

November 18, 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 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 Lizanich. The motion carried.

**PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**5)a) Proclamation Presentation – Farm City Week** with Mayor Plaisted presenting a proclamation to Marti Ward, a vital member of the planning committee.

**5)b) Joe Brannen – Helping Families in Need Donation** presented a check to the City of Inverness for \$10,000 to aid families who are having difficulty paying their utility bills. He also spoke of his family’s history in Inverness, was Tompkinsville when family members came here. He referenced Brannen Bank and the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP**

**6)a) Resolution 2025-12 FY 2025 Budget Amendment – End of Year\*** with Finance Director Koter stating this process will amend the FY2025 Budget to correct and adjust various departmental contracts, operational expenditures, and capital projects. The total amount represented an increase of \$88,888 to the City’s Fiscal 2025 budget. The increase is a result of amendments and transfers within the General, ICRA, Capital Projects, Utility, Cemetery, and Impact Fee Funds. **The Public Hearing was opened. Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2025-12 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-12**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND, ICRA FUND, CIP FUND, UTILITY FUND, CEMETERY FUNDS ,**

**AND IMPACT FEE FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**No one spoke for or against the Resolution.**

**The Public Hearing was closed. Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-12, 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.**

6)b) Resolution 2025-13 FY 2026 Budget Amendment – Carry Forward\* with Finance Director Koter stating this process will amend the FY2026 Budget to correct and adjust various departmental contracts, operational expenditures, and capital projects. The budget amendments and transfers included within are to move existing unspent funds from prior Fiscal Year 2025 to the new Fiscal Year 2026. The carry forwards include major CIP projects including two septic to sewer projects and the Whispering Pines Park Entrance. Total amount being amended represents an increase of \$17,684,791 to the City's Fiscal 2026 budget. The funds to be carried forward are within the ICRA Fund, CIP Fund, and Utility Fund. The Public Hearing was opened. **Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2025-13 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, AMENDING THE ICRA FUND, CIP FUND, AND UTILITY FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**No one spoke for or against the Resolution.**

**The Public Hearing was closed. Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-13, as presented, by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; President Davis, yes. The motion carried.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Sandy Levin spoke of the Festival of the Arts and it was the best ever. Referenced the live broadcast and partnering with the City, downtown businesses, and the radio station. Detailed all of the activities for families and thanked all for attending.

Bonnie Anderson spoke of coordinating the hands-on activities at the Festival, with origami and bead bracelets were very popular. Thanked the artists for participating, and the artists were thankful there were no fees to participate. Presented this year's community weave to the City.

DeeVon Quirolo with the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group requested the City adopt a rainy season fertilizer ordinance and provided details and effects. This would help reduce run off into the waterways. Spoke of suggested aspects that should be included in the ordinance.

Maxine Connor with the Florida Springs Council also spoke of the effects on local waterways and why the rainy season fertilizer ordinance is needed.

Karen Esty thanked Mr. Brannen for his generosity. Spoke of the Festival of the Arts, future security of the Inverness Government Center, etc. The Whispering Pines Park new entrance groundbreaking was great. Spoke of proposed legislation regarding developments.

Paul Hertensen commended the City of showcasing the turtles around town and thinks they are the most photographed art in Citrus County. Reminded the City that the second treatment is due for the turtles to protect them from the elements.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes\* – 11/04/2025
  - Recommendation - Approval

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

### **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

None

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**11)a) Annual Road Improvement RFP 2026-01-PW Bid Award** with Asst. City Manager Calascione stating this project consists of approximately three miles of assessment, pavement design, milling and resurfacing, and minor drainage improvements. The project will include roadwork on Forest Drive, Highlands Boulevard, Montgomery, and several other connecting streets throughout the City. The City will utilize the favorable bid pricing secured for the project to incorporate the restoration of the Inverness Government Center (IGC) parking lot, with expenditures to be funded from the approved CIP project listed as IGC Parking Lot. Lochner Engineering has presented an estimate for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services not to exceed \$25,825.61. A Request for Proposals and sealed bids were received on October 30, 2025: Superior Asphalt Inc. - \$1,235,001.00; CW Roberts - \$1,250,815.34; Pave-Rite Inc. - \$1,191,833.41; Florida Asphalt & Concrete - \$1,757,650.13; and Art Walker Inc. - \$2,455,286.63. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to award RFP 2026-02-PW to Pave-Rite Inc. in the amount of \$1,191,833.41 and approve the transfer of \$116,833.41 from**

**the Infrastructure Reserve if necessary 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 Bega. The motion carried.**

