion on the consent agenda. Alexis Crespo, City Planner/Deputy City Clerk, noted corrections were made to the minutes on page 2 relating to the summary of options for the utility capacity issues. Mr. Rooney further clarified the changes.

Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes as amended by Staff. Commissioner Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Lyons introduced the public hearing and second reading on proposed Ordinance 2021-03, relating to relating an amendment to the Jack Paul Planned Unit Development. Staff made a brief presentation on the intent of the amendment. Alexis Crespo noted the Applicant requested to eliminate the 8-foot-tall wall on the western property line. The Commission indicated the wall is critical to compatibility with the future uses to the west. There was discussion on the schedule of uses. Commissioner Wilkins indicated concern with vehicle auctions. Derek Rooney, City Attorney, read the title into the record. There was no public comment. Commissioner Spratt asked about the timing of traffic studies and her concern on the roadway. There was discussion on SR 29 improvements and the requirement for Florida Department of Transportation permitting. There was further discussion.

Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-03. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Spratt dissenting.

Mayor Lyons introduced the Temporary Use/Special Event Permit for LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corp (LDRC) 2021 events. Kelly Boone with the LDRC addressed the Commission. She noted she would like to close down Park Avenue as part of their Annual Meeting on May 17th from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. She also asked the Commission if the City would have fireworks for the 4th of July. Ms. Boone noted the intent to have the “Red, White & Tunes” event on July 4th. She noted this event would include beer. She noted the Saturday market from November through March. She added a road closure on Fort Thompson Avenue on Saturday, October 23rd for the wiener dog event. She concluded with discussion on Wharf Walk, which would also include beer and wine. Commissioner Smith commended Ms. Boone on her events. There was

discussion on alcohol at the 4th of July event. Commissioner Akin and Wilkins expressed concern regarding alcohol at family events.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-03. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Akin and Wilkins dissenting.

Mayor Lyons asked David Garcia to give a report on Tacos and Trokas. Mr. Garcia thanked the City and noted his event was a great success. There was discussion on the event and changes for the next year.

Mayor Lyons introduced the public hearing on Resolution 2021-22 to allow for mobile food vending on property located at 605 S. Bridge Street. Staff gave a brief presentation on the proposal. The Applicant appeared and responded to questions regarding the type of foods sold, noting the food would be limited to snacks and light confections, chiefly sno cones. There was discussion on competition with surrounding restaurants.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-22. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Lyons opened the public hearing on a Significant Oak Tree Removal Permit for property located at 156 Florida Avenue to allow for the removal of one (1) significant oak tree with on-site mitigation. The Applicant addressed the Commission noting the location of the tree precluded development of the lot. The Applicant asked if they could plant only three (3) trees as opposed to the six (6) trees proposed by Staff. There was lengthy discussion on the location of the tree and if the house could be shifter on the site to protect the tree. Gary Hull, Superintendent of Public Works, noted his concern with approving removal without his review of the survey and tree location. There was lengthy discussion on the City's intent to protect oak trees and the appropriate mitigation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the tree removal with the six (6) replacement trees, subject to Supervisor of Public Works discretion that the dwelling cannot be shifted to save the tree. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Lyons introduced the public hearing on Resolution 2021-21 ratifying Resolutions 2021-17, 2021-18, 2021-19, and 2021-20 regarding the Local State of Emergency for COVID-19.

Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-21. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Lyons noted he would continue to work on staff appointments.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Wilkins brought up discussion on extending the health care for retired employees for the Fire Department employees. Chief Rimes discussed the pension plan for the Fire Department and how that plan is presented to the Commission for approval. Following the discussion Staff indicated they would investigate options further and bring it back to the Commission.

Mayor Lyons noted under the thank you letter for the donation to the Eli Whitney Fire Department.

