

April 21st, 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 Hepfer
Vice President Ryan
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman McBride
Councilman Hinkle
Mayor Plaisted (Not Present)

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Malm, and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Councilman Hinkle 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 Ryan. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4)a) Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Expansion – was addressed by Council President Hepfer.

Councilman Ryan motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Ordinance 2015-710 read by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2015-710

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT; CONFIRMING, RATIFYING, AND SUPPLEMENTALLY ADOPTING A MODIFICATION TO THE INVERNESS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN; EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA; EXTENDING THE TIME CERTAIN TO COMPLETE REDEVELOPMENT FINANCED BY TAX INCREMENT REVENUES; PROVIDING DIRECTION AND AUTHORITY CONCERNING REDEVELOPMENT FINANCING AND THE ISSUANCE OF REDEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, SECTION 2-203, REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND, OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR RESTATEMENT AND REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; RESERVING RIGHTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL INTERPRETATION AND

CORRECTION OF ERRORS, IF ANY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing was opened.

For: None

Against:

Samantha Carter – 204 E Vine Street addressed the Council regarding the expansion of the CRA. They wish to have their properties removed from the CRA expansion because “it is beautiful, not blighted”. She commented that they are in support of efforts to revitalize areas of our community, but they didn’t qualify as a blighted area. Ms. Carter referenced other properties that, in her opinion, need to be included in the CRA such as Leeson’s Lakeshore Trailer Park and the old Hicks Grove. She spoke to the letter send to Council from their attorney, and they are looking to come to an amicable solution.

Charles Spinella – 115 Sassy Lane spoke to Council regarding the redevelopment map and noted two highlighted areas which is the old Hicks Grove and the Leeson’s Lakeshore Trailer Park, which are not included in the redevelopment. He questioned the Council and City Manager if they are aware of these two areas. Mr. SpinellaFennela was reminded that this was the time for public comment to Council and they are here to listen.

William Carter - Floral City addressed Council referencing a 2 year old newspaper article regarding the grove across from Liberty Park. Mr. Carter inferred that this move is to raise taxes for other projects and keep the money in Inverness, away from the rest of the county.

Council President Hepfer then continued the public hearing to gain as much input from the public as possible. Be aware we are looking at a meeting on June 11th, a special meeting to take up the matter of potentially adopting the ordinance, which will be duly advertised and conducted.

Special Legal Counsel Lawson made clarification that the date is recommended to continue the public hearing and have the ability to receive comment so all have another extraordinary opportunity for input.

Councilman Ryan motioned to continue the public hearing and pending adoption of the ordinance until June 11, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Charles Spinella – 115 Sassy Lane spoke to eminent domain and that the City Attorney stated that the state statute is not applicable. But the statute could change in the future.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR’S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 03/17/15 & 04/07/15 *
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Arbor Day” 2015*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- d) Proclamation – “Municipal Clerk Day”
 - Recommendation – Approval
- e) Repurchase of Cemetery Lot – Southwest Addition – Lot 410*
 - Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10) a) Evaluation Appraisal letter (EAL) was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who explained that the Community Planning Act of 2011 caused significant modifications to the growth management requirements for local governments. Prior to 2011 Act, every seven years the City was mandated to review and update it’s Comp Plan, which was accomplished through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process, and was a lengthy process. The 2011 Act, has simplified the process, which involves an Evaluation and Appraisal Letter (EAL). The City’s EAL was due April 1, 2015, and we will have one year from the aforementioned date to adopt the outlined changes in the EAL, through amendments of the Comp Plan. Most of the changed in the EAL Transmitted by the City to the State focused on removal of previously require State mandates. The City’s Planning and Zoning Board will oversee preparation of the changes listed in the EAL, holding public hearings, and recommendation to City Council. The EAL will essentially produce Comprehensive Plan Amendments that will modify with chapter in the document. This is for information purposes, and no action is necessary.

