

February 3, 2015  
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 Hinkle  
Vice President Hepfer  
Councilwoman Bega  
Councilman McBride  
Councilman Ryan  
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Malm, Woodard & Curran Director M. Regina and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Councilman Ryan and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented, with the noted change. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

None

#### **SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

The War Memorial at the Historic Courthouse was addressed by Clark Stillwell regarding most recent revised changes in the plan. Upon review, the original plan was determined to be too tight fitting for all monuments to fit. It is proposed to be in a new location across from Valerie Theatre, with landscaping, a place for a statue, expansion, ADA accessible, and the possible relocation of a drainage system and incorporate into the City storm water system, which has been endorsed by the County Commission. Mr. Gatto, from County Facilities Management, is going to bid project based on County doing it, with an alternative to looking at the possibility of it being an add-on to the Valerie Theatre Project Contract with intent to expedite and to blend the landscaping with other projects in the City, being done professionally. He noted the brick program that will be put in place, and displayed a sample.

City Manager DiGiovanni explained how this could tie into the Valerie Theatre project. He stated that this is cooperative effort spearheaded by Clark Stillwell, and recognizing John Grannen, of the Historical Society, as well as the County. The current location of the monuments are in the path of where events/entertainment venues, and the monuments

should be located where they may be respected. We are looking for ways to connect the roof drainage system of the Historic Courthouse to the underground City infrastructure of our storm water system. The project would involve pavers, concrete work, landscaping, lighting, etc. The Manager's office can handle construction elements by working with the contractors. He mentioned that this was part of the nine point agreement with the county, but didn't feel it should delay the Veterans Memorial situation.

It was clarified that the new location will not interfere with the events taking place on the courthouse steps.

Councilman McBride questioned if it could be in place by the time of Vietnam Parade, and it was noted that it's hoped to be, but couldn't be certain.

Council President Hinkle stated that we need to do this in respect of the Veteran's and do it right.

### **MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Mayor Plaisted presented a proclamation for "Engineer's Week" to Jeff Rogers, Public Works Director for Citrus County Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Rogers, who is also President of the local chapter of the Florida Engineering Society and mission is to promote engineering and encouragement of youth development in engineering, math, science, and technology in the schools. He spoke of Elementary School Math Competition, Scholarships to graduating seniors, upcoming Science Day, and an ongoing after school tutoring program. Last year they awarded over \$2,000 in scholarships in Citrus County.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 01/20/15\*
  - Recommendation - Approval
- c) Proclamation – "Engineers Week"\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) Guide to Protocol – Addendum – Speaking time Limit\*** was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni regarding time limits for speakers addressing Council. Currently the Guide to Protocol states that the City Council does not impose time limits. The proposed addendum states "to maintain the expected flow of a meeting, the City of Inverness will impose a speaker time limit program to be administered by the Council President. Individual speakers will be provided three (3) minutes to state their opinion. If the speaker is representing a group or organization, they will be afforded five (5) minutes." City Clerk Davis provided a demonstration of the timer on council monitors.

**Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the modification to the Guide to Meeting Protocol, and adopt speaker time provisions for use at public meetings of City Council. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)b) Mosquito Control District – Aerial Spray Operations\*** was presented regarding authorization by City Council of the agreement to permit the application of pesticides by aerial administration to control mosquitoes, when deemed necessary. A change in language speaks of the past when the agreement stated that the Mosquito Control Board would provide a 48 hour public notice prior to the application of airborne chemical controls. The provisions now presented would read “when time allows” a 24 hour notice will be provided. In the interests of public safety, and with deference to the US Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, it is in the interests of the public at large to support the most aggressive application by the Mosquito Control District to eradicate mosquitoes as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Councilwoman Bega questioned the difference in the application via fogger vs airplane. City Manager noted that they are looking at a helicopter application, which is a more aggressive means.

Attorney Haag noted that they are installing a helicopter pad at the Mosquito Control on Hwy 491.

**Councilman McBride motioned to accept the agreement from the Mosquito Control District Board of Citrus County and authorize the City Manager execute the agreement. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)c) “Welcome Home Vietnam” Parade – FDOT Road Closure Permit\*** was addressed by City Manager. Plans have been underway for more than a year to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War with a parade which will take place along the regular route as the Veterans Day parade on US 41/44, and downtown Inverness, to be held Saturday, May 2, 2015. Staging will start around 8:00am at Citrus High School with a parade start time of 10:00am. The parade will conclude at the Historic Courthouse Square and then move to Liberty and Wallace Brooks Parks. The City of Inverness must provide a copy of the minutes from a meeting where City Council approved the City’s hosting of the event. The application must be signed by the City Manager and the Sheriff to fulfill this element of the FDOT regulation.

**Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to take action to meet the criteria of FDOT and authorize that the City host and accommodate the Welcome Home Vietnam Parade on May 2, 2015, on the FDOT roadway Highway 41/44 through town, and support a temporary closure of the road for this purpose. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- Valerie Theatre Monthly Report - Handout of the Valerie Theatre Project Report was reviewed on the progress made for the month of January. He spoke size of the plaza, which will connect and support the Theatre and the downtown, and have a 21 foot fountain visible from all directional focal points. Demolition of the old sidewalk and pouring of the new sidewalk area for the Plaza and Valerie will begin next week, with an accessibility plan for the local business. Work will only be done during closed hours of business and accessibility and visibility to the businesses will occur. This should take approximately 3 weeks or less. He advised that they have ordered additional appraisals for the Mountjoy/Vitter Law Offices, which will have comparables more suited for the downtown, which will be shared, once received. Our legal diligence continues and looks as though we will be bringing forward options to Council.
- He referenced the Kayak Launch article in today's Chronicle regarding how people are excited about the possibility of getting Kayak Launch and it's the first time people have contacted the City to help with expertise with people volunteering.  
He spoke to additional projects mentioned in the article, ie; the Gateway on Gospel Island Road we discussed years out, which faltered due to FDOT fund availability, which also occurred with the Forest Drive Project. The Feds changed the rules and FDOT yielded, and we didn't get any funding. These are projects the City needs to get assistance funding with and as we continue to move forward as a bicycle/pedestrian friendly community, the funding will follow.
- He spoke to floatation platforms in Liberty Park. Wallace Brooks Park is better suited for a Canoe/Kayak Launch, with better transition to the lake. When dealing with children play areas, and water you can quickly be embedded in litigation, and you must make sure that you are taking actions of reasonableness to the highest level possible. Need to make sure the people that the city issues permits to, have the highest degree of certifications to the established standards.

Council President Hinkle questioned the status of Cooter Pond Lighting. City Manager noted that we recently re-bid the project and are in consultation with a firm that previously bid. The lights are installed and we need to get the wiring correctly done. Hopefully by July or August we will be cutting a ribbon and lighting the pond.

Councilman McBride questioned the application for a Kayak Launch Grant, and the status of it? City Manager advised that it is still in application and they are very competitive, and it still going through the process.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted questioned when previous Parks Director, Pati Smith, met with people regarding the Statuary for Andersonville Prison and wondered if we were still considering the Public Art? He stated that with the new fountain, he thought we could start looking at our plaza and segway to statutes/public art and more cultural things to embellish the Theatre. City Manager DiGiovanni stated that art was subjective and you

must figure a way to get input on the type of statutes. Mayor Plaisted additionally spoke to the Super Bowl games and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Roe vs Wade.

Councilwoman Bega stated how interesting the Valerie Theatre monthly reports are and noted the Marquee will soon be up and couldn't wait to see it. The War Memorial on that side of the Courthouse will be an enhancement to the Theatre and Memorial.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated that the Valerie Theatre Report is fantastic. The War Memorial is great and looking forward to the Vietnam Parade. She spoke of the coins that are being sold for the Welcome Home Vietnam event.

Councilman Ryan spoke to the progress of the Valerie Theatre. Memorial movement will be something for the City to be proud of.

Councilman McBride spoke the loss of a great community citizen, Dave Langer. We need to remember him and other great people from our community. He was a great man. He spoke of the video on the news today of the Jordanian pilot who was captured by ISIS. He stated that we live in a country and a community where these are the farthest things from our minds and remind everyone of our great community. He stated that the Hernando/Citrus MPO will meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, in Lecanto.

Council President Hinkle stated that he was elected President of the Charitable Foundation and will have a swearing in ceremony Thursday evening in Lecanto. He spoke to funding and how it will come two years from now, when the final sale of the Hospital is finalized. The board consists of 11 members and will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. He spoke to the youth in our community and scholarship opportunities and to encourage them to look out for funding.

#### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

**Karen Esty**, Inverness resident spoke to the MPO/CAC Meeting that she will be attending on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, and needed direction with regard to sidewalks on Independence Blvd. going to Hwy 41. She didn't know if it was a reasonable request to address with the MPO, but noticed children standing on swale waiting for busses and felt a sidewalk from Hwy 44 to Hwy 41 would be beneficial, and is going to suggest to them. She was additionally going to push for Hwy 41 to go to Hwy 200, which currently exists and is needed immediately vs Suncoast Hwy. She questioned the agenda item regarding speaker timing. She wondered if there would be latitude for speaker time, based on the issue. She felt it would be short-sighted for the public to only get 3 to 5 minutes, when on other issues, i.e; a Public Hearing would get longer.

President Hinkle noted that if one comes as a prescheduled public appearance, we will give latitude, and this is more directed on public speaking on various issues.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:45pm.

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City Clerk

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Council President