

May 19, 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 – *Absent*
Vice President Bega
Councilwoman Hepfer
Councilman Craig
Councilman Davis
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 Councilman Davis. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Creative Arts & Culture Alliance with Councilman Craig introducing Bonnie Anderson and presented a check to the art departments of Citrus County for \$1,000 from the Creative Arts & Culture Alliance, Inverness Festival of the Arts, and the Interactive Arts vendor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) FY 2027-31 Capital Improvement Plan Budget Workshop with City Manager Williams stating the workshop was a step to the development of the upcoming budget. The planning is an important part of the budgetary cycle, as the City must consider not only the needs, priorities, goals, and objectives of the City. The presentation included the following information:

Current Year Capital Projects included road resurfacing and sidewalk improvements, Pine Ave. stormwater, Wayfinding/Gateway signs, Skate Park & Basketball Courts, Septic to Sewer projects, Master Lift Station Rehab, Liberty Park shade structures, Inverness Government Center, Whispering Pines Park new entrance, etc.

Capital Improvement Program 2026 – 2031 funding summary for the General Fund, ICRA, Utilities, and Oak Ridge Cemetery. Totals: 2026 – \$27,016,700; 2027 – \$10,330,663; 2028 – \$8,476,480; 2029 – \$3,806,000; 2030 – \$3,954,100; and 2031 – \$6,320,000.

Capital Improvement Program 2026 – 2031 General Fund funding summary for projects included Administration, IT, Fire, Public Works, Parks & Rec. Totals: 2026 – \$6,118,298; 2027 – \$4,760,000; 2028 – \$5,510,600; 2029 – \$2,189,000; 2030 – \$1,499,600; and 2031 – \$4,340,000. Highlights included Administration included Public Safety Rate Study; IT projects included equipment/computerization, security cameras, telephone equipment, and Intranet Build. Fire included station exterior staircase replacement, kitchen remodel, fire

training center upgrades, lot repaving, ladder truck, hose replacements, AED & monitor, extrication tools, SCBA, marine unit, etc. Public Works included IGC facilities upgrades, sidewalk improvements, equipment, vehicles, stormwater, boat ramps, West Inverness Trail electric gate at PW etc. Valerie Theatre included HVAC replacement, carpet replacement, painting, lighting, chair replacement, curtain, marquee, audio/video, etc. Parks & Rec included trucks, mowers, park amenities, golf carts, electrical, equipment, skate park, basketball courts, splashpad, etc. Whispering Pines Park included bathrooms, rec building, ballfield lighting and fencing, pool complex, perimeter trail, Splashpad, shade replacement, etc. The lease with Forestry for Whispering Pines expires in 2030 and consideration of aging facilities, revenue opportunities for the future.

Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) 2026 - 2031 addressed current fund balance of \$2.7M, future of WPP, new projects, and major projects to consider including the Community Center, City Walk, etc. The funding summary for projects additionally included Public Art Initiative, sidewalk improvements, downtown lighting and bollards, Wayfinding signs, etc. Totals: 2026 – \$2,172,198; 2027 – \$2,108,288; 2028 – \$880,000; 2029 – \$50,000; 2030 – \$50,000; and 2031 – \$50,000.

Capital Improvement Program – Utilities 2026-2031 funding summary included water & sewer services, etc. Totals: 2026 – \$18,726,204; 2027 – \$3,462,375; 2028 – \$2,056,250; 2029 – \$1,567,000; 2030 – \$2,369,500; and 2031 - \$1,930,000. Highlights included booster station and water plant rehab, county interconnect, SCADA, continuous monitoring equipment, etc. Water Lines – hydrant replacement, utility mapping, meter replacement, water main improvements, pond liner, bypass pump, de-nitrification filters, etc. Lift Stations – master lift station rehab, lift station pumps, generators, etc. Sewer Lines – 41N & S. Highlands Septic to Sewer, vehicle replacements, lines and liners, camera/jetting lines, etc.

Capital Improvement Program – Cemetery funding summary included the construction of an additional columbarium. Totals: 2026 – \$0; 2027 – \$0; 2028 – \$30,000; 2029 – \$0; 2030 – \$35,000; and 2031 – \$0.

City Manager’s recapped with closing considerations asking if the 5-year CIP strengthens the City, are we planning to invest and boost the economy, are we focused on projects with return on investments, is this affordable and attainable, and are we leaving Inverness better than when we started.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Debbie Wheatley was appreciative of the explanation details and staff. Spoke of the future of property taxes.

