

October 21, 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 – *(Absent)*
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 Mayor Plaisted 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 Bega. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

5)a) Downtown Business Partnership Hay Bale Award Winners with Downtown Business Partner Alicia Schafer announcing the winners for the 4th Annual event: Best Overall Fall Decoration – Invibe Nutrition; 3rd Place – Office of Melisa Militello; 2nd Place – City of Inverness; and 1st Place – Cumbie Jewelers. Mayor spoke of being a judge and all the entries made is a very hard decision.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty spoke of Bryant Park and acknowledged the City and Rotary for the plan to make the park all inclusive.

John Labriola thanked the City for Cootertober being more family friendly. Referenced the Citrus County's ban on additional medical marijuana dispensaries.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Hartley provided an update regarding 912 Meadow Lane foreclosure. It was sold at a tax deed auction and the City will receive the fines due for code compliance and utility service for approx. \$68,000.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 10/07/2025
 - Recommendation - Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

11)a) Bryant Park Improvement Project – Professional Services* with City Manager Williams stating Bryant Park has been a fixture of open space and recreation within the Heights Subdivision for over 50 years. Throughout the decades, the park has had neighborhood activities, outdoor recreation, and organized sports with very minor upgrades/changes. The park is beginning to show its age and has been involved with a multi-year plan of revitalization with the Rotary Club of Inverness. The Rotary Club of Inverness has secured funding and volunteer support to begin the next phase that will bring about an inclusivity-focused playground and bathroom facility. Kimley-Horn has completed 30% design of the project under the previously accomplished Task #1 Scope of Services. Task #2 Scope of Services with Kimley-Horn will bring about the next phase of design and secure permitting for the mentioned elements. The proposal has at a total cost of \$94,100, which includes design, permitting, and construction review services for the project. It was noted there were representatives from Rotary in the audience. Councilwoman Bega questioned shade and it was noted there are many trees to provide adequate shade. Councilman Craig questioned the underground utilities and it was noted those can be worked around. Vice President Lizanich spoke of the wonderful partnership with Rotary and the goal to help all have access to the facilities. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the Task #2 Scope of Services from Kimley-Horn for the Bryant Park Improvement Project as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

11)b) RFQ 2025-01 Continuing Services Agreements for Professional Services* with Assistant City Manager Calascione provided an overview stating the City issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in August through the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), a Florida Legislature public procurement method to utilize certain professional services on a continuing basis. The nine responses were evaluated in early September and deemed qualified in one or more of the required disciplines. The contracts are structured to provide the City with the necessary expertise and flexibility to address our projects and continuing operations. The responding firms included: Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, Michael Baker International, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Lochner, Wantman Group, Burrell Engineering, Florida Technical Consultants, COMAL Engineering Design, and Goodwyn Mills Cawood. Councilwoman Hepfer noted it was great to receive several submittals. City Manager Williams explained the thought process in contracting with all companies that had submitted. Councilwoman Bega confirmed that each company would be "on call" when services were needed. Councilman Craig noted each had specific specialties. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Continuing Services Agreements for each of the nine firms. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

11)c) Vehicle Purchase – Parks & Rec* with Parks & Rec Director Worley stating the Parks and Recreation department has a 2007 Chevy Silverado that needs to be replaced. Local company, Nick Nicholas Ford, who has been able to offer competitive government concession

pricing and offer quick delivery times has a 2026 Ford F-350 utility body truck, in the amount of \$59,864.50. The proposed purchase will provide a truck capable to transport the City stage to the different locations for events, transport the reel mower and other heavy equipment needed for jobs associated with everyday department demands. Should that purchase proceed, the 2007 Silverado will be recommended for surplus once the replacement truck has been delivered. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-350 truck in the amount of \$59,864.50 through Nick Nicholas Ford and keeping with the state government pricing. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

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

- Whispering Pines Park Lease has a lot of history and it was suggested a public workshop be scheduled to clarify the City's concepts for the future of the park, as there has been much misinformation being said. Councilwoman Bega agreed that was a great idea and to welcome questions. Councilwoman Hepfer stated a workshop would make transparency evident. Councilman Craig spoke of a few people that has approached him and how people of opinions but no solutions. Mayor Plaisted stated the options are planned and research with due diligence. City Manager Williams stated the difference of a State Park campground and a commercial campground. Suggested possibly in December for a workshop. Vice President Lizanich stated a workshop is about educating the public and December would be a good time. Noted the BOCC decided to move forward with a sales tax referendum.
- Cootertoiber update was provided by Parks & Rec Director Worley and provided a visual presentation to recap the many events. Noted we are 3 weeks in and it has gone by fast. Noted the Cooter Carnival was the biggest ever with great partners and many vendors. Spoke of Valerie events, Movie in the Park, Small Town Saturday Night, and more. There has been such overwhelming attendance. 10 days left and will end with Cooterween on October 31. It was noted that Small Town Slam is scheduled for this upcoming Friday, not Saturday.
- Festival of the Arts will be November 15 – 16 and there will be a full presentation at the next Council meeting. The City has received lots of interest.
- Other included an announcement of the 5th Annual Students Feeding Veterans Food Drive beginning November 3 through December 12, 2025. Various locations were noted including the Inverness Government Center.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Hepfer praised the tireless staff especially during October. Cootertoiber has been great and it helps families enjoy City events because they are free to attend.

Councilwoman Bega had also enjoyed Cootertoiber and looks forward to Cooterween.

Councilwoman Lizanich stated Small Town Saturday Night was amazing, as well as all the events recently. She will be attending the CCCF meeting tomorrow and noted the Dates to Remember.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President