

March 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 Council President Hepfer 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

4)a) Nature Coast Bike Fest with Asst. Parks Director Bechtel introducing Mike DeFelice and Roberta Oldread who spoke of the upcoming event. There are a few new additions, music, etc. This is a family friendly event. President Hepfer spoke of the success of the event last year. Councilman Davis stated he had received no complaints of last year's event. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned if they expect more attendees than last year.

4)b) Citrus County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report with Lt. Fischer providing details of the 4th quarter report regarding tracked crimes, calls for service, arrests, traffic accidents, etc. with the numbers being slightly higher. Community Resource Officer Deputy Ruby provided details from the Community Resource Office regarding arrests, trespassing, traffic, and calls for service. He highlighted the many community events. Mayor Plaisted spoke of recent issues at the parks with Lt. Fischer noting they were trespassed from the park, and if they return, they will be arrested. The CRO shifts are being looked at to be staggered. Councilman Davis encouraged the Elected Officials to keep their eyes and ears open and not to hesitate to contact either Inverness CROs. Spoke of seeing more kids on electric scooters/bikes with Deputy Ruby stating the riders must adhere to all traffic laws. President Hepfer spoke of concerns of seeing groups of young people walking through neighborhoods.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Richard Fawcett – Windermere Blvd. spoke of requesting the video/audio of the Town Hall meeting from the City Clerk's Office and using a program to transcribe the audio.

Brother Steven Gerard Sidlovsky – Lorain, Ohio referencing a handout he provided regarding an example of a proposed resolution for the City declaring the City as a safe personhood city.

Marco Wilson – Lake St. suggested a possible moratorium on loud bass music that comes from events at Liberty Park.

Debbie Wheatley – Silverwood praised last year’s bike fest regarding noise and that it was very controlled.

Karen Esty – Wilson St. regarding a recent meeting with a representative from Congressman Bilirakis’ office in pursuit of a sidewalk along Independence Highway. She will need letters of support to accompany the application for funding. Consensus by Council was given for staff to compose a letter of support.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 02/11/2025 & 02/18/2025
 - 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) Downtown and Historic Courthouse Landscaping Bid Award* with City Manager Williams stating staff have been working with Landscape Architect Paul Gibbs of Community Land Design, Inc., to develop a new landscaping look for the downtown. Community Development Director Shoemaker made a presentation of details of the projects. The effort was expanded to include the historic downtown courthouse in a cooperative effort with Citrus County. The goal is to improve the appearance of both areas in the downtown with a blended and coordinated landscape theme. Three bids were received for the projects:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>City Project</u>	<u>County Project</u>
Green Technologies Inc.	\$262,228.00	\$136,751.00
Earthscapes Unlimited, Inc.	\$377,860.00	\$156,700.00
Daly & Zilch, Inc.	\$426,452.00	\$173,297.00

Funding for the City portion of the project would come from the currently adopted ICRA CIP budget, and the additional \$22,228 would be a budget amendment from the Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) Fund balance. Citrus County will be responsible for funding their own portion of the project and making direct payment to the vendor. The work is scheduled to begin in April and be completed in June. Paul Gibbs spoke of his past involvement with streetscapes and provided additional details regarding the projects. Councilwoman Lizanich was happy to partner with the County on the

projects. Councilman Davis spoke of the impressive appearance into the downtown after the projects are completed. Mayor Plaisted questioned the number of trees that would be replaced. Councilman Craig spoke of the growth of ground vegetation with Mr. Gibbs explaining various plants and growth patterns. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the proposal with Green Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$262,228.00 for the Downtown Inverness and Citrus County Historic Courthouse Streetscape Project RFP 2025-01-CDD as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)b) Liberty Park Playground Shade Structures* with City Manager Williams stating on April 16, 2024, Council approved a proposal by WillyGoat Playgrounds, Inc. (WillyGoat) for the purchase and installation of shade structures at the Liberty Park Playground for \$55,500. While finalizing the logistics of the installation, WillyGoat was unable to supply a Florida Licensed General Contractor and still honor the original quote. After much research and requests with no success, staff reached back out to WillyGoat to get an updated quote for the purchase and installation with a Florida licensed general contractor. They have provided a quote of \$78,000.00, approx. \$22,500.00 higher than what is currently budgeted. Should Council proceed, additional funds would be part of a future budget amendment reallocating surplus funds from completed CIP projects or the Building Reserve. Councilman Davis clarified this project will now provide three shade structures instead of two. Councilman Craig questioned if shade structures were common on playgrounds with City Manager noting it is for both the children and parents. **Councilman Davis motioned to approve the quote for equipment purchase and professional installation with WillyGoat in the amount of \$78,000.00 as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)d) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Inverness Government Center, Whispering Pines Park Admin Building, and CORE Building with City Manager Williams speaking to the proposed relocations involving tenants in the IGC, WPP Admin. building, and the CORE building, with a proposed new tenant in the IGC. Also, regarding the IGC, the Department of Children and Families will be relocating at the end of their lease. Councilman Davis questioned the use of the Council Chambers. Councilman Craig spoke of security upgrades. Sheriff Vincent was looking forward to working with the City and explained the restructure that took place in January when he was sworn into office. Use of the CORE building will be a visible marker for law enforcement in the City and community policing. He spoke of the move to the CORE building as ideal for a sheriff's office substation. Council consensus was to move forward with the changes at all three locations.
- Big Bass Bluegrass & BBQ with Parks Director Worley providing details for the upcoming weekend event, noting the Chronicle Outdoor Expo will be held at the same time.
- St. Patrick's Day with Parks Director Worley noting the festivities will be on Sunday, March 16 with the parade starting at 4:00pm, using the same route as last year. After the parade, the celebration moves to the Depot Pavilion area.

- Other with City Manager referencing a thank you letter that was received regarding the Senior Games from a pickleball team. Spoke of the recent Little League Opening Day event last Saturday, Market at the Depot, etc.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted stated there is great stuff going on in our City. Spoke of the parking on Ella during school pickup as a safety issue, with City Manager Williams stating there was a meeting with a School Board member regarding this and they are looking at options.

Councilman Craig stated he was happy with the changes coming to the IGC, WPP Admin. building, and the CORE building, and continuing to work with the Sheriff's Office.

Councilwoman Bega noted the Valerie Players finished the Wedding Singer production, and it was a great success. Spoke of making plans for the upcoming Earth Day in conjunction with Keep Citrus County Beautiful (KCCB) in April.

Councilwoman Lizanich was excited with the partnerships with various County agencies. Enjoyed Little League Opening Day.

Councilman Davis spoke of rebuilding the relationship with County agencies, teaming up with Citrus County Sheriff's Office, etc. Spoke of several events where he has seen the Sheriff attending. Excited about the fishing tournament with so many anglers.

Council President Hepfer stated the Little League Opening Day was wonderful and she enjoyed introducing the various teams. Spoke of the middle school traffic issue with City Manager Williams suggesting Councilman Davis as the City's liaison with the School Board. Happy with the partnerships with County agencies.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President