10)b) Use of Contingencies – Welcome Home Vietnam was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni explained how this year we have been part of two enormous events, being Welcome Hone Vietnam and the Gala Opening of the Valerie Theatre Cultural Center. The event is planned by a committee with direct involvement of the Inverness Event and Visitors Bureau, which involves fours bands, exhibits and general displays of the era, the Traveling Wall, and to conclude with pyro-tech show over Big Lake Henderson. Donation are being accepted, and we expect them to continue, however to secure the pyro-tech display and related labor, insurance and site prep, the use of contingencies in the amount of \$5,000 will be needed to secure the contract. Replenishment of the funds will be accomplished by donations.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the use of contingency funds in the amount of \$5,000 to support the fireworks show as part of the 2015 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- CIP Workshop is building the five-year capital improvement plan, which in part supports the planning documents of Inverness.
- Fire Services Workshop, with special attorney Lawson present, is being planned. The legalities of the issue need to be dealt with, noting the 1974 voter approved special fire tax. The inter-government relations created with that voter approved tax needs to be looked at. That will involve the Fire Department building, equipment, etc. The local agreements deal with the equipment, building, etc. Council needs to be clear on elements of the MSBU, and the potentiality of future funding with respect to Fire Services. Every community must enter into agreements to provide services in the event of any type of an emergency. We have had an incredible amount of contact from people wishing to volunteer. We are unique as we are the city without a fire department, but that's not to say it's not correct, just the exception right now.
- Valerie Theatre Project continues to take shape with regard to the plaza area and the interior. The majority of the building is complete. The project is on target for a May 30 invitation only event. We are working with adjoining property owners with positive conversations.
- Things have been brought to Council which warrant comment.
 - 1)Business Park- the County is still in preliminary stages of zoning for the business park. Industrial issues are potential. The zoning issue is going to take time. Once zoning is approved, there needs to be a plan, policies, etc. They are years away from anything and the City is not holding up progress.
 - 2)Withlacoochee Technical College -at the time the dumpsters were located at WTC, the City didn't have a full managed curb side recycling program. The City looks to work with county government to relocate these dumpsters in a convenient location, yet we must support our City code, which the current location does not. The residents should not be subject to that situation. If this was Citrus Hills or Sugarmill Woods, the County would probably make a change.
- War Memorials relocation seems to have stalled. The City feels the abuse of the memorials is not proper with them being used as seating, climbing, etc. The War Memorials deserve the right location with easy access, up-lighting, etc. Unfortunately, the years of work by Clark Stillwell may not come to fruition.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Bega spoke to the Taste of Inverness being a great success and there are lots of things happening.

Councilman McBride underscored Councilwoman Bega's comments on Taste of Inverness, and it was nice seeing people you don't see too often. The Boys & Girls Club benefited from this event. He commented on the Editorial in Chronicle today regarding the City and the pending MSBU. We are going to do what is correct by protecting our citizens, their property and ensure that we have fire services provided. We will have a meeting next week regarding fire services. He spoke to the Consent Agenda with a proclamation for Municipal Clerk's Week and praised City Clerk Davis for all that she does. Looking forward to the Vietnam Vets weekend beginning on May 1.

Councilman Hinkle stated he attended the WRPC meeting and spoke of the plan to do away with our district and distribute us to other groups. We would be associated with the Tampa Bay Area, and they do not necessarily look out for small communities. This change will cost us \$2,000 to still be a member. He spoke to the fabulous Taste of Inverness and a very nice letter regarding ROCCS. People come from other areas to Inverness because there is so much happening. Inverness is a fabulous place to live. The Vietnam Vets deserve our respect and looks forward to the upcoming event.

Councilman Ryan attended the Budget Overview which was very informative. Thanked the Taste of Inverness participants and spoke of how enjoyable it was, and what an exemplary job was done by city staff when putting together these signature events that draw people from outside of this County. He mentioned the ribbon cutting for Cricket Wireless, Do Wop the Block and Friday night thunder. Regarding the monument relocation, it was noted in paper that the Courthouse is a historic building. The question is what makes one side of the Courthouse more historic than the other. Looking forward to the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event.

Council President Hepfer spoke of the lost friends of the Vietnam era. Referenced the newspaper today and questioned how much we do pay per the 1974 agreement for fire service. The community pays the tax of roughly \$250,000. Council President noted the MSBU would be on top of that. Spoke to the recycle dumpsters near the Vo Tech and doesn't understand how we were the bad guys when we were trying to help. Discrepancies in weight of recyclables and dollar amounts were addressed. She spoke to the Fire Services Workshop on Tuesday, April 28th. Excited about the Vietnam veterans event, the parade and fireworks.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

James Neal referenced a meeting with City Manager DiGiovanni, Mr. Black, Mr. Mountjoy and Mr. Bradshaw, and thinks things have been worked out. He presented a letter with bullet points regarding issues discussed. This will be presented at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

City Clerk

Council President