July 15, 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 – *Absent*

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 as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES
None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP
5)a) Ordinance 2024-844 City Utility Liens – Final Adoption* with President Davis opening the public hearing. City Manager Williams stated this ordinance is a modification to City Ordinance Chapter 22, Section 93. Section 93 of the Code of Ordinances related to the payment of fees and bills issued monthly for services provided. The modification is to clarify the process and fees related to the issuance and release of liens on properties for unpaid bills. Debbie Wheatley spoke of the option for automatic payments with it being confirmed that is an option to the utility customers. She was in favor of the ordinance. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-849 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2025- 849

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 22-93 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED PAYMENT OF FEES AND BILLS REQUIRED TO ADD CLARIFICATION ON PLACEMENT OF LIENS ASSOCIATED WITH PAYMENT OF BILLS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND INTERPRETING THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

No one spoke against the Ordinance. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-849 by roll call vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. 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

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Bill Listing*
   - Recommendation – Approval

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

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Annual Road Improvement RFP 2-25-01-PW Bid Award* with City Manager Williams stating this year's Road Improvement Project consists of approximately **3.05** total miles of milling and resurfacing assessment, pavement design, and minor drainage improvements. A Request for Proposals was released and received sealed bids that were read aloud on July 7th, 2025, as follows: Superior Asphalt Inc. - $941,001.00; CW Roberts Inc. - $976,952.77; Pave-Rite Inc. – 1,075,219.96; Asphalt Icon Inc. - $1,133,468.14; and Art Walker Inc. - $2,198,716.30. The Engineer of Record and the Public Works Director reviewed the submittals for responsiveness and proposed pricing. The project should begin within 10 days of the Notice to Proceed. The construction time to achieve Substantial Completion is 90 consecutive calendar days from the date of the Notice to Proceed, with an additional 30 consecutive calendar days to achieve Final Completion, 120 days total. There has been additional engineering expense in the current fiscal year that needs to be replenished, and it was recommended to use $97,006 from the Infrastructure Reserve for the construction of the current fiscal year's road improvements. Public Works Director Pell provided details of the project. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to award RFP 2025-01-PW to Superior Asphalt Inc. in the amount of $941,001.00, with $97,006 of that funded from the Infrastructure Reserve, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement, Notice of Intent to Award, Notice to Proceed, and manage change orders to the project. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

10)b) Trim Notice – Tentative Millage Rate* with City Manager Williams stating a portion of the City's general fund revenue is derived through the taxation of real property and in order to proceed with budget development for Fiscal Year 2026 (10/1/25-9/30/26), state law requires that Council must set a tentative millage rate. The establishment of a tentative millage is required to be used as a "Not To Exceed" rate to be used during budget development. The rate set may decrease during the adoption process of the City Budget but not increase. The Citrus County Property Appraiser has certified an amount of $719,839,462 in gross taxable value of nonexempt property to be used for budget planning purposes. This estimate includes a value of taxable net new construction/improvement of $9,421,067. The total increase in value from the previous year is $37,276,990 or 5.46%. At the current millage of 7.66 levied against the certified $719,839,462, assuming at 95% collection rate, the City would collect an estimated $5,238,271 in property tax. At the current millage of 7.66 levied against the current year final gross taxable value of $682,562,472, assuming a 95% collection rate, the City is estimated to collect $4,967,007 in property tax, equaling $271,264. President Davis was pleased that there was no increase in the millage rate. City Manager Williams questioned if Council would like a version of the budget using the set rate and a version using a lower rate. Council consensus was to present both versions. President Davis spoke of the percentages of ad valorum taxes that are collected and not collected with City Manager Williams stating that historically between 95% - 98% is collected for the City. Councilman Craig questioned the effect of the millage rate funds and various projects of the City with City Manager Williams stating that projects are separate funding. President Davis announced that the Tentative Budget Adoption will be September 3, 2025, at 5:01pm and the Final Budget Adoption will be September 16, 2025, at 5:30pm. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt a Tentative Millage Rate of 7.66 that may be lowered and authorize the submission of TRIM documents to the State. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

