

June 17, 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 Council President Davis and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the Agenda with item 10)c) tabled to future meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Citrus County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report with Lt. Fischer providing details of the 1st 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 many community events. All agreed this was a great report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty spoke of media attention she had received from the University of Florida regarding the proposed Independence Highway sidewalk. Noted and interview and newsletter article. She is setting up another meeting with Congressman Bilirakis' office for further discussion.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 06/03/2025
 - 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) Architectural and Aesthetic Review Committee Appointment – Alicia Schafer* with City Manager Williams stating the staff received an application for a committee member position from Alicia Schafer. She has been a resident of Citrus County for 10 years and business owner of Fit Full Force Fitness Studio at 118 N. Pine Avenue since 2018. Her professional background includes 19+ years of experience in home remodeling and repair with Derek Schafer's Maintenance Services in Orange County. This hands-on experience would provide the Committee an insight as to the level of effort required by homeowners and contractors to successfully complete preservation and restoration projects. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the appointment of Alicia Schafer to the Architectural and aesthetic Review Committee for 4-year term starting June 20, 2025. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)b) Architectural and Aesthetic Review Committee Appointment – Deborah J. Davis* with City Manager Williams stating the City received an application from Debbie Davis, who has been a resident of the City for 9 years. In 1978, she started working for the City and held various positions until appointed as City Clerk in 2003 and retiring from that position in 2016. Her work history included several projects that dealt with architectural and historical resources including the installation of plaques for historic buildings, blending the appearance of the new government center with other historical buildings in the downtown and restoration of the Valerie Theater. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the appointment of Deborah J. Davis to the Architectural and aesthetic Review Committee for 4-year term starting June 20, 2025. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)c) Ordinance 2024-849 City Utility Liens – ^{Tabled} to a Future Meeting

10)d) Ella Avenue/Turner Camp Road Right of Way Drainage and Protection Project* with City Manager Williams stating there have been issues with illegal parking and waiting within the right of way (ROW) for Ella Ave/Turner Camp Rd for several years associated with Inverness Middle School traffic. Staff has worked with the school system to bring awareness and resolution to include needed accommodations upon the school's property to address the issue. The City had the area evaluated by a professional engineer for the needed improvements and repairs and it was recommended to reclaim the drainage swales within the ROW and install a low-speed guardrail system. The guardrail system will serve multiple functions and will extend some 1300 feet to prevent vehicles from leaving the roadway and damaging the drainage swales, providing a safety barrier for pedestrians on the sidewalk, and will eliminate the unauthorized parking that has been occurring. Wood rail fencing will be added to a portion of the Railroad St ROW to deter similar issue. There is an estimated cost of \$40,000. Noted after negotiations the cost should be approx. \$28,000 - \$29,000. The project would be completed prior to the start of the upcoming school year. Mayor Plaisted stated someone had contacted him regarding the changes to this area. He questioned what material would the guardrail posts be. Councilwoman Hepfer agreed it is for the safety of the students as she has witnessed the traffic. Councilwoman Bega confirmed with City Manager Williams it would be a solid

guardrail. Councilwoman Lizanich had confirmed with City Manager Williams that damaged portions of the sidewalk will be improved on the South side of Turner Camp Road. President Davis spoke of the many years and many meetings with the School Board on the subject, noting both entities are being proactive. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve the project as presented and authorize the City Manager to proceed. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

10)e) Waste Water Generator Replacement/Repair* with City Manager Williams stating the Wastewater Treatment Plant was opened in 2010 and designed to operate 24 hours a day/7 days per week and provided a brief history. To maintain compliance, it was required to have full back up power generation in the event of a loss of power. A new standby generator was installed in 2009 as part of the construction. During a routine inspection, a catastrophic failure in the coolant system was discovered that requires immediate repair and replacement of certain components. It was determined that the coolant system would need to be disassembled and shipped to an offsite facility for refurbishment. The refurbishment includes a one-year warranty. Public Works Department received two estimates from companies that are qualified to make the necessary repairs, and quotes for a generator rental for the interim period while repairs are made. The estimated time for repair is 90 days. The bid from Ring Power for both the repair and the generator rental are \$95,023.25 and \$95,173.08 respectively. Councilwoman Hepfer confirmed with City Manager Williams the expectation of approx. 4-5 years of additional use after the repairs. Councilwoman Bega had concerns the repair estimate details were not self-explanatory with City Manager Williams noting these will be custom repairs. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve Ring Power's quotes for the necessary cooling system repairs and generator rental at \$95,023.25 and \$95,173.08 and authorize the City Manager to proceed as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)f) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Budget Development is progressing as it does every year. The tentative millage presentation is coming, with the rate proposed as remaining the same. Noted costs of some services in other areas are rising.
- Patriotic Evening is coming soon and will be a great evening, with a good time for all. Pre-planning ensures safety and security. Spoke of major partnerships with various agencies for this event.
- Other with City Manager referencing the protest event this past weekend, ribbon cuttings at the Chamber of Commerce Inverness Office and Lowman Law Firm. Spoke of working with SWFWMD regarding the dock permit, and the slow progress. Suggested a visit to their office. The T-dock at Wallace Brooks Park is finished and it is stunning. There are many things coming such as the Whispering Pines Park Entrance on 41N and road resurfacing bid awards.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of last Saturday's event along Main Street, Small Town Saturday Night, the bank on Dampier Street and Ella Avenue having trash thrown all over it and the new tall lights at the intersections being lit 24/7. Asked for status of the shade structures at the Liberty Park playground. City Manager Williams explained it is moving along, though we are waiting

on replacements of the sails as one was the wrong size, and others were not the chosen color. As for the trash issue, it is FDOT property, and everyone must remember the project is not complete.

Councilwoman Bega stated Small Town Saturday Night was hot but fun with an estimated 5,000 people attending. Spoke of a discussion of an art exhibit with Sandy Levin at Twysted Vyne Wine Bar and suggested an art walk, similar to a pub crawl.

Councilwoman Lizanich commented on the protest this past Saturday and will have a CCCCCF report at the next meeting.

Councilman Craig agreed Small Town Saturday Night was excellent and spoke of the Withlacoochee State Trail annual ride on October 5.

Council President Davis thanked Councilman Craig for the many posts on social media regarding the City events, etc.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley stated concerns regarding the trails in Whispering Pines Park. She has encountered bicycles on the jogging trail, etc. It is a safety concern. Noted this was a great meeting for a Small Town Done Right. City Manager Williams spoke of the similar trail issues being handled by the State all over Florida.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President