**11)b) Architectural Concept and Professional Services – Inverness Government Center Lobby** with Asst. City Manager Calascione stating in August of this year, Council approved the engagement of WGI, Inc., one of the City's contracted engineering firms, to draft a concept for upgrades to the Inverness Government Center's lobby and Council Chambers. Before Council tonight is WGI's proposed concept for the lobby portion of the project and their scope of work proposal for the design of the lobby. The proposed lobby concept includes new exterior entry doors, a new reception desk, a metal detector, a new ADA ramp and steps, and a security wall with interior, access-controlled doors. City Manager Williams noted the front doors will be changed and the artwork will return after renovations are completed. The proposed scope of work for the lobby design includes architectural design services, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineering design services (to yield 100% design plans), bidding package assistance, and construction administration services. The scope of work totals \$68,500. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the proposed concept for the IGC lobby as presented and approve the scope of work for full design of the lobby portion of the project and associated services from WGI, Inc. in the amount of \$68,500. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.**

**11)c) City's Impact Fee Program Update** with City Manager Williams stating Impact Fees are one-time charges levied by local government on new development to pay for the cost of new or expanded public infrastructure and services required by the new growth. Impact fees assessed by the City of Inverness include: 1) Transportation; 2) Fire; 3) Parks; those assessed by the Citrus County include: 4) School; 5) Library; 6) EMS; 7) Law; and 8) Public Buildings. These fees were designed to ensure that new development, not existing residents, pays for the infrastructure it requires. The fees cannot be used for operations and maintenance on existing facilities and may only be used for new infrastructure or expansion of existing facilities. A road impact fee cannot be used to re-surface an existing road, but it can be used to add an additional lane for example. Impact fees must meet the criteria of the dual rational nexus test to be considered legal. This means that impact fees must have a reasonable connection (rational nexus) between 1. The proposed new development and the need for additional capital facilities; and 2. The expenditure of funds and the benefits accruing to the proposed new development. The City did not propose any increases to the three categories of fees it collects. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to confirm the presented approach to the City's impact fee program. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

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

- WPP Workshop proposed date is December 17 at 5:30pm.
- IGC Lease with BOCC and City meeting with staff and a cost breakdown was provided. Approx. \$2,500/monthly for the space.

- Former Manning's Bar Property deed has been received and spoke with the neighboring business and agreed to a temporary use letter from the City for use by the business.
- Holiday Season spoke of generosity to the community, referencing Mr. Brannen. Spoke of the December 2 meeting and various events.
- Other included Congressman Bilirakis efforts of being awarded \$715,000 for a ladder truck for the Inverness Fire Department. Fire Chief Bessler announced a burn ban for the City due to dry conditions.
- Great appreciation to the Festival of the Arts and no charge for the artists to participate this year. Noted the public art benches that will be added at HCA. Spoke of assistance from Councilwoman Lizanich for a potential skate park and basketball at Wallace Brooks Park with a proposed design to come.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted recognized the citizens that attend the meetings. Spoke of Veterans Day and that Max Schulman did a great job with the parade. The groundbreaking for the Whispering Pines Park new entrance was exciting. Praised Congressman Bilirakis for cares for veterans and for Inverness. Thank Joe Brannen for the donation. Great weather for the Festival of the Arts. The Olde Fashion Christmas will be 2 days after Thanksgiving, starting at 5:00pm.

Councilwoman Bega stated Congressman Bilirakis has been wonderful to the City and was overwhelmed with the donation by Mr. Brannen.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated Joe Brannen is an amazing person and how Congressman Bilirakis loves Inverness. Enjoyed the Festival of the Arts, how family friendly the interactive activities were so popular. This is a Small Town Done Right.

Councilwoman Lizanich stated the Festival of the Arts was amazing and how the community weave has become a family tradition. Questioned a lock on the Liberty Park playground and spoke of upcoming CCCC meeting.

Councilman Craig enjoyed a great weekend and noted how hard the staff work. Spoke of the Withlacoochee State Trail. The set up for the Festival of the Arts was great, the event was successful with a great format. The TDC has new software and referenced a partial report. Spoke of Cooterween and how Inverness is drawing people and getting noticed.

Council President Davis thanked the staff and the citizens who attend the Council meetings. Proud to live in this Small Town Done Right.

### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Debbie Wheatley spoke of the new sign at Whispering Pines Park and how it reflexes the charm of the City. She appreciated the budget information. Thanked Mr. Brannen for the donation for needy families, and Congressman Bilirakis for the funding of a ladder truck for the fire department. Enjoyed the groundbreaking for the new Whispering Pines Park entrance on 41N.

Max Schulman spoke of the recent Veteran's Day parade and events and thanked all who were involved. Stated his agreement with a fertilizer ordinance and spoke of microplastics.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President