

July 2, 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 Lizanich. The motion carried.

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

None

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

None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Anna Loughridge of Crystal River represented No To 4 organizational political committee and requested Council to consider adopting a Resolution to oppose Amendment 4. Historic information was discussed and details of the amendment. Handouts were provided to the Elected Officials and an audio clip was heard.

The following spoke of opposition to Amendment 4, encouraged Council to consider the Resolution, provided handouts and personal stories: Georgia Wenck, Lala Sanders, Sharon O'Donnell, April Wnok, Ronda Warrick, John Labriola, Steve Jones, Charlotte Todd, and Kevin Amedick

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 06/18/2024\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

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

## CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**10)a) TRIM NOTICE – Tentative Millage Rate\*** with City Manager Williams stating as part of the annual budget development process Council sets the tentative millage rate to result in a properly funded budget for the ensuing year. A portion of the City's general fund revenue is derived through the taxation of real property (property tax). The next step of the budget development for the FY 24-25 (10/1/24-9/30/25), is to set a tentative millage rate that may go down at the final adoption of the City Budget for next year but cannot go up. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the City will incur increases from multiple areas. The goal has been to develop a budget that maintains the expected levels of service and does not need to increase the current millage rate of 7.76. The Citrus County Property Appraiser has estimated an amount of \$677,350,000 in total taxable value of nonexempt property to be used for budget planning purposes. This estimate includes a value of taxable net new construction/improvement of \$10,000,000 and a total increase in value from the previous year of some \$49,831,253 or 7.94%. At the current millage of 7.76 levied against an estimated \$677,350,000 at 95% collection the City would collect an estimated \$4,993,424 in property tax. At the current millage of 7.76 levied against the current year taxable value of \$627,518,747 at 95% collection the City is estimated to collect \$4,626,068 in property tax. The difference of the two being \$367,356. The following upcoming meetings were announced: City Council Full Budget Workshop on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 5:30pm; Tentative Budget Adoption Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5:30pm in the Inverness Government Center Council Chambers, 212 W. Main Street, Inverness, FL; and Final Budget Adoption Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Inverness Government Center Council Chambers, 212 W. Main Street, Inverness, FL. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt a Tentative Millage Rate of 7.76 that may be lowered and authorize the submission of the TRIM documents to the State. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

**10)b) Community Development Community Board Appointment\*** with City Manager Williams stating David B. Ryan and Deborah K. Driskill recently submitted an application for appointment to City Boards/Commissions in a volunteer capacity as a member. Mr. Ryan has been a resident of the City for 20 years and is a former member of the City Council. Deborah Driskill has been a resident of the City for 6 years, a Paralegal for 54 years, Treasurer of the Friends of the Citrus County Library System and a Library Volunteer. Staff recommend both be appointed for a term of three (3) years. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to appoint David B. Ryan and Deborah K. Driskill to the Inverness Zoning Board of Adjustment. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.**

### **10)c) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)**

- July 3 Patriotic Evening will be biggest day of the year with an expected crowd of approx. 20,000. Amazing to have many partnerships with everyone working together.
- Crest School 2023/24 School Year magazine referenced their very successful project of collecting canned goods in the Inverness Government Center lobby.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted thanked all who commented on Amendment 4, and it is unfortunate the wording is confusing. Spoke of the Citrus County Right to Life and Roe v. Wade events.

Councilman McBride thanked the citizens for speaking the truth and looks forward to tomorrow.

Councilwoman Lizanich thanked all for coming out to speak, and for the thoughts and prayers for her recent medical recovery. Hope to see everyone at tomorrow's event.

Councilman Davis thanked everyone's commitment to pro-life and opposes Amendment 4. Keep Inverness that Small Town Done Right.

Councilwoman Bega thanked everyone who spoke from their heart. Praised staff for all their hard work preparing for Patriotic Evening.

President Hepfer thanked everyone as the Amendment is emotional. Spoke against Amendment 4 and keep talking about the issue. Thanked staff for all the hard work they do.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

David Ryan appreciated everyone's support for his volunteering to serve on a Community Development board.

John Labriola spoke of Amendment 4 being a passionate issue. Urged Council to put the Resolution on upcoming agenda as other communities have done. Appreciate help.

Steve Jones thanked Council and is very proud to live here.

Debbie Wheatley read a statement regarding running for an elected office for the City, the process, and requirements. Believes potential candidates should participate in Council meetings and on community boards. Thinks some candidates are running for their own agenda. Suggested changes to the ordinances for greater time required as a City resident, attendance to Council meetings and participation requirement. Stated there should not have to be on the job training and that Karen Esty is the only candidate ready to assume the position.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Council President