

April 16, 2024
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 Hepfer
Vice President Davis
Councilwoman Bega
Councilwoman Lizanich
Councilman McBride
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager Williams, City Attorney Hartley, Staff Members, and City Clerk Jackson.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Nature Coast Bike Fest with representatives presenting checks to Citrus County Veterans Foundation and Jessie's Place in the amount of \$3,772 each.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) Ordinance 2024-827, 2024-828, 2024-829 819 Poplar St. Annexation– First Reading* with City Manager Williams stating the applicant requests voluntary annexation of property located at 819 Poplar St. with plans to build a single-family home. The legal notice requirements were completed by publication in the Citrus Chronicle, mailing to adjacent property owners and posting of signage at the property. The Planning and Zoning Committee voted to recommend approval at their meeting on April 3, 2024. Community Development Director Shoemaker provided a presentation and overview of the annexation area. **The Public Hearing was opened. Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2024-827 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-827

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 819 POPLAR STREET, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 171, FLORIDA STATUTES PROVIDING FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAID ANNEXATION, DESCRIBING THE AREA TO BE ANNEXED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Davis motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-827 by roll-call vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

Councilman Davis motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2024-828 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-828

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS REQUIRED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH AND INCLUDING SECTION 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES; DETAILING THE LAND USE CHANGE INVOLVED AND AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FOR THE PROPERTY SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; RECLASSIFYING 0.073 ACRES OF ANNEXED PROPERTY FROM CITRUS COUNTY MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (“MDR”) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY (“LD”); PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Davis motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-828 by roll-call vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2024-829 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-829

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FOR 0.073 ACRES FROM CITRUS COUNTY MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MDR) TO CITY OF INVERNESS LOW DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (LD/R1); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Lizanich motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-829 by roll-call vote on a first reading. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried. No one spoke for or against the Ordinances. The Public Hearing was closed.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Karen Esty provided a report of a recent BOCC meeting she attended regarding growth in Citrus County. Followed up with an hour-long teleconference call with County Administrator Howard. Spoke of past experiences in South Florida communities.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 04/02/2024*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

9)a) Surplus Equipment Declaration * with City Clerk Jackson stating it has been determined that the equipment listed below as no longer useful for the operation of the City of Inverness.

- 2004 Chevy 2500 Heavy Duty Pickup Truck
- 2004 Chevy Silverado 1500
- 2012 Bobcat Skid Steer
- 2018 Toro Grand Stand 60" Mower
- 2014 Toro 60" Zero Turn Mower
- 2018 Toro Grand Stand 60" Mower
- 2017 Toro 40" Grand Stand Mower
- 2012 Bobcat Backhoe Attachment

Councilwoman Bega motioned to declare the listed item as surplus property and authorize that we proceed with disposal. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) 908 Constitution – Lien Reduction Request* with City Manager Williams stating the residential property owned by the United States Department of Agriculture located at 908 Constitution Boulevard has been subject to code enforcement action since July of 2021 for accumulation of trash and multiple unregistered vehicles and has accumulated fines totaling \$44,750. The property was last inspected in January of 2024 and remains out of compliance. Cutting Edge Contracting and Field Services performed a lien search in February of 2024 and contacted the City to request a reduction in the total amount of fines. Community Development Director Shoemaker explained the reduction amount will cover City costs. Councilman Davis questioned if all the work was done by due date in the request with Director Shoemaker confirming except for one last vehicle. **Councilman McBride motioned to approve the settlement offer of \$2,500 and authorize the City Manager to execute a Release of Lien upon the property being brought into compliance. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

10)b) Painted Turtle Art Project Agreement with Inverness Arts and Cultural Alliance* with City Manager Williams stating the Painted Inverness Turtle Project was introduced at the 2023 Festival of the Arts with the Inverness Arts and Cultural Alliance (IACA) engaging a local artist to paint focal points of the City onto a 6-foot cast recycled aluminum turtle and transform it into an attractive piece of art. The art piece was placed on display in the entry of the Inverness Government Center following the festival. The IACA has proposed the fabrication and painting of nine (9) turtles, including 5 large turtles and four (4) small turtles and will hire professional artists to paint the turtles with a theme to correspond with a "Small Town Done Right" motif with themes depicting Patriotism, Civic Life, Vibrancy/The Arts, Small Business, and Gateway/Welcome. Once complete, the art will be installed within the Downtown Entertainment District at certain locations. Assistant City Manager Calascione provided an overview presentation denoting various locations for the artwork and the 5 themes for paint design. It was noted this project will receive City funding if \$25,000. Mayor Plaisted questioned landscaping and mounting of the art with City Manager Williams stating a plan is in the works on a location basis. Landscaping will be included. President Hepfer questioned the weight of the turtle sculptures with City Manager noting the larger turtle weights approx. 600 lbs. Councilwoman Lizanich asked the cost of maintaining the painted turtles with City Manager describing the turtles being constructed of aluminum and maintenance should be no more than keeping sidewalks clean. Councilman Davis thanked Mr. Hertensen for his dedication and commitment of hours invested in the project to help improve the City. Councilman McBride questioned signage for no climbing on the turtles. Councilwoman Bega questioned a plaque for each installation with the artist and theme with Mr. Hertensen confirming there will be a plaque for each. Mayor Plaisted thanked Mr. Hertensen for all he has done for the City to uplift culture and add to a great future. Mr. Hertensen reported there are now 24 people involved in the Art Alliance and they will continue to make our community special. **Councilman Davis motioned to approve the agreement with the Inverness Arts and Cultural Alliance and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.**