10)c) Interlocal Agreement for Enhanced Law Enforcement Services* with City Manager Williams stating the City has an excellent and highly effective partnership with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) for the provision of Enhanced Law Enforcement Services that provides a full complement of enhanced law enforcement services that results in crime indicators that are very favorable and low. The program cost for next fiscal year is $1,349,817, which would maintain the current staffing/level of service, and represents a 2.8% increase from the current year. This proposed contract also includes services for crossing guards and incorporates the City's provision of office space to the CCSO which provides efficiencies for both parties. Previously, the City and CCSO maintained three separate agreements for the services. Sheriff Vincent appreciated the opportunity to serve the City to provide law enforcement services. Spoke of the partnership and spoke of the 3 separate contracts into 1 as a great move. Stated the increase cost of law enforcement services is the recent purchase of body cams for the deputies. Spoke of the recent bank robbery in Crystal River. The 4th of July event was great, and the City should always expect 110% from the CCSO. Noted the focus for next year's budget will the salaries. Spoke of the great location of the sub-station at the City's building on E. Dampier St. Stated community policing will continue and evolve. Councilman Craig stated he appreciates the body cam videos on Facebook. President Davis spoke of protests by certain groups and how CCSO will respond with Sheriff Vincent stating the as long as the protests remain peaceful all should be fine. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the agreement with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for Enhanced Law Enforcement Services through September 30, 2026, based on the presented costs, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)d) Resolution 2025-04 Residential Sanitation Rate – Fiscal Year 2026* with City Manager Williams stating in March 2020, a solid waste and disposal service fee was implemented for each residential unit within the City, which became effective 10/01/2020. The initial fee for FY 2021 was based on the rate study done by Tindale Oliver and recommended it be reviewed and adjusted annually. Staff reviewed the cost for FY 2026 and recommended the solid waste fee be set at $18.40 a month per residential cart. This represents a $2.58 increase from the current monthly rate of $15.82. Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2025-04 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA SETTING THE RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE AND DISPOSAL FEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-04, as presented by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; President Davis, yes. The motion carried.

10)e) Commercial Sanitation Rates – Fiscal Year 2026* with City Manager Williams stating Inverness has an excellent solid waste program that includes yard waste, bulk items, and single stream recycling for residents. Rates are annually adjusted by contracts for the program. The City's Commercial Collection Rates for solid waste services shows an increase for the ensuing fiscal year of 5%. Rates will become effective October 1, 2025. <u>Councilman Craig</u> questioned if this is by contract with <u>City Manager Williams</u> confirmed it is by a franchise agreement. **Verbal Update – no action required.**

10)f) Interlocal Agreement for Solid Waste Disposal - Renewal* with City Manager Williams stating the City and County established a mutually beneficial relationship for use of the County landfill for the City's solid waste disposal on January 7, 2020. The agreement must be renewed annually. The FY 2025 agreement renewal increased the contract rates to $44.00 per ton for covered secured loads with no increase in surcharge for uncontained or uncovered waste consisting of a $10.00 minimum charge plus $10.00 per ton. This year's renewal price is an increase of $16.00 per ton applied to both roll off containers and covered secured loads. The total price per ton is $60.00 for both roll off containers and covered secured loads under the revised agreement, which equates to a 37% increase. The uncontained waste surcharge remains unchanged at $10.00 minimum charge plus $10.00 per ton. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement for FY 2026 with Citrus County for Solid Waste Disposal at the County Landfill and authorize the Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

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

- Cootertober planning is proceeding with exciting things to come. Noting the inclusion of downtown in the events.
- Playground Shade structure is very close to completion and thanked President Davis for his assistance with the project.
- Budget Development with a workshop scheduled for the first meeting in August. Will include day to day operations.
- Other with City Manager referencing a partnership with Xfinity wanting to be involved with the City and will have a free event on July 25 from 5:00pm –

9:00pm. Spoke of the future remodeling of the second-floor office space for the Citrus County BOCC. Stated that various old gazebos have been removed. Noted the July 3 fireworks and concert were amazing, very successful and cost less than prior.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Bega spoke of Cootertober not having a contractor to organize the event this year. It was noted that City staff and partners would be the organizers.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated the July 3 Patriotic Evening event was awesome and spoke of public's opinion of CCSO as being very friendly. Stated Rock of Ages band loved the City and wants to come back.

Councilwoman Lizanich enjoyed July 3 event and noted the large crowd. She will have updates from the Library Board meeting on July 23 and the CCCCF meeting on July 24.

Councilman Craig spoke of a fundraiser by the Friends of the Withlacoochee State Trail for refurbishment of the caboose and to bring attention to the trail, on October 5, the 28th annual event.

Council President Davis noted the trail us such an asset to the City and the refurbishment of the caboose is a great idea. July 3 was a great event and gave a shoutout to Public Works Director Pell for assistance on the shade structure construction. City Manager Williams provided an update of the transition and relocation of the Parks & Rec Department to Whispering Pines Park in the first part of August.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty referenced Independence Hwy. and 44 intersection and the issue of traffic stacking on Independence. Spoke of vehicles trying to make a left turn from Forest Dr. onto Independence, etc. Spoke of signal timing and asked City Manager Williams to investigate.

Debbie Wheatley agreed regarding the concerns with Independence and 44. Voiced concerns with bicycles on the trails in Whispering Pines Park and noting safety for all concerned. There are dog walkers, joggers, etc. and foot traffic only signs were recommended.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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City Clerk Council President