

**CITY OF LABELLE  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2022**

Mayor Wilkins opened the regular January Commission Meeting at 6:01 p.m. A roll call was taken, and all Commissioners were present except Commissioner Smith. Mayor Wilkins made the announcement that at the end of the month Commissioner Smith would be retiring. Ron Zimmerly, Finance Director, led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkins called Shary Weckwerth, the Vice President of the Arts of the Inlands Gallery up to the podium. Miss Weckwerth presented the Commission with a list of needed updates for the Gallery and also stated that the lease also needed to be updated. Discussion was had on how to raised the money for the repairs. Commissioner Spratt asked City of LaBelle CFO Ron Zimmerly if there was any money in the budget for the needed repairs. He stated there was not. Discussion was had on renewing the lease for the Gallery. Possible improvements on the “Summer Kitchen” building were discussed in order to teach classes there. Mayor Wilkins stated that the building needed to be inspected by the Fire Inspector and Building Inspector.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Commissioner Spratt motioned made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda items, Commissioner Akin seconded.  
The motion carried 4-0***

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Wilkins took up Resolution 2022-03 ratifying Resolutions 2021-83, 2021-84, 2021-85, 2022-01 and 2022-02 regarding the Local State of Emergency for COVID-19.

***Commissioner Ratica made a motion to accept Resolution 2022-03, Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion.  
The motion carried 4-0***

Mayor Wilkins presented Ordinance 2022-01, Unsafe Building Code. Attorney Derek Rooney read the Ordinance into the record, and discussed the revisions made to the Ordinance. Mayor Wilkins explained the point to the Ordinance. Rooney opened discussion about the subject. There was no public discussion. Commissioner Spratt asked if the Code Enforcement Officer would be able to label houses as unsafe. Attorney Rooney explained it streamlined the previous process the City had, and conformed it to the Special Magistrate process we currently use. Discussion was had on how this could benefit the efforts to revitalize Ford and Sunset Parks. There was also discussion on the status of the action items from the Special Meeting held in December 2021 in reference to Ford and Sunset Parks.

***Commissioner Spratt motioned to accept Ordinance 2022-01, Commissioner Ratica seconded the motion.  
The motion carried 4-0.***

**Mayor Wilkins recessed the Commission meeting in order to open the Local Planning Agency meeting at  
6:18 p.m.**

**The LPA Meeting was adjourned, and the regular commission meeting was re-opened at 6:25.**

OLD BUSINESS

Alexis Crespo, the City Planner, presented her proposal to update the City of LaBelle's Comprehensive Plan to re-evaluate density locations and volumes. She described the process briefly and explained that there would be public outreach to receive input from residents. She suggested utilizing online surveys to acquire the data. She stated amendments to Future Land Use Map and Categories would be necessary. There was a brief, more detailed discussion on the Comprehensive Plan amending process by Ms. Crespo during the conclusion of her presentation.

Mayor Wilkins called upon Sgt. Wanda Handley and presented her with a Proclamation from the City of LaBelle declaring the month of January Human Trafficking Awareness month.

The next order of business presented to the Commissioners was a revised organizational chart for City employees.

***Commissioner Ratica made a motion to accept the 2021-2022 Organizational Chart. Akin seconded the motion with the clarification that the visual path of Fire Chief, City Planner, City Attorney to fall under the authority of all City Commissioners.  
Motion carried 4-0***

Mayor Wilkins then gave a brief update on the water meter procurement. Ron Zimmerly stated that he had a request to extend the deadline for the Water Meter RFP. After discussion, it was the consensus to extend the deadline from 2:00 p.m. January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to 2:00 p.m. February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Mayor Wilkins stated that there were no current significant updates on the septic to sewer conversation, pending engineering information needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Stephanie Sposato approached the podium to discuss the Special Event permit application for the Southern Swamp Gala. Attorney Derek Rooney stated that permit had been approved, and that the applicant was there only to receive approval to serve alcohol at the event. After discussion about the Mrs. Sposato gave a description of the event. Sheriff Steven Whidden addressed the Commission and stated that he was in support of the event, and that the noise would be metered to minimize affecting the neighboring residences. Discussion was had on current updates as well as suggested future updates to the LaBelle Sports Park, which is where the event will be held. Ramiro Rodriguez Director of the Hendry County Recreation Board expressed that this event would expose the park to the local citizens and introduce them to the opportunity for possible future events. Discussion was had on how to expedite the completion of construction on the park.

***Commissioner Spratt motioned to approve the use of alcohol at the Swamp Cabbage Gala, Commissioner Ratica seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0***

A Resolution was to be presented to St. Matthews House in appreciation of their time donated to help decorate the City for Christmas. The presentation was continued until they could be present.

Mayor Wilkins took up the Utility Bond Savings Memo from the agenda. She then gave a brief description of the purpose of the memo. There was no discussion.

***Commissioner Ratica motioned to approve the Utility Bond Savings Memo, Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.***

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Resolution 2022-05 stating the City of LaBelle supports the efforts of the Labelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation, and supports them financially as well. Attorney Derek Rooney explained the Resolution was needed in order for the organization to apply for grants.

***Commissioner Spratt motioned to approve LDRC Support Resolution 2022-05,  
Commissioner Akin seconded the motion.  
The motion carried 4-0.***

Mayor Wilkins addressed the Commission about applying for funds to provide housing rehabilitation within the City. She stated that a Citizens Action Task Force would need to be formed in order to proceed. CFO, Ron Zimmerly gave a description of what the purpose of the CATF is, and what the process is for applying for the Community Development Block Grant entails. There was discussion on the criteria to be on the CATF.

Mayor Wilkins informed the Commission of the annual MLK Walk on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

The next item on the agenda was to hear concerns from resident Veronica Mullen. As she was not able to attend, the meeting moved forward.

The action items from the Ford and Sunset Park Special on December 2 meeting were discussed.

Mayor Wilkins asked Commissioners for any additional business.

Commissioner Spratt

Commissioner Ratica


Commissioner Spratt .

Commissioner Akin had no additional comments.

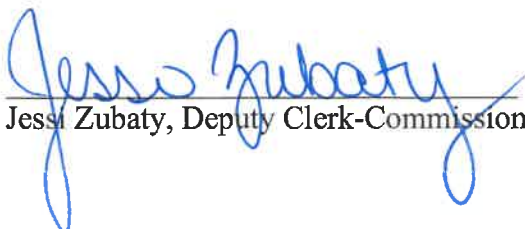
***Commissioner Ratica made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Spratt seconded the motion.***

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:08 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

**Attest:**

  
Jessi Zubaty, Deputy Clerk-Commissioner