

February 4, 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

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

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) Ordinance 2024-840/841/842 1409 Poe Street Annexation– Final Adoption* 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. Councilman Davis recused himself as he is the managing member of Citrus County Land LLC. President Hepfer opened the public hearing. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-840 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. 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.

No one spoke for or against the Ordinance. Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-840 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-841 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. 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.

No one spoke for or against the Ordinance. Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-841 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-842 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. 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.

No one spoke for or against the Ordinance. Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-842 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried. The Public Hearing was closed.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty addressed the Independence Highway sidewalk and a meeting with a representative from Congressman Bilirakis' office. Spoke of funding and the \$5.1M cost and hopes to get 100% funding for the project. Noted this project focuses on safety and will benefit both the City and the County.

Steve Dugay referenced 2 handmade Inverness signs that he and a partner crafts. Spoke of loving everything about Inverness and wished to donate the signs to the City.

Debbie Wheatley questioned if a golf course was going to be a part of the potential RV park in Whispering Pines. City Manager Williams stated nothing is certain at this point as options are being explored. There are no plans for a golf course.

Mike Puzino suggested that Trader Joe's, Aldi, bocce ball courts, etc. be added to the City. Spoke of some confusion regarding Ella and Turner Camp being the same road. City Manager Williams stated officially it is State Route 581.

Lala Sanders spoke of concerns of recent mailing she received regarding legalized marijuana.

Brittany Sewell stated her daughter, Avery wished to ask the Mayor if he loves people and God. Mayor Plaisted responded yes.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 01/21/2025*
 - 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) Cootertoher 2025 with Parks Director Worley providing a presentation of the upcoming Cootertoher. Details were provided of the many events that are scheduled and spoke of last year's success. Noted 2025 will be bigger and better. Spoke of community partnerships that are beneficial to the event. He also provided a listing of reoccurring events in the City. Council President Hepfer liked everything she heard, and Councilman Davis agreed. Councilwoman Lizanich asked if the 3-day music fest could be condensed to 1 day.

10)b) Ordinance 2024-844 City Utility Fees and Charges Updates– First Reading* with City Manager Williams stating in September 2024, Raftelis conducted comprehensive studies for potable water and wastewater rates. Commercial reclaimed water rates were not adjusted, as it was not in the study. Administration and Finance Departments conducted an analysis utilizing methods endorsed by our consultant for a recommended rate adjustment that is within state guidelines and will allow the utility to continue to balance cost recovery and customer

service, while continuing the environmental benefits of providing commercial reclaimed water. Additionally, the Public Works Department seeks to update the hydrant meter deposit amount. If adopted upon final reading, necessary adjustments to the commercial reclaimed water rate would be effective on October 1, 2025. The hydrant meter deposit amount would be effective upon final reading and adoption of the Ordinance. Asst. City Manager Calascione provided a presentation with details of the agenda item, including the Industrial Business Park at the airport. Councilman Davis questioned the BOCC using the reclaimed water at the business park with Asst. City Manager Calascione stating definitely. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-844 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2025- 844

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 22-95 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED TEMPORARY WATER SERVICE TO AMEND THE DEPOSIT FOR TEMPORARY METERS; AMENDING SECTION 22-98 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED BASIC RATE SCHEDULE FOR POTABLE WATER, SEWER AND RECLAIMED WATER SERVICE TO INCLUDE A NEW COMMERCIAL RECLAIMED WATER RATE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND INTERPRETING THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-844 by rollcall vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

10)c) Citrus County BOCC Legislative Priorities Request for Letter of Support* with City Manager Williams stating The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has assembled their list of legislative priorities for the 2025 Session of the Florida Legislature. These priorities include the Barge Canal Boat Ramp, Fire Rescue Station #8 relocation to the Inverness Airport, and the Halls River Multi-Use Path. The BOCC has asked Council to consider submitting a letter of support for some or all of these identified projects. James Toy – BOCC Intergovernmental Affairs Manager provided a presentation with details of the priorities that are being requested by the BOCC to the Florida Legislature. He noted the Barge Canal Boat Ramp is a fully permitted project that will include a large number of parking spaces for regular vehicles and those with boat trailers. Councilman Davis questioned the number of parking spaces which will be on the North side of the canal. Councilwoman Bega questioned the remark of boat ramp fees paying back the proposed debt to be incurred, noting the County has collected boat ramp fees for years. Councilman Craig questioned the lack of restrooms and amenities in the proposed design. **Council consensus was to provide a letter of support.**

10)d) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Senior Games are currently happening with Director Worley providing an update. Referenced shuffleboard, bag toss, pickleball, etc. The 5K road race will be this Saturday at 9:00am.
- Car Show will be moved to a new location on Saturday, February 15 from 10:00am – 12:00noon on a trial basis.
- Legislative Delegation will be this Friday in the BOCC Chambers so legislative priorities can be presented. Language will be added to the City's priorities regarding Railroad Street and FDOT modifying the design of 41N to allow access. This will protect that area and community.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Bega announced the Valerie Players Gala will be February 14 and tickets are on sale now. Noted various donations the Valerie Players have made to a food bank and a library.

Councilwoman Lizanich stated the Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation will have a meeting on April 24.

Councilman Davis stated the MLK, Jr. event was great with speeches, music, etc. Amazed by the 250 participants for the Sr. Games.

Councilman Craig thanked the BOCC representative for providing information on the County's legislative priorities.

President Hepfer stated she was glad to have gained her health back after battling the flu.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley thanked staff for organizing the Sr. Games. It's amazing. Stated she recently enjoyed the Odd Couple production at the Valerie Theatre.

Mike Puzino questioned an outdoor shooting range in the County.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President