June 18, 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 – *Absent*
Councilman McBride
Mayor Plaisted

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

The Invocation was given by Councilman McBride 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 Councilman Davis. The motion carried.

**PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**4)a) Legislative Update** with Shawn Foster and Andrew Kalel, City Lobbyists from Sunrise Group, providing details of the recent legislative actions during the last session. Noted that 16% out of the approx. 2,000 bills filed were passed by the Governor. Items regarding Citrus County were listed, and noted those that passed and those that were vetoed. The State's budget is approx. $117.46 billion and spoke of how the Governor wants those seeking funding to first exhaust any grants that might be available. Councilman McBride related the trail connector being vetoed again with the push for seeking grant funds. It was suggested to looks at other projects as well. Mayor Plaisted questioned if the Governor was more concerned with water issues with Mr. Foster noting his concerns change from year to year but focused on environment and water quality. Councilman Davis questioned the apparent funding on the West side of Citrus County compared to the East side. City Manager Williams noted the City of Inverness has received a vast amount of grants.

**4)b) Citrus County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Report** with Lt. Fischer providing details of the 1st quarter report regarding tracked crimes, calls for service, arrests, traffic accidents, etc. Community Resource Officer Deputy Ruby highlighted the many community events. Councilman McBride spoke of the 3 fatalities, and cause and effect, with Lt. Fischer noting there are not always preventable measures. Councilman Davis spoke of the +5,200 911 calls and questioned the majority of calls not always being emergencies.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP**

**5)a) Resolution 2024-08 FY 2023-24 Mid-Year Budget Amendment*** with City Manager Williams stating City Manager Williams stating this process will amend the FY2023-24 Budget to correct and adjust various departmental contracts, expenditures, and capital projects. Finance Director Koter provided details. The total amount of all funds being amended represents $1,742,713.00, including the General Fund, ICRA Capital

Projects, Water/Sewer Projects, and Cemetery funds: **General Fund Operations and Maintenance** adjustments to expense accounts: Event Rental Security Service +$755; Ticket Sales +$82,797; Entertainment District Cup Sales +$13,017; Reserve Cash Carried Forward -$1,000,000; Infrastructure Reserve +$420,687; and Land Reserve +$579,313. Adjustments to revenue accounts: Entertainment District Cup Sales +$13,017; Valerie Ticket Distribution +$82,797; and Event Rental Security Service -$755. **ICRA Fund** adjustment to expense accounts: CRA Wayfinding Signs +$150,000; Gateway-$150,000. **Capital Improvement Project (CIP)** adjustments to expense accounts: Security Cameras – IP -$27,000; Access Control System +$12,200; Equipment – Computerization City +$14,800, Fire Station Bay Renovations -$75,000; Fire Bay Floor Resurfacing -$7,514; Fire Training Grounds +$75,000; Fencing Fire Station -$633; Fire Extrication Gear +$2,386; Fire Supply Hose Upgrade +$3,385; Fire SCBA State Grant +$46,974; Fire Nozzles +$2,376; Pine Ave. Stormwater +$95,701; Theatre Audio/Video +$627; Parks Shade Structure +$5,500; Liberty Park Theme Lighting +$20,000; Parks Vehicle Replacement -$210; Pool Complex Building Rehab -$10,000; Pool/Splashpad Shade Structures -$4,700; Parks Picnic Tables, Bench, Trashcans -$1,944; WPP A/C Repair/Replace -$490; Parks Mowers -$4,313; Pool Deck Furniture -$1,397; Depot Fencing +$2,427; and Reserve Cash Carried Forward -$5,500. Adjustments to revenue accounts: FEMA Fire Grant +$46,974 and FDEP Springs Grant +$95,701. **Water/Sewer Capital Projects** – Utility Rate Study +19,300; WTP Upgrade PLC/Install SCADA +$118,472; WWTP PLC Upgrades -$8,680; Sprayfield Rehab WWTP -$10,000; WWTP Flow Meter -$285; Effluent Sampler WWTP -$10,000; WWTP VFD Replacement +$8,704; Headworks Spare Motor -$1,777; Actuator Valve Replacement -$646; Lift Station Rehab +$34,892; Water Line +$25,000; Water Line Replacement/Mapping -$25,000; and Reserve Cash Carried Forward -$141,276. Adjustments to revenue accounts: Insurance Proceeds – Equipment +$8,704. **Oak Ridge Cemetery Fund** – Utility – Electric -$180; WTP Upgrade PLC/Install SCADA +$118,472; WWTP PLC Upgrades -$8,680; Misc. Expense -$220; Supplies Maintenance +$400; and Monument Engraving +$8,000. Adjustments to revenue accounts: Monument Engraving +$8,000. The Public Hearing was opened. **Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2024-08 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2024-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, AND UTILITY FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**The Public Hearing was opened.**
**No one spoke for or against the Resolution.**
**The Public Hearing was closed.**

**Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-08 by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilman Davis. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.**

**5)b) Resolution 2024-06 Lincoln Park Unnamed Road Vacation – Adoption Hearing*** with City Manager Williams stating street vacation is the legal process of undoing the creation of a public street typically created by the platting process. Following the City's detailed street vacation policy, the City will renounce any claim or right to the land described. The vacated street ceases to be a public street and can no longer be accessed by the public. This request is for the vacation of an unnamed road in the Lincoln Park Subdivision. Required exhibits included a petition, map, utilities, and easement, if necessary, etc. The Public Hearing was opened. Community Development Director Shoemaker provided a brief overview. **Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2024-06 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2024 - 06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA VACATING A CERTAIN STREET, ALLEY AND/OR EASEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF INVERNESS.**

No one spoke for or against the Resolution. The Public Hearing was closed.

