

**CITY OF LABELLE
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

Mayor Wilkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and all Commissioners were present, with the exception of Thomas Smith, who joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Mayor Wilkins provided an update on the Woodard & Curran assessment of the sanitary sewer plant. There was discussion on the necessary repairs totaling approximately \$200,000.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to move forward with the recommended repairs by Woodard Curran. Commissioner Ratica seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Wilkins asked Derek Rooney to discuss Green Tree, a local housing authority project. He noted the City had an agreement to manage their package plant, and the facility is in significant disrepair. He also noted the City cannot cancel the agreement and the facility is at the end of its life. He noted the City will start discussions with Green Tree and work on transitioning the liability and maintenance to the property owner. There was consensus on this approach. It was discussed that any repairs would be a “pass through” cost to the property owner.

Derek Rooney then discussed the utilities extension to the Old Florida RV Resort. He explained the shortfall in funding and potential solutions to meet the shortfall, such as use of CARES Act funding. He noted the consensus from today’s meeting with the developer and Hendry County is to use tax increment financing (TIF) funding to meet the shortfall. He noted there would be an agreement presented between the developer and the City in the next month to reimburse the developer for connection fees for the amount they fund for the improvements. He noted the minimal risk to the City. Ron Zimmerly noted potential loss to capacity in the plant should the project come online with the maximum density/intensity. There was discussion on exposure to the City. Derek noted he recommends the City should charge a surcharge for wastewater service to users outside City limits, similar to how water is handled. It was noted that Derek is drafting agreements on this item on behalf of the City and the County.

Ron read Resolution 2021-61 into the record adopting a final millage rate of 4.000 for FY 2021-2022.

Commissioner Akin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-60. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Ron read Resolution 2021-62 into the record adopting a final budget for FY 2021-2022.

Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-61. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Ron read Resolution 2021-60 into the record adopting a budget amendment. He noted this is a blanket resolution to make any necessary changes after the hearing, including the creation of a new position for code enforcement. There was discussion on timing of the audit.


Commissioner Spratt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-60. Commissioner Ratica seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

September 23, 2021

The last item was discussion on the City Project List. Ron noted many of the projects were included in the Legislative Package. He noted write-ups for funding are needed and recommended using the \$3.75M wastewater treatment plant project as the project to include. Derek suggested ordering Commission priorities and sending them to Ron following the meeting. Commissioner Akin noted his priorities are the wastewater treatment plant, LaBelle system improvements and expansion projects, with the third priority being master planning. There was discussion. There was discussion on grouping the master plans together under one funding request. There was consensus on moving forward as Commissioner Akin recommended.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED:


Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

Attest:


Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner