

September 2, 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 Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

7)a) Ordinance 2024-846/847/848 4030 E. Dawson Annexation– Final Adoption* with City Manager Williams stating 4030 E. Dawson Drive is a 0.19 acre or 8,415 square foot lot with a single-family home located at the northern end of the City limits. The public hearing was opened. Community Development Director Shoemaker provided a presentation and noted a request for voluntary annexation was submitted by the property owner as they own a vacant lot to the south on Eisenhower Street West, which is within City limits. The owner plans to fence both properties and would like to work with one permitting authority for both tracts. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 5 - 0 to recommend approval to the City Council at their meeting of August 6, 2025. The annexation process is followed by an amendment to the City's Future Land Use Map and the Official Zoning Map by designating a land use category and zoning district. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-846 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2025- 846

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4030 EAST DAWSON DRIVE, SECTION 02, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 19 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 Bega motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-846 by rollcall vote on 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.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-847 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025- 847

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 0.19 ACRES OF ANNEXED PROPERTY FROM CITRUS COUNTY MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (“MDR”) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (“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 Bega motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-847 by rollcall 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.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2025-848 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025- 848

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 0.19 ACRES FROM CITRUS COUNTY MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MDR) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (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 2025-848 by rollcall vote on a final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. 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.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 08/19/2025*
 - 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

12)a) 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 enforcement, business alarms, etc. Details provided regarding the Community Resource Officers and highlighted the many community events. President Davis spoke of attending a session at the recent FLC Conference regarding E-bikes being a state-wide issue. Stated many cyclists do not obey traffic laws. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned E-bike education with Lt. Fischer noting that under a certain age there is a focus on education. City Manager Williams explained staff is working on an ordinance. Councilman Craig attended the same session as President Davis and spoke of the ban on certain types of motorized bikes in Key Biscayne.

12)b) Christmas Parade FDOT Permit* with City Manager Williams stating this year's Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade in Inverness will be on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The staging will take place at Citrus High School as in prior years, with a start time of 12:00 pm. The parade will begin on Hwy 44 near Pizza Hut. It will follow the highway towards Downtown Inverness and end at Grace Street by Mama's Kuntry Kafe. The parade will then follow Grace Street to Highlands Blvd, where it will turn right and end at the entrance to Citrus High School. Road closures require a permit by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) along with meeting minutes of City Council confirming acknowledgment and support of the closure and parade activity. Permit documents will be signed by the Citrus County Sheriff and Inverness City Manager and will then be submitted to FDOT for final approval of road closures. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve that State Road 44 (via Main Street) will be temporarily closed to accommodate the annual Inverness Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13th from approx. 11:00am until 2:00pm. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

12)c) Interlocal Agreement with Citrus County for Provision of Reclaimed Water to Holden Park* with City Manager Williams stating the City and Citrus County, as well as Southwest Florida Water Management District, wish to enter into an interlocal agreement for reclaimed water to irrigate the County's Holden Park. This proposed agreement stems from a prior three-party agreement between the City, County, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District related to upgrades made at the City's wastewater treatment facility some years ago. The City's contractor has already constructed the line that will deliver the reclaimed water, and the County has prepared the necessary easements to allow the City to maintain its infrastructure, including the pressure regulator. The County will be responsible for maintaining its infrastructure and irrigation equipment that exists after the pressure regulator. The agreement also provides the ability for the City to obtain the required easements in the future, should the City wish to extend the reclaimed water line further to serve other customers. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Provision of Reclaimed Water to Holden Park and authorize the Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

12)d) Modification of City's Employer-Sponsored Retirement Savings Plan and Amendment to Charter Officer's Agreement* with City Manager Williams stating during budget development and open enrollment, employee benefits were evaluated. Currently, the City offers a pretax employer-sponsored retirement plan (457 b) that is a savings vehicle provided to help employees prepare for retirement. During this year's review of benefits, discussions included adding a Roth IRA option to the existing pre-tax (deferred compensation) 457 b plan. These plans often come with tax benefits, employer contributions, and automatic savings, making them a cornerstone of many people's retirement strategies. In keeping with prior discussion regarding Charter Officer compensation and benefits, an amendment to both Charter Officers' employment agreements to include language that would effectuate payment into their respective pretax deferred compensation (457 b plan) accounts in addition to base salary was included. The amendment language has been reviewed by the City Attorney. The approval of this gives employees more options to build a secure retirement that fits their individual needs and helps plan confidently for their future. Councilwoman Hepfer stated this is good for everyone. Councilman Craig stated this is beneficial to retain good staff. Councilwoman Lizanich agreed it is a great thing. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the addition of a Roth IRA option to the City's current employer-sponsored retirement savings plan and the amendments to the Charter Officer's employment agreements as presented authorizing the Council President to execute the documents. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

11)e) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- City and County Partnership – IGC Lease and that the BOCC needs a downtown plan due to space needs at the Courthouse. Discussion regarding costs and the economy. BOCC will have to make an investment in the downtown eventually. Councilwoman Lizanich would like to see a partnership to build a better community. Councilwoman Hepfer reminded that Inverness is the county seat.
- FY 26 Final Budget Hearing with the tentative adoption September 3 and final adoption on September 16.

- 9/11 Ceremony & Memorial with Parks & Rec Director Worley providing details of the upcoming events at the Depot Pavilion and the Valerie Theatre. Several schools will have a field trip to the Valerie for the 9/11 exhibit. Will be an impactful day.
- Small Town Saturday Night – 9/13, next Saturday with a Florida local band followed by Touch and Go band. Free event and there will be a ball tournament at Whispering Pines Park with lots of people attending that will come downtown. Council President Davis spoke of attending various ball tournaments to speak to visitors and people love the location.
- City Manager Williams stated these are exciting times with the partnerships, etc. and we want to keep the Small Town Done Right atmosphere.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Hepfer thanked the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office for all they do.

Councilwoman Lizanich gave an update of the Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation starting fundraisers and she is the Chair. Explained how the CCCC trust money can be used and that is why they wish to have fundraisers for additional benefits.

Councilman Craig attended the DAR event for Constitution Week and presented the proclamation as the Mayor was out of town. Announced an upcoming event by the DAR. There are over 600 riders for the Withlacoochee State Trail bike ride with registration closing soon. E-bikes are allowed but must obey the speed limits posted.

President Davis thanked all in attendance for the Council meeting and thanked the CCSO for keeping us all safe.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Citizen Chuck spoke of his wife’s happiness that the Whispering Pines Pool will stay open longer for the season and thanked Council.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President