

**CITY OF LABELLE
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

Mayor Wilkins called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and all Commissioners were present.

Mayor Wilkins called on Lisa Awbrey, Human Resources Director, to provide an update on outsourcing payroll quotes. She reviewed three (3) quotes and noted ADP was the lowest quote. There was discussion on cost-savings and cost to City.

Ron reviewed use of CARES Act funding the generator purchase. Gary Hull noted that he would ask for Commissioner Ratica's input on generator slab quotes.

He noted the American Rescue Act funding progress in getting the agreement submitted. There was discussion on the funding structure of \$1.1 million for the first payment and the second payment of \$1.1M.

There was discussion on the transition of 8 staff members to Woodard & Curran, resulting in a 3.7% decrease in insurance premium provided by PRM. He asked for a motion to execute the binder with PRM.

Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve the amended insurance binder. Commissioner Ratica seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

He directed the Commission to the draft budget included in the packages. Ron discussed the key items including the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and the stormwater master plan. Wilkins noted she had spoken to representatives from Woodard Curran and he believed the City could get 50% of the stormwater master plan funded by grants. There was discussion on the tentative millage rate. The Commission discussed the stormwater issues, and the need to have a master plan to prioritize the needed improvements/projects. Ron noted that overall, the budget is very favorable with the various federal grants. He noted additional reserve is recommended.

Derek Rooney asked if the City had received the Sheriff's budget information. Ron noted he plugged in a 5% increase to this line item. There was discussion on the need for additional Sheriff support and budgetary issues. There was also discussion on the Fire budget and the need for an assessment for EMS services.

A member of the public asked about local governments subsidizing other governmental entities via interglocal agreements. Ron noted the reciprocal services usually is "a wash".

Mayor Wilkins invited the Commissioners to tour the City's facilities, such as the water and wastewater treatment plant.

Commissioner Akin asked what the status of the Fire Department's request to add full-time employees. Ron noted the challenge in different retirement policies for fire fighters compared to City employees. There was discussion on apparatus improvements.

There was also discussion on the City subsidizing the Recreation Board. Ramiro Rodriguez, Recreation Director, addressed the Commission noting the grants being sought and improvements planned within the City. He asked for the City's continued support.

Ron recommended adopting a tentative millage rate of 4.00, which is the same as last year due to the federal grant funding.

Ron read Resolution 2021-57 into the record amended to reflect a tentative millage rate of 4.000. Commissioner Akin asked if there is any need to keep the higher millage due to potential unforeseen costs. He noted the rate could not be increased at the final adoption hearing. Ron noted there is still "cushion".

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-57 and keep the tentative millage rate at 4.5. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.


Ron read Resolution 2021-58 into the record to adopt the tentative budget. Wilkins asked for a motion. A member of the public asked if there was any consideration if any funds are available to assist the citizens and help resolve social issues in the community.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-58. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

There was discussion on the timing of the final budget adoption hearing. Mayor Wilkins noted she prefers 5:30 p.m. There was consensus from the Commission.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.

APPROVED:


Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

Attest:



Alexis Crespo, Deputy City Clerk