

April 21, 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 Councilman Davis. The motion carried.

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

**4)a) Nature Coast Bike Fest** – Parks & Rec Director Worley introduced members of the bike fest organization were in attendance to present donation checks to the Citrus County Blessings program and VFW Post 4337 Honor Guard. Representatives from Blessings and the Honor Guard were in attendance to accept the donation to their respective programs.

**4)b) Arbor Day 2026 Proclamation** with Council President Lizanich stating there was a planting of two trees at the N. Pine Avenue Parking Lot just before this evening's Council meeting and a proclamation proclaiming April 21, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Inverness.

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

**5)a) Resolution 2026-02 – FY 2026 Mid-Year Budget Amendment\*** 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 Public Hearing was opened.** The budget amendments and transfers within are to reflect recognition of grant funding for major CIP items, transfer of funding from completed projects to other CIP needs, and allocation of funding into reserves. The total amount being amended represents an increase of \$2,513,004 to the City's Fiscal 2026 budget. The majority of this increase in budget is due to the recognition of additional grant funding to the 41 N Septic to Sewer Project and grant funding for the Fire Ladder truck. The amendments will occur within the General, ICRA, Capital Projects, Utility, Pension, Impact Fee, and Cemetery Funds. **Councilman Davis motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2026-02 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

## RESOLUTION 2026-02

**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. Councilman Davis motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-02 as presented by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; President Lizanich, yes. The motion carried.**

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Lala Sanders spoke of the tragedy at the distillery. She reiterated her opinion of no more medical marijuana dispensaries in Inverness.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes\* – 04/07/2026
  - Recommendation - Approval

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

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

None

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

**10)a) Tree City USA\*** with City Planner Wells stating The Tree City USA program was founded by the Arbor Day Foundation in 1976 to "encourage cities to plant and manage public trees to foster healthier, greener communities." The City of Inverness has been a Tree City USA for 30 years. As part of our 2026 anniversary, the Arbor Day Foundation has provided us with two new signs to be located within the City to help us celebrate. The proposed locations are on Pleasant Grove Rd. northbound coming into Inverness and the other at the corner of Courthouse Square and SR44/Main Street in front of the Old Courthouse. Council discussed various location with City Manager Williams explaining the difference in placing the signs on City property or FDOT property. **Council consensus was to move forward with the proposed signage locations. No action required.**

**10)b) Urban Forestry Management Plan Proposal\*** with City Planner Wells stating the City has long been committed to preserving and enhancing its urban tree canopy, as evidenced by its 30 years as a Tree City USA. A grant opportunity through the Florida Forest Service and Natural Resources Planning Services for development of an Urban Forestry

Management Plan was utilized. Representatives from the Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc. located in San Antonio, FL. were in attendance. He introduced John Holzaepfel, Principal, Krystee Van Den Bosch, Urban Forestry & Arboriculture Services Manager and Eric Hoyer, Arboriculture Services Manager. Mr. Holzaepfel stated the organization has approx. 35 employees that are very knowledgeable in the field. This management plan is a guiding document moving forward. Mr. Hoyer spoke of the grant opportunity and of his experience. Ms. Van Den Bosch noted she is a certified arborist and the City has done a good job with the current urban forestry. She noted the management plan is a strategic guide. The plan includes possible components of storm management, public education strategies, review of current tree protection codes, and utilization of urban wood waste. The management plan is a strategy and vision that will help the city preserve and enhance the urban forest for current and future generations. The total cost is \$97,500 with the majority of the funding provided by a grant from FFS. The City contribution is an in-kind City match of \$33,000 by way of regular tree planting, pruning, and tree maintenance. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the proposal for Canopy Analysis, Tree Inventory, and development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan as presented. Seconded by Councilman Craig. The motion carried.**

**10)c) Code Enforcement Lien Settlement Request\*** with Community Development Director Shoemaker stating that the City received a lien release request regarding the property 115 Daffodil Street. This property had overgrown vegetation and an accumulation of trash in the driveway that was first witnessed on July 15, 2025. This property went before the Special Magistrate who ordered that the property had 15 days to come into compliance or face a lien of \$100 a day starting on September 18, 2025. The lien accrued to a total of \$18,300 before the property came into compliance on March 19, 2026. The legal firm handling the closing of this estate is requesting a settlement of \$1,714.38. The settlement will recover the direct costs to the City. **Councilman Davis motioned to approve a Release of Lien in the amount of \$1,714.38 of the total amount due of \$18,300.00 for 115 Daffodil Street as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

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

- West Inverness Trail does not appear to be funded this year. Spoke of working with and through Representative Bilirakis' office for potential funding.
- Ladder Truck is almost ready for delivery in just a matter of weeks.
- Other with City Manager noting Inverness was #2 in the USA Today Best Small Towns, amazing achievement. The Withlacoochee State Trail was #7 out of the Top 10 recreational trails. Storm Distillery was briefly discussed noting it is an active investigation. Thoughts and prayers for David Mohr's family as he passed away. The explosion was an unfortunate incident and will take time to investigate. The building sustained significant damage. Councilman Davis questioned the strength of the City's building codes, etc. Since the State does not mandate inspections, the City could look at an ordinance that was presented a few years ago regarding annual inspections. Councilwoman Hepfer agreed that would be a good idea to revisit.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilman Davis stated the time devoted and the interest from the public is important and thanked those that attend the Council meetings.

Councilman Craig noted it was a sad, busy week. He attended the Crystal River concert and thought it was successful. He stated the Council do listen to public comments when they are made.

Councilwoman Hepfer agreed there is a lot going on and thought the event by the City of Crystal River was a success. Noted that Inverness and Crystal River working together and allowing Crystal River to borrow the City's stage for the event.

Councilwoman Bega also agreed it has been very busy and spoke of a recent play at the Valerie Theatre was well received. In addition, the Valerie Theatre is in the process of getting new carpet throughout the theatre.

Council President Lizanich spoke of the great partnership with Crystal River's recent concert event. Noted the CCCCCF grant cycle has concluded and decisions are being made. Stated our hearts are with all involved in the incident downtown last Friday.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Lala Sanders stated she loves this town and the urban forestry plan. Medical Marijuana Dispensaries are still a concern.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President