

April 7, 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 Lizanich  
Vice President Bega  
Councilwoman Hepfer  
Councilman Craig  
Councilman Davis  
Mayor Plaisted – *Absent*

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**

**4)a) Fiscal Year End 2025 Audit Report\*** with Finance Director Koter introducing Daniel Anderson and Stacia Deitrich, representatives of Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Mr. Anderson provided a presentation as the year-end audit is an essential and required critical review of the financial status and inner workings of City Government. Public entities are measured by how they collect, appropriate, invest, expense and account for monetary resources. The internal audit is to provide assurance that the City's risk management, governance, investment and internal control processes are operating effectively. This audit covers Fiscal Year 2025 (10/01/24-09/30/25). Copies of the Auditor's Discussion and Analysis Financial and Compliance audit Summary, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the Financial Statements for ICRA were provided **Councilman Davis motioned to accept the Financial Statements, Supplementary Information and Independent Auditor Reports for year ending September 30, 2025, and authorize the documents be forwarded with all related paperwork to the Office of the State Auditor General. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.**

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

**5)a) FY 2026-27 Budget Overview Workshop\*** with City Manager Williams starting with the budget overview presentation explaining the City's guiding principle of Plan, Fund, and Execute. With the budget overview, it is the first step in budget development to discuss and provide input and direction. Planning will address State mandates and regulations, changes in needs, set priorities, and establish goals and objectives. Funding will speak to sustainability in non-ad valorem revenues, fund balances, and grants. Executing includes timing, resource availability, and meeting goals and objectives. **PLANNING – Fund Balance – General Fund:** with fund totals compared from 2025 - \$30,969,801, Current - \$30,102,452 and Proposed - \$30,516,959.

Planning will speak to staffing levels, minimum wage, benefits, increased costs and availability of materials, and equipment needs. Public Private Partnerships (PPP) will review contracts, assessment of cost benefit, and CPI. Prioritizing will focus on initiatives being tied to Council goals and objectives, return on investments, delivery of service and maintaining levels of service. Considerations and Impacts include revenue forecast that relies on an assumed 3% growth in assessed value, new funding sources, legislature, ARPA, and millage. **FUNDING** – Revenue Projections noting General Fund Ad Valorem \$5,399,984 with 7.56 millage, Non-Ad Valorem \$9,117,942, CRA \$1,874,199, and Utility \$5,578,786. Proposals to eliminate/reduce property tax were discussed including the seven House Joint Resolutions bills, which all died but could appear in the April's Special Session. He detailed for 2026 – total assessed value, exemptions, taxable value, number of parcels, and millage. Addressed homestead assessment differential value, homestead exemptions taxable homestead properties, and number of homestead parcels. Impacts to consider included reduced General Fund Revenue, commercial vs residential properties, maintaining levels of service, and future funding mechanisms.

**EXECUTING by Functional Area** – General Government addressed establishing staffing levels to support level of service at competitive rates, anticipated Ad Valorem Revenue changes, project/growth management, lobbying efforts, grants, and cooperative funding, Intergovernmental and Community Partnerships, and policy development and implementation. Economic Development includes Incentive Programs, CRA Plan/Annual Report, infrastructure investment, Medical Arts District, and loan/debt funding. Transportation spoke to road resurfacing and improvement, multimodal, and infrastructure investment/partnerships. Public Safety & Fire Department with volunteer recruitment and staff development, level of service/ISO rating, and utilization of grant revenue opportunities. Enhanced Law Enforcement with CCSO agreement, service, and costs and stable level of service under one contract. Cultural Recreation marketing and programming that maintains and creates energy and momentum, continue PPP for events, vendors, and facility operators. Physical Environment management of parks system, parking and lighting improvements, and shared downtown sanitation. Oak Ridge Cemetery promotion of pre-need sales, landscaping enhancement, and intergovernmental and community partnerships. City Manager Williams announced the CIP Workshop will be May 19 at 5:30pm; Tentative Millage and establishing budget public hearings will be July 21 at 5:30pm; full Budget Workshop on August 4 at 5:30pm, and Budget Adoption hearings on September 3 for the tentative budget adoption and September 15, 2026, for final budget adoption.

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Lala Sanders stated she was here again, and listed the meetings she has attended, regarding medical marijuana dispensaries. She has conducted some research and read a statement.

Timothy Gilbert spoke of the skate park proposal and thanked Council for their vision. There are certain age groups that need more to do. Spoke of his father and medical marijuana. Council is doing a great job.

Debbie Wheatley enjoyed the budget overview presentation. Spoke of medical marijuana dispensaries. Noted trails that are currently closed in Whispering Pines Park.

Alicia McBratney feels that medical marijuana is not a problem, there are misconceptions. She spoke of Whispering Pines Park and like the campground concept. Looking forward to the skate park as it will be a safer place. Spoke of accidents at Liberty Park regarding scooters, bicycles, etc. and should consider designating a park where they are allowed.