**Councilman Davis motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-06 to vacating an unnamed road - Lincoln Park Subdivision by rollcall. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.**

**5)c) Ordinance 2024-831 Canvassing Board Referendum – Final Adoption*** with City Clerk Jackson referencing the matter of language in the City Charter regarding a City Canvassing Board, as referenced in Article IV, Section 4.06 of the City Charter. Since approx. 2006, there has been an Election year Interlocal agreement between the City and the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Office (SOE), which has agreed for the Citrus County Canvassing Board to canvass City ballots. Discussions have been with Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Baird, the Department of State's Office of General Counsel, and research of City records, and was recommended that the City delegate the function of canvassing the election to the County's Canvassing Board to insure the most secure, efficient, and accurate canvassing of General Election ballots. The Public Hearing was opened. City Attorney Hartley provided a brief overview. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2024-831 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

**ORDINANCE 2024- 831**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 20, 2024; AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER BY REPEALING PART I, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.06. – CITY CANVASSING BOARD; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

No one spoke for or against the Ordinance. The Public Hearing was closed.

**Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopted Ordinance 2024-831 by roll-call vote on a Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Karen Esty reported on the recent Hernando/Citrus MPO Citizens Advisory Board meeting and noted they had great presentations. An overview of action items was presented and announced the next meeting will be at the Inverness Government Center on August 5, 2024 from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Attorney Hartley provided an update on the recent injunction regarding the Financial Disclosure Form 6. Stated there were approx. more than 100 elected officials that had resigned their office when Form 6 was mandated. He noted this is a preliminary injunction, that will likely succeed. Advised elected officials to continue using Form 1 at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Bill Listing*
   - Recommendation – Approval

b) Council Minutes – 06/04/2024*
   - Recommendation – Approval

**Council motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council . The motion carried.**

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

None

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) Utilities Rate Study Findings - Raftelis*** with City Manager Williams stating on January 16 the City Council approved an agreement with Raftelis to conduct a standard utility rate study to provide recommended rate adjustment to ensure rates fully fund operations, maintenance, and present and future capital costs. The last formal rate study completed in 2019 has reached the end of its term and requires an updated analysis to adequately reflect current Capital Improvement Budget objectives and costs. Raftelis developed an updated financial forecast to review the sufficiency of water and wastewater monthly service rates, assisting the City with prioritizing City contributions towards certain strategically important capital projects and presenting the results of the study to the City Council. Consultant Murray Hamilton provided a presentation of the resulting rate analysis to adequately reflect current Capital Improvement Budget objectives and costs. City Manager Williams stated the City's rate is currently $10 lower than the average. Referenced the residential rates slide and noted rates are increasing throughout Florida. Councilwoman Bega noted the City has always been conservative on increases, and questioned the lease that was referenced in the presentation with City Manager stating the lease will not be renewed as the meters will be the property of the City when the lease expires. President Hepfer thanked Mr. Hamilton for the presentation. Councilman McBride recommended endorsing the study findings. Councilman Davis agreed. City Manager Williams stated the City is almost 15% lower than average, best deal in town that needs to be sustainable. Council discussed the resulting rate analysis, etc. and provided consensus with direction to bring back an Ordinance at an upcoming Council meeting. ***No formal action needed***.

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

- Holden Park Reclaimed Water Project with Public Works Director Dilmore providing details with a start date of Mid July and completion by end of August.
- July 3 – Patriotic Evening with Parks & Rec Director Worley stating this will be the biggest yet. Sponsor funds at this time totaled $40,000.
- West Inverness Trail veto was unfortunate but will not walk away and will pursue grant opportunities.
- Budget Development is tough this year with the volatility and instability of costs. Spoke of various rate fees compared to surrounding governments and areas.
- Other included many projects going forward. Council should keep in mind that if weather conditions do not change, there could be a possible burn ban in the near future.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilwoman Bega questioned the MPO possibly providing funds for the trail connector with City Manager noting the MPO is for planning not funding.

Councilman Davis spoke of attending the recent MPO meeting and that Councilman McBride always presenting positivity.

Mayor Plaisted spoke of Flag Day last week at the Depot Pavilion. Noted how the program has changed from the past. Kudos to Karen Esty for providing valuable information at the Council meetings for many years. Sheriff's Office had an excellent presentation this evening.

Councilman McBride attended the June 6 MPO meeting and spoke of recommendations discussed at that meeting. Noted 41 N is still #1 priority, as well as Trail being #1 in transportation alternative. Spoke of this time serving on City Council coming to an end.

President Hepfer stated appreciation to Councilman McBride for his service to the City. Spoke of her recent total knee replacement surgery and thanked the audience and staff.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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City Clerk Council President