

November 19, 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
Councilman McBride
Mayor Plaisted

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

The Invocation was given by Councilman McBride 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

4)a) Key to the City – with Mayor Plaisted presenting the Key to the City to retiring Councilman Cabot McBride and reminiscing the years he has served the City. Spoke of how he helped Inverness become Small Town Done Right.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) FY 23/24 Budget Amendment (Year-End) – Resolution 2024-16* with City Manager Williams stating this is an annual agenda item to amend the FY2023-24 Budget to correct and adjust various departmental contracts, expenditures and capital projects. The total amount of all funds being adjusted represents \$ 2,233,239.34, including the General, ICRA, CIP, and Utility funds. Finance Director Koter noted this is an annual action to tie up loose ends in the previous budget. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2024-16 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2024 – 16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND, ICRA FUND, CIP, AND UTILITY FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**The Public Hearing was opened.
No one spoke for or against the Resolution.
The Public Hearing was closed.**

Councilman Davis motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-16 by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

5)b) FY 24/25 Budget Amendment (Carry Forward) – Resolution 2024-17* with City Manager Williams stating City Manager Williams stating this is an annual activity to amend the FY2024-25 Budget and move existing unspent funds from prior FY 2024 to the new FY 2025. All carry forward funds have been earmarked in the prior fiscal year for specific purposes. The total funds to carry forward are \$6,703,149.68, within the ICRA fund, CIP, and Utility funds. This includes major CIP projects, two septic to sewer and Whispering Pines Park Entrance. This will amend the FY 2024-25 Budget to correct and adjust various capital projects. The total amount of all funds being amended represents \$11,883.00, including Capital Projects and Water/Sewer Projects. Funds impacted with this amendment: **Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency** – expenditure accounts to be amended included public art initiative, downtown landscape and lighting, wayfinding signs, shoreline development, etc. Revenue accounts include State FDOT Grant – (\$1,000,000) and revised Cash Balance Forward – (\$2,406,251.12). **Capital Projects Fund** – expenditure accounts to be amended included telephone system, training grounds, Pine Ave storm water, annual road resurfacing, theatre audio/video, etc. Revenue account revised Cash Balance Forward – (\$7,311,988.46). **Utility Fund** – expenditure accounts to be amended included County interconnect, lift station rehab, water lines, Hwy 41N line relocation, 41N septic to sewer, etc. Revenue accounts revised Cash Balance Forward – (\$13,087,008.92). Finance Director Koter noted this too is an annual action to recognize the funds from the previous budget into the current budget. **Councilman Davis motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2024-17 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2024-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, AMENDING THE ICRA FUND, CIP FUND, AND UTILITY FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing was opened.

No one spoke for or against the Resolution.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-17 by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Tom Craig – Forest Drive thanked Councilman McBride for his service to the City. Thanked several City staff members who were involved in the elections.

The following people spoke in favor of a nativity scene on the IGC grounds: Laura Quintin, Jeff Burke, LaLa Sanders, Scarlett Hayes, Cynthia King, Tracy Snipes, Kat McClintock, and John Labriola.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 11/06/2024*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY CLERK’S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10)a) 106 E. Dampier Lease – Rep. Grow* with City Manager Williams stating the City enjoys a mutually beneficial lease relationships with a number of local, state, and federal entities for the use of City owned properties. The City’s office building at 106 East Dampier was recently vacated by Rep. Massullo upon leaving office. There have been discussions with newly elected Rep. Grow Office for the use of the space, with a lease for a two-year term commencing November 20, 2024. The total lease - \$20,400. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the lease agreement with Rep. Grow as presented for the use of the 106 East Dampier Street Office Building and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

10)b) Interlocal Agreement for Historic Courthouse Landscape Design and Installation with Citrus County* with City Manager Williams stating the existing landscaping in the historic downtown is in need of updating, as the current plantings and features are more than 15 years old with instances of overgrowth causing damage to infrastructure within beds. The areas in need are within both the City and the County’s ownership and maintenance. The City and Citrus County desire to cooperate on the landscaping improvements in order to provide aesthetic continuity between the historic downtown and the Historic Courthouse grounds. This Interlocal Agreement allows the City to complete the design and installation of landscaping improvements in Downtown Inverness and at the Historic Courthouse with cooperative funding from the County. The proposed landscaping design has been reviewed and approved by the County as it pertains to the County's property where they will contribute up to \$100,000.00 towards the cost of the project occurring on County property. Assistant City Manager Calascione provided details of discussions with the County, comments, etc. and noted the bids were due December 3, 2024. City Manager

