

March 17, 2026
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 Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency 2025 Annual Report* The public hearing was opened. City Planner Wells providing a presentation and stating the City originally created its first Community Redevelopment Area of 37 acres in 1990 and simultaneously created the Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) consisting of seven board members to serve as the governing body. The purpose of the CRA and its needs, outlined in a Finding of Necessity Study, was to invest in the infrastructure and facilities, ultimately uplifting property values in the Inverness downtown core. In 2015, upon finding further need, the City introduced a major expansion of the CRA including additional land, creating a total of 1,203 acres under redevelopment. In 2016, ICRA approved a \$12.9 million bond issue which funded seven major projects constructed between 2016 and 2020. In 2025, in response to increased pressure from the Florida Legislature and in the interest of continuing the positive work conducted by ICRA, City Council extended the sunset date from 2039 to 2055. A brief outline of the report included: History and background of the ICRA; Projects Completed in 2025; Ongoing Projects Started in 2025; Financial Statement; and Assessed Real Property Values. City Manager Williams had additional comments and details. Mayor Plaisted confirmed the two previous façade grants were LaPergola Bistro and St. James AME Church.

No one spoke for or against.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the 2025 Inverness Community Redevelopment Report as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried. The public hearing was closed.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Mike O’Connell read a statement regarding medical marijuana and dispensaries.

Karen Esty praised the City for a great weekend with all of the family-friendly activities and events. It was a testament to the City staff.

John Labriola spoke of being in Tallahassee and legislative actions, medical marijuana and dispensaries. Spoke of the Council Reorganization and board appointments agenda item.

Mary Seader stated no more dispensaries in Inverness. Noted the City does a great job providing entertainment.

Lala Sanders spoke to the medical marijuana ordinance and research she had conducted.

Jeff Burke stated the City does a great job. Spoke of medical marijuana and his experiences as a pastor. Provided additional information.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 03/03/2026*
 - Recommendation - Approval

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

CITY CLERK’S REPORT

9)a) Council Reorganization and Board Appointments* with City Clerk Jackson referencing the **City Charter, Section 2.10, states “annually on the third Tuesday in March, City Council Members shall meet for the purpose of reorganization, and at such meeting choose a new president and vice-president.”** Selection of the Council President and Vice-President has followed a rotation to provide an opportunity for each Councilmember to serve as President. All appointments will commence the next day following this meeting. In addition to the above, appointments to various boards and committees were decided. **Councilwoman Hepfer nominated Councilwoman Lizanich for Council President. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Councilwoman Lizanich nominated Councilwoman Bega for Vice President. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motions carried. Board consensus was to have appointments to the various boards remain with no changes.**

Council members appointed to various boards as follows:

Citrus County Chamber of Commerce	Councilman Gene Davis
Citrus County Special Library	
District Governing Board	Councilwoman Crystal Lizanich
Community Charitable Foundation	Councilwoman Crystal Lizanich
Alternate to CCCCCF	Councilwoman Linda Bega
Tourist Development Council	Councilman Tom Craig

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply
Keep Citrus County Beautiful (KCCB)
Hernando/Citrus MPO
Alternate to MPO
Valerie Theatre Board

Councilman Gene Davis
Councilwoman Linda Bega
Councilman Gene Davis
Councilman Tom Craig
Councilwoman Linda Bega

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Happy St. Patrick's Day and spoke of a banner weekend this past weekend and March overall. Much more going on and to come. Thanked staff.
- Other with City Manager stating the budget overview will be presented at the next Council meeting, as well as the CCSO quarterly report.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of the great weekend and the Celtic band at this evening's St. Patrick's Day event. He received correspondence from the Ancient Order of Hibernians requesting a proclamation for Irish American Heritage Month. Grateful for staff and all they do.

Councilwoman Bega stated this past weekend was wonderful including the bass tournament. Questioned about contacting FWC, etc. to reseed (stock) the lakes.

Councilwoman Hepfer spoke of her recent ride along with Meals on Wheels that put a different perspective on the program for homebound elderly people and their pets in our community.

Councilwoman Lizanich had nothing to report.

Councilman Craig provided information from a recent Rotary meeting he attended. Spoke of receiving compliments of the City being clean, etc. Great success this past weekend's events.

Council President Davis thanked those attending the Council meeting and confirmed the speakers are being heard. Thanked everyone for this past year as serving as Council President. Goal is to leave this City better than they found it.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

John Labriola voiced his displeasure regarding Council action and medical marijuana.

Mike O'Connell stated the City should follow the County and Crystal River on the dispensary ordinance.

Michael Puzino questioned the plans for the July 3rd patriotic event with City Manager stating plans are being finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President