

**CITY OF LABELLE  
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

Mayor Lyons called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and asked Ron Zimmerly to provide the Commission with an update on the 2021/2022 budget.

Ron introduced the agenda for the workshop and started with CARES Act funding. He noted \$523,000 was allocated to the City and staff is working to utilize these funds, including Civic Center HVAC improvements. He discussed other projects including lift station generators. He also noted the Helms Road waterline extension grant and other city projects to fund such as the Old Florida RV Park waterline extension. There was discussion on pricing of materials and labor increasing.

He noted intent to file for DEP grants for additional sewer conversion projects, as well as the county line waterline extension.

He directed the Commission to the draft budget included in the packages. Ron discussed the ongoing audit and issues associated with benefit payments dating back to 2009.

He discussed the millage rate which is very close to the 2019/2020 fiscal year. Ron read the resolution title into the record.

He noted the health insurance with PRM is going up by only 1.7%. He added he needs a motion to extend the health care insurance as it is set to expire.

***Commissioner Spratt made a motion to execute the renewal of health benefits with PRM. Commissioner Wilkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.***

There was discussion on increase to insurance costs with Ron noting he was still awaiting corrected numbers from the provider.

The recommendation was to increase the police budget by 5%. It was discussed if this could be increased. Following discussion, it was decided that the proposed increase could be approved today and could be increased by September when the final budget would be adopted. There was discussion on providing additional funding. Ron read the resolution title into the record.

***Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-41. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.***

Next Ron took up the streetlighting assessment and recommended at the Commission adopt Resolution 2021-43 as proposed. Ron read the resolution title into the record.

***Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-43. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion.***

Commissioner Wilkins asked about installation of new streetlights in dark areas. Gary Hull, Public Works Director, noted that FDOT provided the City with additional LED light fixtures. Following discussion Mayor Lyons called for the vote.

*The motion carried 4-0.*

Ron directed the Commission to the recreation budget of \$239,887. There was discussion. Commissioner Akin noted about getting matching funding from the County. There was discussion on conducting assessments based on discussions Derek Rooney had with the County Attorney. Ron read the resolution title into the record.

*Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-42. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

Ron then provided an overview of the fire assessment. Chief Mungillo provided an updated budget to the Commission. Ron noted the Fire Department was proposing additional full-time positions. Chief Mungillo explained his phased approach to fund 6 positions over several years. Commissioner Wilkins asked if a 5% increase would pay for the 2 full time positions. There was discussion on whether Josh Rimes was paid out of the Building Department fund or the Fire fund. There was discussion on the call volume and the need for full time personnel. Chief Mungillo noted that the ISO rating would result in a cost savings that would offset the 5% assessment increase. There was discussion on the firefighter's transition on retirement plans and the County's role in assisting in Fire Department funding. There was discussion with meeting with the County. Ron read Ordinance 2021-40 into the record. Commissioner Wilkins requested a workshop be conducted with the County to further discuss cost sharing on fire services.

*Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-40. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.*

Ron asked for consensus on the milage rate, noting the budget was balanced with a milage rate of 4. Commissioner Wilkins expressed concern about the unknown expenses.

*Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to set the millage rate at 4.5. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Mayor Lyons dissenting.*

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Lyons,  
Mayor-Commissioner

**Attest:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner

Alexis crepo - Deputy city clerk