

May 6, 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 Davis
Vice President Lizanich
Councilwoman Bega
Councilwoman Hepfer
Councilman Craig
Mayor Plaisted

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

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Hepfer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Nature Coast Bike Fest – Recap of Event with Mike DeFelice stating this year's event was a tremendous success even with the rainy weather. The 2026 event is already in the planning stages. Members of the bike fest organization were also there to present a donation to the Citrus County Blessings program. Representatives from Blessings was in attendance to accept a check in the amount of \$5,000 to their program. Details of the program was given to highlight the meals that are provided to over 3,000 students in Citrus County, including during holiday breaks, etc.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) FY 2026-30 Capital Improvement Plan Budget Workshop with City Manager Williams stating the workshop was a step to the development of the upcoming budget. The planning is an important part of the budgetary cycle, as the City must consider not only the needs of the City, but also critical evaluation of National and State economy and changes within the legislature that could impact City revenues. The presentation included the following information:

Current Year Capital Projects included road resurfacing and sidewalk improvements, Pine Ave. stormwater, Wayfinding/Gateway signs, Septic to Sewer projects, Liberty Park shade structures, Public Art, County Interconnect, Inverness Government Center, RV campground, Whispering Pines Park new entrance, etc.

Capital Improvement Program 2026 – 2030 funding summary for the General Fund, ICRA, Utilities, and Oak Ridge Cemetery. Totals: 2025 – \$21,345,609; 2026 – \$24,021,517; 2027 – \$7,999,375; 2028 – \$5,307,450; 2029 – \$2,622,000 and 2030 – \$3,820,100.

Capital Improvement Program 2026 – 2030 General Fund funding summary for projects included Administration, IT, Fire, Public Works including Roads & Streets, Parks & Rec.

Totals: 2025 – \$2,628,162; 2026 – \$2,417,100; 2027 – \$4,397,500; 2028 – \$3,706,200; 2029 – \$1,297,000 and 2030 – \$2,007,600. Highlights included Administration vehicle replacement and IGC upgrades to security, lobby, chambers, etc. IT projects included equipment, intranet, security cameras, and telephone equipment. Fire included equipment, training grounds and props, thermal cameras, bunker gear, a new fire station, etc. Public Works included annual road & sidewalk improvements, equipment, vehicles, stormwater, fencing, etc. Parks & Rec included trucks, mowers, shade structures, park amenities, etc. The Valerie Theatre had carpet replacement, new chairs, painting, audio/video, etc. Whispering Pines Park included pool deck furniture, equipment, shade replacements, fencing, Pickleball/Tennis courts, splashpad, etc. The lease with Forestry for Whispering Pines expires in 2030 and consideration needs to be the direction for the future.

Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) 2026 - 2030 addressed current fund balance, legislative issues and major projects to consider including the RV Campground, Community Center, City Walk, etc. The funding summary for projects included Public Art Initiative, downtown landscape & lighting, Wayfinding signs, corridor study, City Walk, etc. Totals: 2025 – \$3,251,319; 2026 – \$3,325,000; 2027 – \$325,000; 2028 – \$25,000; 2029 – \$25,000 and 2030 – \$25,000.

Capital Improvement Program – Utilities 2026-2030 funding included water & wastewater plants, lift stations, water & sewer lines, etc. Totals: 2025 – \$15,466,128; 2026 – \$18,279,417; 2027 – \$3,246,875; 2028 – \$1,576,250; 2029 – \$1,265,000 and 2030 – \$1,787,500. Highlights included Water Plants – plant rehabs, county interconnect, booster station generator, etc. Wastewater Plants – plant rehab, flow meters, pump rebuilds, sewer bypass pump, etc. Lift Stations – rehab odor control, pump rebuilds, etc. Water Lines – hydrant replacement, utility mapping, meter replacement, area improvements, etc. Sewer Lines – 41N & S. Highlands Septic to Sewer, vehicle replacements, hydrovac, etc.

Capital Improvement Program – Cemetery funding summary included the construction of an additional columbariums. Totals: 2025 – \$0; 2026 – \$0; 2027 – \$30,000; 2028 – \$0; 2029 – \$30,000 and 2030 – \$0.

City Manager's recapped with closing considerations asking if the 5-year CIP strengthens the City, are we planning to invest and boost the economy, are we focused on projects with return on investments, is this affordable and attainable, and are we leaving Inverness better than when we started. Mayor Plaisted spoke to the West Inverness Trail, Whispering Pines Park funding and the pool facility, etc. Councilwoman Hepfer spoke to CRA funds, possible entrance fees to Whispering Pines Park, etc. Councilwoman Bega spoke to the potential RV campground design, plans moving forward, etc. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned recent legislation and effects, funding for an RV campground and discussion with Forestry, etc. Councilman Craig spoke to a new fire station, partnering with various entities regarding funding, responsibilities of Whispering Pines Park, etc. President Davis questioned the County's Fire MSTU & MSBU, ICRA or TDC funding, funding for the RV campground, committing to certain projects, etc. City Manager Williams stated decisions need to be made regarding Whispering Pines Park, such as extending the lease, the RV campground, keeping the park or returning it to the State, funding for various aspects of the CIP, etc.

