

January 21, 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 – *Absent*
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 Vice President Davis and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) State of the City with Mayor Plaisted stating the City has seen unprecedented success, community engagements, & investment with groundbreaking approaches to bringing about smart growth & an economic environment that fosters connecting people to their City. All done without compromising the *Small Town Done Right* look and feel. Mayor highlighted various departments and the accomplishments each department had achieved and spoke of things to come in the new year. Mayor Plaisted also presented a proclamation and plaque recognizing City Manager Williams as a Manager of Distinction.

4)b) DAC Bond Award of Excellence with Finance Director Koter stating municipal/ICRA bonds were issued as the funding source for a variety of projects completed in 2020. After five years and recognition for financial sustainability and excellence via multiple rating agencies, a Certificate of Excellence for continuous years of transparency and accountability an award was issued to the City by DAC (Digital Assurance Certification) Bond for several years to ensure all filing requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are met. *No action required.*

4)c) Community Weave with Inverness Arts & Cultural Alliance Paul Hertensen and Bonnie Anderson spoke of the Festival of the Arts, painted turtles, murals, and presented the community weave project with Mayor Plaisted receiving it on behalf of the City.

4)d) Cooter Kudo with Mayor Plaisted presenting Tim Graf, Manager of Lowe's of Inverness, for continued support of the City of Inverness and the Inverness Fire Department.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Sheriff Vincent stated his thoughts moving forward in his new position as Citrus County Sheriff. He spoke of his motto, One Community – One Goal. Noted that the City has a good partner with the CCSO, safety is the #1 priority and reminded that we are stronger together.

Ann Greuey with Windermere Garden Villas HOA spoke of concerns with the proposed Railroad Street extension. City Manager Williams restated there are no parking plans proposed. Railroad Street is a long standing right of way and functioning road. This will be a paved road, and all of this misconception is confusing. He spoke of the importance of safety for the community with the example of signal crossings on the trail.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 01/07/2025*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

9)a) Surplus Equipment Declaration * with City Clerk Jackson stating it has been determined that the equipment listed below as no longer useful for the operation of the City of Inverness.

- 2008 Chevy Silverado 1500 Pickup Truck
- 2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo SUV

Councilwoman Bega motioned to declare the listed items as surplus property and authorize that we proceed with disposal. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Ordinance 2024-840/841/842 1409 Poe Street Annexation– First Reading* with City Manager Williams stating the property at 1419 Poe Street is a .22 acre or 9,599 square foot vacant lot located at the southern end of the city limits. A request for voluntary annexation was submitted by the owner with future plans to build a single-family home. This annexation will allow for the inclusion of this property into the City's Utility and Sanitation programs. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 5 - 0 to recommend approval to the City Council at their meeting of January 8, 2025. Community Development Director Shoemaker provided a presentation with details of the annexation. Vice President Davis recused himself as he is the managing member of Citrus County Land LLC. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-840 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2025- 840

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1409 POE STREET, SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 171, FLORIDA STATUTES PROVIDING FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAID ANNEXATION, DESCRIBING THE AREA TO BE ANNEXED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-840 by rollcall vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilman Craig. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and Vice President Davis, yes. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-841 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025- 841

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS REQUIRED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH AND INCLUDING SECTION 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES; DETAILING THE LAND USE CHANGE INVOLVED AND AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FOR THE PROPERTY SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; RECLASSIFYING 0.22 ACRES OF ANNEXED PROPERTY FROM CITRUS COUNTY COASTAL LAKES DISTRICT (“CL”) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (“LD/R1”); PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-841 by rollcall vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilman Craig. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and Vice President Davis, yes. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-842 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025-842

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FOR 0.22 ACRES FROM CITRUS COUNTY COASTAL LAKES RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (CLR) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (LD/R1); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-842 by rollcall vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilman Craig. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and Vice President Davis, yes. The motion carried.