Williams referenced a letter that was received from Kathy Turner Thompson. Councilman McBride questioned the County's ARPA funds with City Manager Williams explaining and noted the City is driving the project. Councilwoman Lizanich stated it would be nice to work with the County and they can see what a great partner the City would be. Councilwoman Bega added the area does need help.

10)c) Florida Division of Emergency Management – Memorandum of Understanding* with City Manager Williams stating there are two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to support the City with personnel, training, and other support services, should they be needed for the two named Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These forms of support relate to Section 1206 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, a Federal Law that provides the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) with certain powers. Those powers being assigned to the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) by FEMA can then be accessed by municipalities through an MOU with FDEM. Each MOU corresponds to one of the recent hurricanes, and while assistance may be provided, the City retains all of its normal jurisdiction. These MOU's are designed to be short term in nature and are both set to expire in the spring of 2025. Assistant City Manager Calascione provided details of the memorandums of understanding being short term and to be used only if necessary. **Councilman Davis motioned to approve the two MOU's between the Florida Department of Emergency Management and the City of Inverness for Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Motion carried.**

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

- Light Up Liberty with Parks & Rec Director Worley noting the event will be December 7 with a plethora of activities on that day. There will be 2 Markets at the Depot, radio Santa, live music, etc. The tree and the poles will be lit.
- City Garden update stating it is too much for the Key Center to manage on their own and the current lease has expired. Looking at possible solution.
- Other with City Manager Williams highlighted the Cruise In flyer on December 20 with classic cars and Jeeps. Noted circumstances involving vehicles leaving early and the danger. Feed the Vest food drive by the Crest school has placed bins in the lobby for donations until December 18. Storm debris removal is near 100% complete at a cost of \$67,000 for Hurricane Milton. Spoke of FEMA rules. Announced he will miss the December 3 Council meeting and Asst. City Manager Calascione will attend to lead the meeting. Stated it has been a pleasure and learning experience to Councilman McBride, being a great servant to the City and will truly miss him.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman McBride spoke of his pleasure and honor to serve the City with his united Councilmembers. Spoke of his family. The City has done great things and has a tremendous staff. Appreciated Mayor's comments as well as all the others. He referenced the Bible about what it is to be a civil servant. To be great, first be a servant.

Councilwoman Bega stated Councilman McBride will be greatly missed. He is kind, smart and eloquent, as well as a mentor to her.

Mayor Plaisted stated Councilman McBride epitomized servanthood and always had the City at heart. He is leaving Inverness better than when he got here. Spoke of the nativity in the past and those involved with it.

Councilwoman Lizanich noted it has been a short time for her but is grateful for Councilman McBride's wisdom and compassion. Wished him all the best. Stated she will be taking the position of Vice President on the CCCCCF.

Councilman Davis thanked Councilman McBride so much and he looks up to him. Thanked him for all of his service and will miss him. Spoke of the nativity.

Council President Hepfer became emotional as she stated she has known Councilman McBride for many years through the City, the courthouse and the Key Center.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Dave Ryan – Southerly Drive reiterated all that had been said about Councilman McBride. He has been a mentor to all and will be missed. Spoke of memories of the Christmas parades and how popular Cabot was. Thanked him for all of the service to the City.

Debbie Wheatley – Silverwood has always appreciated Councilman McBride's dry sense of humor and spoke of meetings from the past. Thanked him for his service.

Kathy Turner Thompson spoke of the landscape project involving the Historic Courthouse. She had worked at the courthouse for 25 years and knows so much history about Inverness. Excited for the project and of the courthouse restoration years ago and how it is a monument to the square. Offered her knowledge if needed.

John Labriola – Inverness thanked the Council for listening to those that spoke regarding the nativity.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President