5)b) Ordinance 2025-845 City Stormwater Management Update – Final Adoption* with Assistant City Manager Calascione providing summary of the ordinance updating the City's stormwater management practices concerning inspections and monitoring, consistent

with Florida Department of Environmental Protection recommendations. **The public hearing was opened.** No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-845 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025- 845

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA,
AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF
ORDINANCES ENTITLED STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT BY ADDING SECTION 19-11 ENTITLED
INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING FOR COMPLIANCE;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND INTERPRETING
THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO
THE CODE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-845 by rollcall vote on the final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Davis, yes. The motion carried. The public hearing was closed.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Debbie Wheatley questioned the location of the West Inverness Bike Trail and the funding for the new entrance to Whispering Pines Park on Hwy. 41N.

Karen Esty spoke of the Independence Highway sidewalk and the various steps of the process regarding funding. Stated she will be attending the next BOCC meeting for more answers.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 04/01/2025
 - Recommendation - Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Summer Sizzlin Event* with Parks & Rec Director Worley stating on June 21, 2021, the City of Inverness held its first Teen's Night Out. A completely free event that provided a night of games, contests, music, and food for youth in sixth through tenth grade.

The event started out with three community partners and saw about 75 kids show up to attend. Since 2021, the event has seen tremendous growth and positivity within the community. Each event averages about 8-10 community partners and sees anywhere from 250 to 300 kids in attendance. Free music, free food, games, contests, interactive themed months, and community partnerships have contributed to the success of the event. In August 2024, the City held a Back to School Bash to all ages to prepare the kids for school. Community partners gave away book bags, school supplies, and many more items. This was in addition to the normal free food, games, music, and contests. This event saw over 500 kids attend and participate. On May 29, 2025, the City will be hosting a Summer Sizzlin Event from 5 to 7 pm open to all ages. There will be over 40 community partners supplying games, activities, food, and opportunities to sign up for summer activities, whether it be church-related camps, youth sports camps, registrations for upcoming leagues and organizations, etc. It was announced there will be no Teen's Night in June and July. *No Action Required.*

10)b) 2808 Madison Street Request for Code Enforcement Lien Reduction* with Community Development Director Shoemaker stating in October 2024 staff discovered the property was being used as a rental home without registration and a Business Tax Receipt (BTR). A Notice of Violation was sent via certified mail to the property owner with a Special Magistrate hearing date of December 4, 2024, which was returned. The Special Magistrate found the property in violation of not obtaining a Business Tax Receipt and ordered a \$100.00 a day fine until the property owner complied. The Administrative Order was sent certified mail on December 28, 2024, and on January 19, 2025, which was returned, and a lien was placed on the property. The property owner, Jason Anechiarico, contacted the city on April 1, 2025, to get clarification on the code enforcement lien. The BTR was paid which abated the violation with a lien amount due of \$9,500. Mr. Anechiarico has made a settlement offer of \$1,000 to release the lien. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve a Release of Lien in the amount of \$1,000 of the total amount of \$9,500 for 2808 Madison Street West as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)c) 1410 Carl Street Request for Code Enforcement Lien Reduction* with CDD Director Shoemaker stating Code Enforcement staff observed construction work at the residential home in December of 2023. The owner, Francisco Bravo, continued to work on the home and was sent a Notice of Violation via certified mail with a Special Magistrate Hearing Date of February 14, 2024. Mr. Bravo attended the hearing, and the Magistrate found him in violation of Section 104.6.2 - Work Commencing Before Permit Issuance. The Magistrate provided a sixty-day period to obtain the required permit application and to hire a Professional Engineer to sign and seal the plans, and the limited financial resources available to Mr. Bravo. During the 60-day period a permit was not obtained, and the case went back to the Magistrate on May 8, 2024 and Claim of Lien was issued on May 14, 2024. Mr. Bravo applied for the permit on June 21, 2024, which abated the violation and stopped the daily lien. The total lien amount due is \$3,200 and Mr. Bravo provided a written offer of \$1,500 to settle the case and release the lien. Mr. Bravo cannot secure a Certificate of Occupancy for the home with the lien in place. It was noted that is settlement was an exception to the rule of covering cost to the City. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve a Release of Lien in the amount of \$1,500 of the total amount**

due of \$3,200 for 1410 Carl Street as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

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

- City Fire ISO Rating Update with Chief Bessler explaining the 1 ½ year's work that aided to a better ISO rating.
- Withlacoochee State Trail with City Manager Williams noting the increase in negative issues lately and the assistance from CCSO, etc. The lease and management plan will be an upcoming agenda item.
- Hill St. – Utility Remediation is complete and was flawless.
- Other with City Manager referencing a new temporary bocce ball court at Whisperings Pines Park, for a trial basis. Grace Street at the entrance to the hospital had a recent traffic issue with a physician being struck by a vehicle. There is now a 3-way stop to slow traffic. Public art is to be added in the near future.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Bega spoke of scholarships being presented to students at the high schools in the County by the Valerie Players Board.

Councilwoman Lizanich stated she will have a report on grantees for CCCCCF at the next meeting. The CIP presentation was great.

Councilwoman Hepfer enjoyed her participation with Red Cross and the Inverness Fire Department with installing smoke detectors at Leeson's Park and spoke of a medical emergency discovered during that event of a resident. Recently enjoyed a play at the Valerie.

Councilman Craig thanked the staff and the City Manager for the CIP presentation.

Council President Davis welcomed his daughter Natalie, who was visiting from out of town.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President