10)b) Pine Ave. Stormwater Improvement Professional Services* with City Manager Williams stating the City continues to make great strides to address stormwater concerns identified in the Stormwater Master Plan completed in 2022. Assistant City Manager Calascione noted in 2023, the City Council authorized Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to initialize and prioritize the \$450,000 LPQ0033 Grant Agreement received from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Springs and Watershed Restoration Program. Pine Avenue was selected for design, permitting, and construction of a proposed stormwater improvement. The project scope was expanded in 2024 to include the conversion of the failing stormwater structure at the north end of the existing parking lot into new paved parking spaces and installing piping for storage/transmission of stormwater below the new parking and upsizing of the proposed retention pond on City property (corner of Zephyr St. and N. Pine Ave.). This professional services proposal from VHB includes repair and resurfacing of the existing parking lot on N. Pine and add additional parking spaces on City owned property to the south of the lot (towards Dampier St.). ICRA Downtown Parking Fund could finance the design this fiscal year. The proposed cost of services is \$46,492.15 and an allowance for additional direct expenses up to \$1,197.15. A presentation was shown defining three difference scopes of work. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve the proposal for professional services with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) in the amount of \$46,492.15, with an allowance of up to \$1,197.15 for additional direct expenses, as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)c) Vehicle Purchase - Administration* with City Manager Williams stating the City would like to continue using the local company Nick Nicholas Ford to purchase a 2025 Ford Escape SUV, in the amount of \$27,964.50. The vehicle will be utilized by the Assistant City Manager and other Administration Department employees for everyday department functions, including, responding to incidents, monitoring projects and City infrastructure, etc. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve the purchase of a new 2025 Ford Escape SUV in the amount of \$27,964.50 through Nick Nicholas Ford using the government concession pricing that they are providing and allocating the funds through a budget transfer from the Equipment Reserve. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)d) Gateway Sign Project Update with City Manager Williams stating GAI-Community Services Group (CSG) was engaged to assist with creation of a new street signage system to match the City's brand and guide residents and visitors to destination points within the City. Community Development Director Shoemaker provided a presentation with details stating four firms submitted proposals for the Phase 1 Gateway Type A, B and C signage and a contract was signed with the low bidder AC Signs for the Phase 1 work only at a cost of \$285,000. Gateway signage includes two of the Type A

Landscape Gateway Monuments, large entry monuments to the City with a length of 16 feet; width of 3 feet 7 inches; and height of 13 feet 8 inches. The locations for installation are: the northeast corner of Highway 44 and Forest Drive; and the southeast corner of Highway 44 and U.S. 41. Type B Portrait Gateway Monuments includes four 4 x 4-foot entry pillars at 16 feet tall and will be installed at the following locations: US 41 at Zephyr Street; Pleasant Grove and Grove Manor Boulevard; U.S. 41 and Mossy Oak Drive; and Independence at Reagan Street West. The final group includes five Type C Downtown Gateway directional signs to be installed at the following locations: Tompkins Street and North Citrus Way; Main Street and Seminole Avenue; Main Street and South Apopka Avenue; US Hwy 41 South and MLK Blvd. Mayor Plaisted asked what materials will be used and it was confirmed masonry and metal. Vice President Davis stated the professional signs will make a great impression. Councilman Craig questioned the resolution of the electronic sign at Forest Drive and Hwy 44 with City Manager noting it will be a high resolution. *No action required.*

10)e) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- South Highlands Septic to Sewer and working with the State as this would be a significant benefit to the City.
- Small Town Saturday Night coming up and spoke of the precautions needed due to the New Years Eve tragedy.
- Shoreline Restoration and Management Project with City Attorney Hartley and Parks Director Worley working with FWC and noted the new device for kayak launch.
- Dock Relocation and Wallace Brooks Dock Modification at Wallace Brooks Park and spoke of the regulatory process. The State wants a lease, and we hope to complete this by July.
- Legislative Priorities – Local Support and spoke of certain priorities such as Railroad Street and scheduling a Town Hall meeting. Went to BOCC for support and they were apprehensive, not sure why. The City will continue to move forward with these priorities and spoke of how Whispering Pines Park is an aging facility.
- Other included the struggle of wills with the Friday night car show as it is unsafe for participants to leave during the event. Consensus was to look to move to a different day of the week in the afternoon. There could be more control if it was in the IGC parking lot, as a City managed event. It was noted that shopping plazas will not allow the shows due to liability. This will be brought back to Council. Announced that Jake Blanton passed over the weekend. City Manager was honored to receive the proclamation and plaque this evening.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of attending the BOCC meeting today and we should let the TDC know our intentions. It was a good feeling presenting the proclamation and plaque to the City Manager. Spoke of the terrible traffic at Ella Avenue and Zephyr Street.

Councilwoman Bega stated she hopes that Railroad Street would alleviate the traffic conditions. She has heard lots of radio ads for City events.

Councilwoman Lizanich spoke of the community weave project and this year's theme regarding cancer. Thinks it is a good idea to look at alternatives for the car show, noting the day and time are issues with the car owners.

Councilman Craig congratulated City Manager Williams for this evening's presentation by Mayor Plaisted.

Vice President Davis thanked everyone that attended the meeting tonight. We all want what is best for the City. Hopeful that the Federal elected officials will band together for the best for the country.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President