Lala Sanders thanked the City for the CIP report, spoke of medical marijuana dispensaries ban, and appreciated the WPP electronic sign speed was slower to read.

John Labriola spoke of an ordinance to ban medical marijuana dispensaries, recent legislation and crime reports.

Steve Jones spoke of the issue of medical marijuana dispensaries. Thank Park and Rec Director Worley for the recent wrestling event and his grandchildren greatly enjoyed attending.

Patty Adams spoke of medical marijuana dispensaries and medications in general, as well as open carry, etc. It is all too much and going down the wrong road.

Councilman Davis spoke of future discussions regarding prohibition of additional dispensaries.

Vice President Bega had no problem with prohibition. Spoke of the various diseases medical marijuana helps.

Councilwoman Hepfer felt most residents she had spoken with had no problem with the dispensaries as medical marijuana is legal. She does not think there is a problem.

City Manager Williams spoke of the history of how the discussion began several months ago. Council consensus was to the issue on a future agenda.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Hartley referenced the public comments regarding the public addressing Council and provided general advice.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 05/05/2026
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Oak Ridge Cemetery Lot Repurchase
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Whispering Pines Park Lease* with City Manager Williams providing park history and governance and stating this past December, the City held a public workshop on the history and future of Whispering Pines Park. A presentation was provided noting the fact that the City does not own the park, there is a rail bed with ownership in question. generated much community feedback that the City needed to take steps to one day own the lands comprising Whispering Pines Park. Without ownership, the City's ability to bond for capital improvements, pursue grant funding, and exercise full management discretion remains significantly limited. In response to community input and considering the best path forward for the park, the City Council provided direction to pursue a direct lease with the State of Florida, with the intent of seeking ownership of the park. Discussion with the State occurred and through the process certain information related to the legal description and current ownership of portions of the park were verified. This is providing an update on the status of the ongoing pursuit of a new lease with the State of Florida for the lands known as Whispering Pines Park. **Council provided consensus to pursue a local bill for ownership of the park from the State.**

10)b) Summer Sizzlin Event* with Parks & Rec Director Worley stating the City has been hosting Teen's Night Out for the youth in the community for almost 5 years and is an opportunity for kids to come out once a month and enjoy music, food, games, activities, and fun. The City partners with organizations and members of the community to provide all of this

at no expense to the kids or families. Last year, City staff introduced Summer Sizzlin, an event tied with Teen's Night Out, that happens a few days before the summer break. This is a community-focused family event designed to connect children and families with local organizations and opportunities available throughout the summer and early fall and provides an opportunity for kids and their families to come together in a fun, safe, and engaging environment while learning about the many programs and services offered within the community. Local organizations, churches, youth sports leagues, recreational programs, and community groups have been invited to participate to showcase their activities, camps, programs, volunteer opportunities, and registration information. The event next Thursday from 5:30pm – 7:00pm is intended to serve as a one-stop community resource fair where families can discover opportunities for youth involvement, enrichment, recreation, mentorship, athletics, and social engagement. By bringing these groups together in one location, the City aims to strengthen community partnerships while encouraging youth participation in positive and healthy activities. The event will feature free food, games, activities, information, and entertainment for the kids and their families. **No action required.**

10)c) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Manning's Bar Property one additional appraisal is needed before placing on the market.
- Fifth Third Bank Project is coming next to the 7-11.
- Longwood Gardens Project is progressing with info to be brought back to Council.
- School Zone Cameras was paused and will be presented to BOCC in near future. Crystal River is in favor of the project.
- Other with City Manager spoke of more conversations regarding enhanced law enforcement and relating details. Crystal River will be having a concert next Saturday. We have a good partnership there.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of City Manager Williams being in the top ten City Managers in the nation, Inverness at #2 for USA Today Best Small Town in the South. So proud. Small Town Saturday Night was great and spoke of the crowd.

Councilman Craig noted the CIP presentation was understandable.

Councilwoman Hepfer agreed with Councilman Craig. Questioned the land next to ABC store with City Manager Williams stating a Valvoline Oil facility is considering that location.

Councilman Davis spoke of the CIP presentation and top ten City Manager. Thanked all for interest and concerns voiced. The goal is to make the community better. Small Town Saturday Night was great to be at and spoke of the t-shirt cannon.

Vice President Bega wished Council President Lizanich a quick recovery.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley questioned the railroad bed in Whispering Pines Park with City Manager stating it is not a road. Spoke of having better clarity regarding medical marijuana.

Lala Sanders spoke of certain businesses and again of medical marijuana and questioned who inspects those facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President