10)c) Resolution 2024-04 Fire Citation Fee Schedule* with City Manager Williams stating in 2016, Ordinance 2016-714 amended Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Fire Inspections and Citations, and at that time a Fee Schedule and Citation were not implemented. To maximize the City's ISO Credits for Fire Code Enforcement and lower insurance costs for residents and businesses, it is recommended that the City implement a Fire Citation Fee Schedule and Citation. Fire Chief Bessler provided an overview. **Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2024-04 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2024 - 04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, ESTABLISHING THE FEES AND FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 9 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION"; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman McBride motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-04 by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman

Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilwoman Lizanich, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.

10)d) Whispering Pines Park New Entrance Agreement * with City Manager Williams stating FDOT is in the process of widening US 41 North. The City and State have been working together on the project to include the stub out of a new entrance to Whispering Pines Park. The State has awarded a \$1,000,000 appropriation for the completion of the entrance and connection to an interior park road and the City's contribution is the provision of professional services for the entire project. The professional services contract was brought before the Council on September 5, 2023, and approved. Parks and Rec Director Worley provided an overview. **Councilman McBride motioned to approve the funding Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Inverness as presented for the development of a new entrance on US41 North for Whispering Pines Park. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)e) Liberty Park Playground Shade Structures* with City Manager Williams stating in July of 2023 a proposal was brought to Council for shade structures that would cost approximately \$200,000. The Council chose to table action at that time. Three other equipment providers were contacted and either declined to quote the project or did not respond to staff. A \$55,500 quote from WillyGoat for purchase and installation of shade structures over the two major playground modules at Liberty Park was received. An allocation of \$50,000 is currently in the Parks' CIP for shade structures at Liberty Park to be used toward the shading of the two major playground modules, with approximately \$5,000 additionally from another existing revenue line in the Parks' Budget will fully fund the WillyGoat quote. Parks and Rec Director Worley provided a presentation overview regarding quotes, etc. City Manager Williams described the metal structures with sails and the locations noting the tables and benches are excluded from coverage, just the play apparatus will be shaded. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned how long the sails would last with City Manager quoting approx. 10 years. President Hepfer thanked Councilman Davis for his involvement in finding the best option and cost for this project. **Councilman Davis motioned to approve the proposal with WillyGoat for the installation of shade structures at the Liberty Park Playground and authorization for the City Manager to execute any documents necessary to complete the project. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

10)f) Pine Ave. Stormwater Improvement Professional Services* with City Manager Williams stating the City continues to make great strides to address stormwater concerns identified in the Stormwater Master Plan completed in 2022. Last year the City Council authorized Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to initialize and prioritize the \$450,000 LPQ0033 Grant Agreement received from Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Springs, and Watershed Restoration Program. This resulted in the selection of Pine Avenue for design, permitting and proposed stormwater improvement. Included will be project administration, grant assistance, survey services, geotechnical services, design plans, construction cost estimate and permit, etc. Public Work Director Dilmore provided an overview including various water issues. Councilman Davis referenced the area of Pine Ave. near Zephyr St. and ratio that is under design. City Manager Williams provided a visual map for reference. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the proposal for professional**

services with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) in the amount of \$95,701 as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

10)g) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Fire Training Facility proposed on City property on 581 and the benefit to the ISO rating. Chief Bessler spoke of components to be located to create the training facility, costs, requirement of 2 acres, etc. with City Manager noting this would be a true return on investment. Councilman Davis questioned the location on the City property and other location options. City Manager spoke of wells currently located in the same property, which will never be developed, and this location could become a future fire station. President Hepfer questioned if the lower ISO rating is the better with Chief Bessler explaining the class levels, etc. City Manager will bring a list of pros and cons of the location to an upcoming Council meeting.
- Water Tower Lighting carries a proprietary issue and lighting expert Tim Nash has located a non-proprietary open source for puck design lights to be installed by the end of April.
- Other included the growing popularity of the Wednesday Evening Market at the Depot, downtown up lighting project issues with underground conduit size being too small and researching options, and July 3 huge event is around the corner, and it takes a community to make all of this happen.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of his recent 5 ½ weeks visit to Ecuador and how their communities work together just like here and spoke of their various murals located in their town.

Councilman McBride stated he attend the recent MPO meeting on April 4 and a topic of discussion as a sidewalk on Independence Highway and an application process. City Manager noted that most of that roadway is in the County and maintained by the County under an agreement.

Councilman Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked the staff for all they do. Thanked the Chief and the Community Resource Officers for keeping us safe.

President Hepfer spoke of the Festival of the Arts committee (FOTA) and the Inverness Arts and Cultural Alliance (IACA) working together and it is progressing smoothly.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President