

January 7, 2025
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 Craig
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 Davis motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty spoke of the proposed sidewalk on Independence Highway, noted assistance from County employee Walt Eastman. Stated the application has been approved and marked to receive federal funding.

Steven Sidlovsky spoke of Citizens for Life and Peace organization regarding Personhood cities. Recited biblical scripture.

Debbie Wheatley had questions regarding Highway 41N regarding chain link fencing, 3 fire hydrants, etc.

Ron Thorpe of Windermere HOA spoke of their opposition to changing Railroad Street, parking, school traffic, etc. City Manager Williams questioned where his information came from as no parking has been proposed. It has always been a City street, and the proposal is to rehabilitate back to a useful street. Councilwoman Lizanich noting a conversation with Mr. Thorpe and spoke of through streets to eliminate traffic issues and for safety.

Kristin Nelson – Leesburg stated support for the Personhood cities and read biblical scriptures.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 12/03/2024*
 - Recommendation - Approval
- c) Oak Ridge Cemetery Buyback*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Liberty Park Boardwalk Rehabilitation Project – Bid Award* with City Manager Williams stating Akin to the Cooter Pond Boardwalk, the City let a Request for Proposal (RFP 2024-01-PR) for the Liberty Park Boardwalk Rehabilitation Project. The RFP garnered bid proposals from four different companies. The proposal included removal and replacement of deck boards, using the Wear Deck Boards, just like what is being used at the Cooter Pond Boardwalk. The proposal also included repairing or replacing any hand railing and joists (runners) as needed along with any deck stabilization. The City has compared all the bids, researched the companies and the work they have performed, and would like to recommend that the City accept Golf Coast Construction's bid in the amount of \$124,069.00. Golf Coast Construction's bid was almost \$30,000 lower than the next highest and they specialize in bridges and boardwalks. They have built numerous structures at Universal Studios, Disney, and even locally at Silver Springs State Park. Staff is confident that Golf Coast Construction is the best and lowest bid proposal and would like to move forward with their company. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to accept Golf Coast Construction's bid in the amount of \$124,069.00 for the Liberty Park Rehabilitation Project and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and manage change orders to the project. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

10)b) Vehicle Purchase – Public Works* with City Manager Williams stating In keeping with the City's adopted purchasing policy, purchases of more than \$25,000 must receive Council approval. The City of Inverness would like to continue using the local company in Nick Nicholas Ford, who has been able to offer competitive state government pricing and offer quick delivery times. Currently, the Public Works Department is utilizing a 2008 Chevy 1500 for the Public Works Director. Staff is proposing the purchase of a 2024 4x4 Ford Ranger truck, for the amount of \$38,999.45, to replace the current Chevy pickup. The truck will be utilized for Public Works duties and jobs associated with everyday department demands. The 2008 Chevy pick-up will be recommended for surplus once the replacement truck has been delivered. Before Council this evening is a proposed bid for a new truck for the Public Works Department. Funds have already been appropriated for the purchase in the current CIP budget. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the purchase of a new 2024 Ford Ranger Truck in the amount of**

\$38,999.45 through Nick Nicholas Ford as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

10)c) Mutual Aid Agreement with City of Crystal River Fire Department* with City Manager Williams stating Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, known as the "Florida Inter Local Cooperation Act of 1969," authorizes local governments to make the most efficient use of their power by enabling them to cooperate with other localities on a basis of mutual advantage in order to have available to it the equipment and personnel of one or more of the other Parties for backup purposes, direct active firefighting, rescue, emergency medical services, special operations, and emergency/disaster relief aid and assistance. Recently the Fire Department provided mutual aid assistance to the City of Crystal River during Hurricane Helene by assisting them with city fire and medical coverage and flood response which allowed their weary crews to rest. The Fire Department also has held joint trainings with the City Of Crystal River at the new Inverness Fire Training Center enabling them to receive valuable live fire training. This agreement bolsters the working relationship between the two departments. Execution of this agreement authorizes the request, provision, and receipt of inter-jurisdictional mutual assistance with the City of Crystal River for Fire and Emergency Services as outlined in the agreement. **Councilman Davis motioned for execution of the agreement by the City Manager. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)d) Resolution 2025-01 Legislative Appropriation Local Match* with City Manager Williams stating this resolution commits local funds from the City's Reserve Balances for Infrastructure and Facilities respectively for the Railroad Street Extension and Whispering Pines RV Campground projects. The amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) from each reserve fund for the respective project is being allocated through the Resolution. The local matching funds will only be used if the State, by appropriation or grant, provides the City's requested amounts for one or both projects. The projects are lofty goals noting school traffic is an issue. Mayor Plaisted spoke of traffic and more accidents. Councilman Craig spoke of the commitment of funds. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned if this item will come back to Council with City Manager confirming. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read the Resolution by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2025 – 01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA COMMITTING LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION REQUESTS FOR RAILROAD STREET AND WHISPERING PINES RV CAMPGROUND.

Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-01 roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilman Davis. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

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

- Martin Luther King Day with Mimi Clark providing details of the celebration, this year's theme is "Infinite Hope". Saturday is planned as a day of service in

the community and Sunday will have a commemoration from 4:00pm – 5:00pm, food trucks and children’s games, and from 5:30pm – 7:00pm a gospel fest.

- Other with City Manager referencing the tragedy on New Year’s Eve and spoke of concerns of City events and vulnerability.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman Craig wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Davis wished everyone a Happy New Year and spoke of the new Citrus County Sheriff.

Councilwoman Bega questioned the walk for the Dr. MLK, Jr event and it was noted there will not be a walk this year.

Councilwoman Lizanich wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Plaisted stated he is grateful for the safety in the City and the people. Spoke of upcoming Roe v. Wade event at the Historic Courthouse.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley welcomed Councilman Craig and questioned the connector trail and grant funding.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President