STAFF REPORTS

Josh Rimes provided an update on activity and apparatus. He noted the transition to new Fire Chief Micah Mungillo. He noted his retirement party is 5:30 p.m. on April 30th at the Fire Station. He thanked the Commission for all they have done for the Fire Department.

A representative from the Hendry County Sheriff's Office provided an update noting crime is slightly up from 2020 and discussing the string of car burglaries, adding that arrests had been made. Mayor Lyons asked about vehicle burglaries in Belmont. HCSO representative noted this was being actively being investigated. There was discussion.

Mayor Lyons asked for the Engineering Report. Laura Constantino with Four Waters Engineering gave an update on progress on Zone A construction, noting Tomkins Construction was selected for the work. She noted increased cost estimates due to material shortages. She updated the Commission on Zone B that was funded in the amount of \$3.2M and noted she is getting quotes from surveyors. She also updated the Commission on the monitoring well project and the monitoring well that is being relocated.

The next item was the City Attorney report. Derek Rooney noted RFQ2021-01 was advertised today for the utility's operations and maintenance scope. He noted the deadline is May 9, 2021. He discussed the water line extension to the Lee/Hendry line and provided an update on that effort. He noted the Old Florida RV Park engineer stated they will need an 8-inch line for their project. He discussed the need to examine land uses along SR 80 to determine potential utility needs to arrive at the correct line sizing. He also recommended hiring TetraTech to assist Laura in the engineering investigation. Commissioner Wilkins noted the information is important to have in order to prepare a cost estimate for the extension.

Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to authorize the City to engage assistance from TetraTech to assist Four Waters as needed to complete the project. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

There was discussion on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the process for obtaining a cost estimate and financing of the improvements. Derek noted he would bring the interlocal agreement and term limit changes to the May meeting.

Superintendent of Public Works, Gary Hull, had nothing to report.

City Planner, Alexis Crespo, had nothing to report.

Mr. Zimmerly referenced a draft support letter on behalf of Hope Hospice and asked for authorization for the Mayor to sign the letter.

Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support for Hope Hospice. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Spratt asked Ron to get a letter of support from the Oakbrook Nursing Home. He noted Phillips A/C is the low bidder on the HVAC improvement projects for the City. He also noted training on the new laptops had been conducted at City Hall, which was funded by the CARES Act.

There was discussion on the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) discussed at the last meeting. Ron noted

that the City is able to do a 3% COLA for all staff effective April 1st. There was discussion by the Commission.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve the 3% COLA. Commissioner Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Ron introduced Jessi Zubaty who was hired to fill the position of Judy Taylor in the Building Department. He also noted Judy's retirement party on April 22nd.

The Building Department and Code Enforcement Reports were provided to the Commission and no presentation was given.

Commissioner asked about hiring of Code Enforcement Assistant. Ron noted there is no budget for that position. Commissioner Akin asked if they could do a budget amendment. Ron noted he would bring a budget amendment to the next meeting. Allen Pickles provided an update on the abandoned houses and the special magistrate hearing on April 15th regarding the pole barn. Commissioner Spratt asked for an update on the Trading Post and there was nothing to report. Derek noted the Trading Post would fall on the priorities after the abandoned houses.

BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Smith – Nothing to report.

Commissioner Spratt – Commissioner Spratt noted the Captain Hendry House needs to be better maintained. Ron Zimmerly addressed the Commission on the repairs needed and the City is aware and are not renting the facility for any events until October. He explained the funds that the City is spending to rehabilitate the structure. Commissioner Wilkins asked if the City was pursuing a grant. Mr. Zimmerly indicated the City was not actively seeking a grant. It was decided that Mr. Zimmerly would issue a press release on the City's efforts to improve the structure.

Mayor Lyons – Nothing to report.

Commissioner Wilkins – Nothing to report.

Daniel Akin – He asked the Commission to authorize hiring an arborist to prepare a planting plan for mitigation trees at Barron Park.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



David A. Lyons, Mayor-Commissioner

Attest:



Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner