

June 2, 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 Bega motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Proclamation Presentation – Brannen Bank’s 100th Anniversary with Vice President Bega reading the proclamation that was presented to several members from Brannen Bank, who attended with Joe Brannen, Matt Brannen, .

4)b) Cooter Kudo – Apopka Marine with Councilwoman Hepfer and City Manager Williams presenting Linda Bega with Apopka Marine a kudo in recognition of the commitment and continued support of many City events, especially the Joe Bega Big Bass Classic.

4)c) Cooter Kudo – Dale McClellan with Councilwoman Hepfer and City Manager Williams presenting Mr. McClellan a kudo in recognition of his partnership and dedication to the Big, Bass, Bluegrass & BBQ event.

4)d) Cooter Kudo – Ice Cream Club with Councilwoman Hepfer and City Manager Williams presenting Mr. McClellan, who represented Rich Draper, a kudo in recognition of his generous contributions to the Big Bass, Bluegrass & BBQ event.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty spoke of past Council action regarding medical marijuana dispensaries prohibition. Spoke about Whispering Pines Park and if it becomes City owned, will be the premier park in the County. Referenced public art throughout the City and monument signs for new businesses.

Lala Sanders referenced an email she had sent to City officials and quoted a few excerpts from it regarding medical marijuana dispensaries and a potential City ordinance. City Manager Williams explained the process regarding ordinances and land use.

Debbie Wheatley stated Whispering Pines Park new entrance is looking great and noted the signs regarding speed and speed bumps. Questioned who determines the speed limit within the park with City Manager Williams explaining the involvement of a traffic engineer.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Hartley reiterated the process of notice regarding ordinances involving land use and noted similar cases.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 05/19/2026
 - Recommendation - Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) 2026 Public Art Project* with Program Coordinator Brown providing a slide presentation noting in April 2021, the City of Inverness initiated its new public art program. The plan was to annually bring a public art installation to Inverness. In that initial year, the City unveiled the mural on the side of Coach's Pub & Eatery. In 2022, the three projects were the Wallace Brooks Turtle Sculpture and Withlacoochee Trail Bench were repainted, the Outdoor Bike Sculptures were added, and the trash receptacles were wrapped with art from local artists. In 2023, two murals were painted on the side of buildings along N Pine Avenue. In 2024, the Painted Turtle Project was unveiled, which saw 11 turtles displayed in six different locations within the historic downtown. In 2025, the City of Inverness partnered with HCA Florida Citrus Hospital to install two painted benches alongside the crosswalk in front of the emergency room entrance and Grace Street. This year, the City of Inverness is looking to partner with HCA Florida Citrus Hospital again to install an immersive, wellness-centered public art display. This interactive journey of music, movement, nature-inspired design would be installed along Highlands Blvd along the pedestrian pathway of the medical district, and will provide responsive visual experiences that promote healing, relaxation, and human connection. Councilwoman Bega stated this is a nice location. Councilwoman Hepfer spoke of her excitement of this concept. Council President Lizanich questioned safety along Highland Blvd. with Coordinator Brown noting there is 88 feet of space to use. **Council consensus was to proceed as presented.**

10)b) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Pine Ave. Stormwater and Parking Expansion with Public Works Director Pell providing an update with a slide presentation.
- IGC Parking Lot Improvements with Public Works Director Pell noting the repaving of the parking lot is scheduled for June 8 & 9, closing ½ of the lot at a time to allow for downtown parking and let interruption.

- Legislative Special Session – Property Tax with City Manager Williams referencing the recent legislative action regarding homestead property tax. Spoke of future effects on City. There will be options regarding the City revenues.
- Other with City Manager stated this is busy time with the kick-off of Summer of 250. Spoke of the wildlife incident at Wallace Brooks Park last weekend. The area remains closed.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman Davis was happy to be here and for the residents getting involved in the City. The goal always is to leave Inverness better than we found it.

Councilman Craig spoke of the Withlacoochee State Trail and origin. Noted that hurricane season and Summer of 250 began on June 1.

Councilwoman Hepfer was pleased to be here and the City is on a good path. Spoke of future Councilmembers in years to come.

Councilwoman Bega attended last week’s CCCCCF meeting in place of President Lizanich and noted the funding of various charities.

Council President Lizanich was grateful to be here after her recent medical procedure. Noted upcoming dates to remember.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Lala Sanders stated the public art is wonderful and reiterated her concern regarding the medical marijuana dispensaries ban.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President