

November 4, 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 Lizanich motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

#### **PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**4)a) Citrus County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report** with Lt. Fischer providing details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report regarding tracked crimes, calls for service, arrests, traffic accidents, etc. with certain numbers being slightly higher or lower. The report included the first Marine Unit report and the number of citations and warnings. Community education was highlighted regarding e-bikes.

**4)b) Festival of the Arts 2025** with Program Coordinator Brown presenting the upcoming event on November 15 & 16. Spoke of the public art project near the hospital. Bonnie Anderson detailed the listed hands-on activities planned and Ben Olson spoke of the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity with a focus on learning to draw, animate, and sculpt works of art. Sandy Levin noted this was her sixth year being involved and this year will be outstanding, with a few changes with an emphasis on experiencing art. This event is for everyone and there will be awards.

**4)c) Cootertober Chili Cook Off Awards** with Asst. Park Director Bechtel presenting the winners with trophies. The 2025 winners were: People's Choice Best Downtown Restaurant Chili – 1<sup>st</sup> place was Twysted Vyne and 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Stumpknockers; People's Choice Best Decorated Booth – 1<sup>st</sup> was Spice Wars, and 2<sup>nd</sup> was Team Shabear; People's Choice Best Chili – 1<sup>st</sup> was Team Shabear and 2<sup>nd</sup> was Spice Wars; and Judges Choice Best Chili – 1<sup>st</sup> was Team Shabear and 2<sup>nd</sup> was Freed Farms. The judges were 2 local chefs and 1 restaurant manager.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP**

None

## **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Debbie Wheatley praised the new sign by Whispering Pines Park and it captivates the heart of the community. She voiced concerns regarding e-bikes on the park's trails.

## **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Attorney Hartley provided a brief update on the Manning's Bar property and the process it has been through to eventually be deeded to the City. All liens, including Federal, should be removed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes\* – 10/21/2025
  - 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) School Zone Photo Enforcement Program\*** with City Manager Williams stating Council had received a presentation in the past and gave consideration to the concept of red-light camera enforcement within certain intersections of the City. The Florida Legislature, by the way of HB 657 (2023), provides municipalities with an ability to enforce speed regulations in designated school zones with photo/camera detection systems. The Sheriff and City Administration have discussed the concept and the differentials between a red-light type of program and a school zone program. Captain Ferrara from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office presented detailed overview of the program regarding legislation, process, notice of violation, fine breakdown, etc. Councilwoman Lizanich had questions of the number of speeders currently, what times this would be in effect, cost, etc. Captain Ferrara stated it depends what school zone regarding the number of speeders, this would be active during school hours, with Florida stating 30 minutes before and after school hours. There is zero cost as this program is violator funded. Councilwoman Lizanich thanked them for putting children's safety first and suggested a study to determine the necessity of the program. Council consensus was to move forward. President Davis questioned if there were flashing lights in all school zones with City Manager Williams stating yes and spoke of signage, etc. Noted there are a number of vendors providing this program. An ordinance will be a great tool for this. Sheriff Vincent provided a brief history and that school zone speeding is everywhere across the nation. Noted the outlook is for both cities and the county to work together with this program. The importance is child safety. If the time comes, the vendor will conduct a traffic study. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to give the City Manager direction to proceed with the presented next steps to develop an enabling/controlling ordinance in concert with an interlocal agreement with the Sheriff to be presented for consideration at a future Council meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

**10)b) Citrus County BOCC Legislative Priorities Request for Letter of Support** with City Manager Williams introducing Veronica Kampschroer, Special Projects Manager to present the

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) assembled list of legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Florida Legislature. The identified priorities are grouped into three categories: Appropriation Requests, Policy Proposals, and Requests for Special Consideration. There are four appropriation requests, and they include the Floral City Septic-to-Sewer Expansion, the Halls River Multi-Use Path, a Regional Public Safety Training Center, and the Septic-to-Sewer Incentive Program. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve a letter of support for the presented Citrus County BOCC legislative priorities. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

**10)c) City of Crystal River Legislative Priorities Request for Letter of Support\*** with City Manager Williams introducing City Manager Audra Curts to present the City of Crystal River Council's assembled their list of legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Florida Legislature. The identified priorities are funding of a new storm resilient City Hall, Septic to Sewer and Water Projects, and Golf Cart Crossings on US Highway 19. The City of Crystal River has asked Council to consider submitting a letter of support for some or all of these identified items. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve a letter of support for the presented City of Crystal River legislative priorities. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.**

**10)d) John Deere Wheel Loader Purchase – Public Works\*** with Public Works Director Pell **n o t i n g** the department leveraged the Cooperative Purchasing Sourcewell Contract# 0011723-JDC, for pricing of a 2025 John Deere 544G Wheel Loader with a Multipurpose Bucket and a Grapple-Rake attachment. The requested equipment will replace the 1989 John Deere 544D Wheel loader with MP Bucket. Using the Sourcewell Contract, the price of \$221,994.00 is inclusive of selected options. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve purchase of the 2025 John Deere 544-G Wheel Loader and attachments from Beard Equipment Company utilizing the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program at a price of \$221,994. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

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

- Cootertober Recap with Parks Director Worley providing a presentation of the most recent events including wrestling, Roper Romp, Chili Cook-Off and Cornhole competition, and Cooterween, which provides a safe environment.
- Small Town Saturday Night with Parks Director Worley noting it is this Saturday, November 8, with the opening band at 5:00pm followed by the headliner band Crossfire Creek. This will be the last performance for this year.
- Veteran's Day Parade starting at 10:00am with Deputy Ruby presenting the parade map. Spoke of the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour service at the historic Courthouse followed by Operation Welcome Home luncheon at 12:00pm in the Depot Pavilion.
- WPP New Entrance Groundbreaking with Asst. City Manager Calascione providing a brief update and announced November 14 at 10:00am will be the groundbreaking.
- Other with City Manager Williams noting his attendance to the ICCMA conference in Tampa recently and the ballcaps provided to each elected official. Spoke of AI and the future.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilman Craig thanked everyone for an enjoyable Cooterween and is looking forward to the Festival of the Arts.

Mayor Plaisted stated Cooterween was a phenomenal success and how the City builds on these successes.

Councilwoman Bega admired the Whispering Pines Park new sign. Spoke of issues with the Cooter Pond boardwalk lights and announced an upcoming performance at the Valerie Theatre.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated Cootertober was a success and appreciated the family friendly atmosphere and events.

Councilwoman Lizanich attended the recent CCCCCF fundraising meeting and is now serving the foundation as Chair.

Council President Davis thanked Councilwoman Lizanich for filling in as Council President for the last meeting as he was out of town. Stated he appreciates the staff and thanked the audience.

### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Sandy Levin spoke of a recent experience with AI in North Carolina. Noted how great the downtown businesses and the City work together for successful events like Cooterween, hay bale competition, etc.

Max Schulman spoke of receiving a proclamation for Veterans Week and thanked the City for hosting the 38<sup>th</sup> parade. Spoke of veterans' history and wars. Mayor Plaisted reminded that the City was declared the most patriotic city in the nation several years ago.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President