Susan Straley supports the skate park. Spoke of youth harassing other on the trail. Supports the RV park at Whispering Pines Park.

Unnamed Citizen stated the City is outstanding and loves the Whispering Pines Park pool. The taxpayers are respected.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Attorney Hartley spoke of the recent legislation regarding medical marijuana dispensaries. This action rules that any code cannot be amended.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes\* – 03/17/2026
  - Recommendation - Approval

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

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

**9)a) 2026 Inter-Agency Agreement – Supervisor of Elections\*** with City Clerk Jackson stating City elections will be held in November 2026 and certain provisions must be in place to continue the process. An agreement between the City and the County Supervisor of Elections Office delineates most of the functions and responsibilities of each entity during the election process. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to authorize the enclosed Inter-Agency Agreement between the City of Inverness and the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections for services for the November 3, 2026 Election. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

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

**10)a) Citrus County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report** with Lt. Fischer providing details of the 2025 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report regarding tracked crimes, calls for service, arrests, traffic accidents, etc. with slight changes in numbers. Details were provided regarding arrests, trespassing, traffic, and calls for service. Many community events were highlighted. Councilman Davis questioned the numbers for calls of service and cases. Lt. Fischer explained that calls can be a wide variety of concerns and cases are criminal.

**10)b) Fire Station Bay Door Replacement Bid Award\*** with Fire Chief Bessler stating there was a Request for Proposal (RFP 2026-01- FD) for the replacement of the apparatus bay doors and operating systems at the fire station. The existing doors are aging, prone to frequent malfunctions, parts are becoming difficult to obtain, and the doors have no longer become cost-effective to repair. Their unreliability delays emergency response times and compromises station security. One response was received from JT Ruby Contracting for \$68,450.00. The completion of this project is necessary to accommodate the soon to arrive ladder truck.

**Councilman Davis motioned to award the bid for replacement of the fire station bay doors to JT Ruby Contracting and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**10)c) Purchase of Godwin Bypass Pump\*** with Assistant City Manager Marshall stating the City's Public Works Department has leveraged the Florida Sheriffs' Association Cooperative Purchase Program (FSACPP) for pricing to purchase a Godwin Bypass Pump Model CD150S in the amount of \$59,634.68. The City currently uses a 2004 Thompson Bypass Pump to maintain the flow of sewage at certain lift stations when there is extended loss of power events. The City will retain the current 2004 Thompson Bypass pump for redundancy. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the purchase of the Godwin Bypass Pump CD150S and connection hoses using the Florida Sheriff's Association Cooperative Purchase Program at a price of \$59,631.68. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**10)d) Skate Park & Basketball Court –Final Design Concept \*** with Parks & Rec Director Worley providing a presentation of the final concept design for the previously discussed skate park and basketball court within the downtown parks complex which allows for a 4,600 square foot surface mounted skate park and a full 84' by 50' basketball court while preserving the majority of the existing tree canopy. It also includes fencing around each area and sidewalks for easy accessibility. The project will utilize existing stormwater systems in place for the additional impervious surface. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the skate park and basketball court design as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

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

- Mannings Bar Property can be sold but there is a process. Attorney Hartley spoke of the title commitment. Consensus was to attain 2 appraisals.
- Volunteer Opportunities and we have amazing volunteers. Need to focus on a volunteer revamp to attract more.
- July 3 – 250 Events will have a presentation at the May 5, 2026 meeting.
- Crystal River Concert 4/18 is a first for them and encouraged everyone to attend.
- USA Today Best Small Towns in the South announcement will be Wednesday at noon.
- Other with City Manager with Small Town Saturday Night this weekend. Praised staff and their dedication to the City and spoke of community partners.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilman Davis was thankful for the rain and praised Council President Lizanich on conducting her first meeting as President.

Councilman Craig congratulated President Lizanich and spoke of a great staff. Noted he has been selected as the new Vice Chair for the TDC. Spoke of upcoming trail membership meeting.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated President Lizanich did an awesome job. Spoke of the audit and so much to be proud of, including amazing events. Spoke of the Salvation Army concert at Liberty Park and a sunrise service on Easter at the park.

Councilwoman Bega thanked Finance Director Koter and staff for a great audit. Noted she is having a 50<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion soon and how helpful Parks & Rec has been very helpful.

Council President Lizanich thanked staff and those that spoke this evening. Stated there will be a grant cycle meeting for the CCCC.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Unnamed Citizen spoke of attending a Too Far event down South and that we have good water here.

Alisha McBratney referenced the CCSO report and possible adding a report on the 1 year of the downtown entertainment district. City Manager Williams stated there have been no issues relating to events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President