

November 6, 2024  
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street, with the following members present:

President Hepfer  
Vice President Davis  
Councilwoman Bega  
Councilwoman Lizanich – *Absent*  
Councilman McBride  
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager Williams, City Attorney Hartley, Staff Members, and City Clerk Jackson.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.

#### **PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

None

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP**

None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

John Labriola spoke of the recent election and congratulated Councilwoman Hepfer on her re-election. He stated that some citizens would like to have the Nativity scene brought back to the IGC lawn. Spoke of Amendment 4.

Deputy Ruby introduced Sgt. Jason Strickland as the new Operations Sgt. for the East side of the County. He will be the liaison between the City and the Sheriff's Department.

Ken Hinkle – spoke of being a former Councilmember and appreciated everyone who ran during the recent election. Thanked the City for what all they do.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 10/01/2024\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

**Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

## **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

None

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) Resolution 2024-15 Hwy. 44 West Special Assessment District Project Completed\*** with City Manager Williams stating this Resolution declares the Highway 44W Special Assessment District Project complete and final. This septic to sewer project extended water and wastewater utilities in the west central section of the City and provides municipal water and/or wastewater service to residences and businesses. The project will eliminate 43 commercial septic tanks and 7 residential septic tanks. Adopting this resolution represents the last action by the City with respect to the assessment process. Asst. City Manager Calascione presented history of the project and displayed a review of the next steps for properties within the assessment district for the connections to the newly installed City system. President Hepfer questioned the difference between commercial and residential service with City Manager Williams explaining. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to read the Resolution by title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA,  
PROVIDING ACCEPTING 44 WEST SEPTIC TO SEWER SPECIAL  
ASSESSMENT PROJECT AS COMPLETED; PROVIDING THE  
PAYMENT DUE DATE FOR THE FIRST MONTHLY INSTALLMENT;  
AND PROVIDING FOR RECORDATION OF THIS INSTRUMENT.**

**Councilman McBride motioned to adopt the Resolution by roll call. Seconded by Councilman Davis. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Council President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.**

**10)b) Interlocal Agreement with Citrus County for Potable Water Interconnect\*** with City Manager Williams stating the City and Citrus County wish to cooperate in a potable water system interconnect that will provide the City's residents in the event of an emergency where the City's water system may experience a drop in pressure or other interruption in supply. The City designed the interconnect, will fund and construct the project, and the County has reviewed and approved the plans. The project will be completed within 6 months of notice to proceed with an estimated cost of \$140,000. Asst. City Manager Calascione presented a review of the steps of interconnect with a presentation, including the location at Independence and Dawson. **Councilman McBride motioned to approve an Interlocal Agreement for Water Interconnect as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**10)c) Planning and Zoning Commission – Board Appointment\*** with City Manager Williams stating an application was recently submitted by Mr. Marco Wilson who has lived in Citrus County for 28 years, including the last four years as a resident of the City of Inverness. The Planning and Zoning Commission is to guide the development of the City for present and future needs, plans for land use, the promotion of good civic design and arrangement and wise and efficient expenditure of public funds. The Planning Commission shall consist of seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternate members appointed by the City Council, who shall be

residents of the City of Inverness, or residents of Citrus County owning improved property within the corporate limits of the City of Inverness and shall serve without compensation. No member of the Planning Commission shall be an elected official or an employee of the City or county. Mr. Wilson spoke and thanked Council for the opportunity to serve. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the appointment of Mr. Marco Wilson to Planning and Zoning for 3-year term from November 5, 2024 through November 5, 2027. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Motion carried.**

**10)d) Project/Program Updates *(Verbal)***

- Boat Dock Relocation history and permit process was reviewed. Explained that the docks at Wallace Brooks Park was recently closed due to the gangway pulling away from the dock. It is an unsafe and serious situation.
- The Festival of the Arts this past weekend had great attendance, and many were excited with the interactive exhibits. Great time.
- Spoke of the recent unveiling of the painted turtles around the downtown and have seen people taking their photos with them.
- Small Town Saturday Night is this coming Saturday. Expects large crowd for a great band.
- Noted there are no available lightpoles for Light Up Liberty Park.
- Announced a ribbon cutting/live burn at the new fire training facility at 4:00pm on November 19, 2024.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

**All Councilmembers congratulated Councilwoman Hepfer on her re-election.**

Councilwoman Bega stated the art show was phenomenal and the juggler was amazing. Commended President Hepfer's experience and ethics.

Councilman Davis reiterated this is a Small Town Done Right and the election reflected that. Commended the Parks staff for all of the hard work during the last month.

Mayor Plaisted stated it has been a pleasure serving and feels the continuity on the Council is key. Noted he is going to miss Councilman McBride when he retires from Council. Spoke of the success of last month's events and overcoming a few objections. The Christmas Tree on the Historic Courthouse grounds will be two days after Thanksgiving.

Council President Hepfer thanked everyone for another four years serving the City on the Council. Spoke of the recent painted turtle unveiling, art show and how busy it has been. Praised the amazing staff. Thanked Karen Esty for serving on a community board and is part of the family. Spoke of other art shows in different states that have experienced struggles with their shows and getting artists.

Councilman McBride stated the City is a charming place to be and it has been an honor and pleasure to serve with everyone.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Michael Puzino spoke of his desire and need to have bocce ball courts for people to use.

Debbie Wheatley congratulated Councilwoman Hepfer and thanked the voters for her re-election for another four years. Suggested Council consider changes to the Charts regarding length of residency to qualify for running for a Council seat.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President