

**CITY OF LABELLE  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

Mayor Wilkins opened the regular August Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken, and all Commissioners were present.

The oath ceremony for Mayor Julie C. Wilkins & Commissioners Daniel Akin and Jackie Ratica was performed. A break was taken for refreshments and photos.

Mayor Wilkins introduced a video presentation honoring those fallen in the September 11<sup>th</sup> terror attacks. Ron Zimmerly, Finance Director, led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkins asked for a motion on the consent agenda and explained re-ordering the agenda to consolidate the staff reports in the beginning of the meeting on consent. She noted Commissioners or the public could ask questions or pull any of the items off of the consent agenda for discussion.

***Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

Mayor Wilkins opened the first reading and public hearing on proposed Ordinance 2021-10, relating to a city-initiated Rezone from I-1A to I-2 for lands to the south of Lincoln Avenue representing Staff noted the intent to discuss both items concurrently. Mayor Wilkins opened the first reading and public hearing on proposed Ordinance 2021-11, relating to an LDC Amendment for Overlay Districts. City Attorney, Derek Rooney, read the titles into the record.

Staff made a presentation of the staff report and intent to create consistent zoning districts along the Lincoln Avenue and Cowboy Way industrial corridors.

Member of the public, Cindy Pierce, addressed the Commission and expressed concern regarding compatibility with the single-family residential neighborhood to the north. Mayor Wilkins agreed she has concerns on the allowing heavy industrial uses closer to the residential neighborhood.

Mayor Wilkins asked Staff to notice owners within 1,000 feet of the subject properties. She also noted traffic needs to leave the properties along Grand Avenue and not Lincoln Avenue. Derek Rooney noted the LDC amendment could add the requirement for a wall to attenuate noise. There was consensus from the Commission to discuss the industrial uses in more detail and eliminate certain intensive uses. Mayor Wilkins also asked for consideration that the buffer not be treated as industrial to the road, but rather industrial to single-family residential.

Mayor Wilkins asked Ron to introduce Resolution 2021-56 ratifying Resolutions 2021-52, 2021-53, 2021-54, and 2021-55 regarding the Local State of Emergency for COVID-19.

***Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-56. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

A member of the public spoke to the issue with noticing that the citizens couldn't understand. He also discussed the need to protect aesthetics.

Mayor Wilkins brought up the Staff Appointments list and asked the Commission to consider what boards they would like to sit on and if any boards needed to be eliminated.

Mayor Wilkins asked Derek to update the Commission on the Variance Board LDC amendment. Derek noted the Florida Statutes allows the Commission to appoint Staff to the Local Planning Agency and Variance Board. There was discussion on the role of the LPA and the need to provide more clear legal notices. Derek stated he would bring an amendment back and confer with Staff on the potential LPA appointments.

On Staff Appointments, Mayor Wilkins volunteered to serve on the Industrial Development Authority. Ron also noted that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) needs an appointment as well. Commissioner Ratica agreed to serve on the TDC. Commissioners Spratt and Akin agreed to continue to serve on the Recreation Board. There was discussion on the City's involvement on the Heartland MPO board. Commissioner Wilkins agreed to serve on it for the immediate future.

There was discussion on the Downtown Revitalization Corp. Mayor Wilkins tabled the item until the next meeting. It was agreed that the Commission would serve as the Tree Board. Mayor Wilkins noted her interest to serve on the Economic Development Council. Commissioner Smith noted he would remain on that board.

Mayor Wilkins asked for a motion on the Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board request.

***Commissioner Ratica made a motion to approve the funding request as presented. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

Mayor Wilkins asked Ron to present the Commission with the Emergency Debris Removal ranking. Ron noted the contract expires at the end of the year so the County did a new RFP. He noted the ranking form in the package.

***Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve the County ranking for emergency debris removal as presented. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

Ron explained the next resolution would add Commissioners Spratt and Ratica to the signature cards for the bank. Mayor Wilkins noted the high number of accounts and the accounting information was provided in the budget package. Ron read the resolution title into the record. He noted he will add a correction to include Commissioner Spratt.

***Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-59 to add Commissioners Spratt and Ratica to the signature cards. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

Mayor Wilkins invited Kelly Boone with the LDRC to address the Commission. Kelly noted that she was awarded an AARP grant for \$26,705 to make repairs in the park, including fixing of sidewalks and addition of chess boards with pavilion coverage. There was discussion on using the tree fund to install oaks on the perimeter of the park as part of the project. The Commission thanked Kelly. It was clarified there was no cost to the City.

***Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve the use of the grant funds as proposed in Barron Park. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.***

Ron introduced the Lobbyist Agreement extension. Mayor Wilkins asked if Derek Rooney was comfortable. Derek noted that Commissioner Spratt would need to file an ethics form and could not vote on the matter, as the agreement is with her husband, Joe Spratt.

***Commissioner Ratica made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Spratt abstaining.***

Laura Constantino addressed the Commission on the various engineering projects throughout the City, including sewer conversion, Helms Road watermain extension, and the groundwater monitoring well. Mayor Wilkins asked for a timeline of the projects so it can be communicated to the public. Laura said she would be sure to send out the schedule to the Commission.

Fire Chief Micah Mungillo provided a monthly report. He reported he ran 83 calls, 27 in the City, 54 in Hendry County, and 22 calls in Glades County.

Lt. Mike Stevens provided a report to the Commission.

Commissioner Spratt asked Staff to get a plan together for cleaning up Fordson Park. There was discussion on the costs and legal implications of cleaning up the lots.

There was discussion on the Code Enforcement Officer and Deputy Clerk positions. Mayor Wilkins asked for consideration of increasing the pay scale for that position.

Daniel Akin noted the Recreation Board is seeking approval to rename the Stars Arena to Harris Lyons Sports Complex. There was not consensus on the request.

Commissioner Ratica had nothing to report.


Ron Zimmerly noted the potential to provide the City phone numbers to residents in Fordson Park so they can call and have the City pick up debris and perform a free "trash amnesty day". The Commission agreed with the idea. It was discussed this could be offered monthly or on demand. There was a discussion on an assessment or MSBU to help fund improvements but make sure the money stays in the community.

There was discussion on the acoustics in the Civic Center and returning the meetings to City Hall.

Commissioner Wilkins noted her intent to streamline communication with Staff.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

**Attest:**

  
Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner