

May 5, 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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes –04/07/15WS & 04/21/15*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamations- “ Mental Health Awareness Month”*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Sweetwater Point Utilities Expansion Project (verbal) City Manager spoke of having conversations with residents/member of the Homeowners Association since 1999, and wished to provide clarity of the potential to extend the connection of the utility system to the development. Residents have experienced terrible water conditions, and recently elected a more focused group to move this forward. City Staff representing the Inverness Utility system have been responsive to Sweetwater Point and the project could move toward an assessment program outside the City. We have an Interagency Agreement with Co. Government, and historically we work things to where Co. Government would handle the assessment and City would handle all the connections, working together. County staff stated they could do the project 15-20% less than the private sector, and then final numbers were presented to homeowners by the County of \$9,500 per house, without looping included. We contacted our utility contractor and were able to bring the project in for less than half. Homeowners still want to work with Co. Government as they were told they could bring it in 10-15% less than private sector. This may eventually get to City Council, so he wished to keep them informed. He and Asst. City Manager attended a meeting with the homeowners association last week with a very good exchange, and the difficulty of why county government construction costs are so high vs private sector. Please understand through our standpoint it looks as though the project will move forward and looks like there will be an additional 57 customers on the City system. Bringing the water into that area will add fire flow with it as well. If County backs away, we may be able to get it to work through an assessment arrangement with Council approval.

10)b) School Concurrency County Notice of Termination of Inter-local Agreement (verbal) City Manager spoke of the four party agreement between City of Inverness, Citrus County, City of Crystal River and the School System, which was an enabling document to work together with concurrency management. He noted that County Government took unilateral action to terminate their standing in the agreement. We never had contact with them, nor the schools and City of Crystal River. The Schools have sent correspondence advising County Government that they didn't want the agreement terminated or altered. Yet they proceeded to do that very thing. We have reached out to Crystal River and School System, and Inverness' intention is to design, build, and plan a quality community which involves schools. We will be working together with remaining participants to have a protocol in place of planning, funding, and to make sure that we are a community with five schools that has those schools properly situated and supported to educate children. We will work together to be sure integrity of this agreement remains alive and well. He advised that the agreement we would be working on would deal with children in this community, and not the whole county.

Councilman McBride questioned why the County would reject concurrency when this provides them better information and better decisions. It seems to be irrational and cannot understand that.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- He spoke to the Welcome Home Vietnam Event, stating how this had many more moving parts than anything we have been involved with. It was birthed in history and emotion. He praised Michele Tewell for all her dedicated work and the Event Bureau. Comments have been overwhelming.
- He recently reached out to Randy Oliver, County Administrator, and arranged to directly meet with him. It seems to be important to the County to get the road to the Airport. He made sure Whispering Pines Park remains an item that is alive in the meeting, and connected to the city moving on a number of things. He offered alternatives for them to consider with the Park. The point is that we need to move on a number of items.
- The Wall Memorial at Courthouse is wrapped up in emotion, and we may come up with our own plan, in a respectful manner.
- He spoke to how the County Administrator has been sending correspondence to the City Attorney, Larry Haag vs to City Manager. This is unusual and seems to be a desire to go around City Administration.
- He spoke to the Fire Services Workshop, stating that the first one went well and dealt with findings of fact, and the second one will be no different than first, with new facts, new information, and expert opinion. He noted an editorial placed on the dais regarding the Fire Services Issue, was disappointing. What matters most is getting the findings of fact publicly stated, and for Council to make determinations that are not based on emotion.
- He spoke to County Administrator Oliver regarding the dumpster recycling site in City/WTI and how the City has a Land Development Code and we do not welcome garbage being brought in from outside the City. We seek their support in treating the people in Inverness no differently than others in the County.

He closed with stating how many can look at event efforts of Inverness and see nothing but activity, but it's hard to overlook at the impact of the marketing, and the positive outlook people have with this City. While doing these events, we continue with the Valerie Theatre construction, Schools Out Event, Valerie Theatre Invitational, Flag Day, Patriotic Evening, as well as the CIP, and General Budget. It's all getting done to leave Inverness better than we found it.

Attorney Haag spoke to the correspondence forwarded to his office by County Administrator Oliver, re; letter from Denise Lyn, re; Fire MSBU, and letter from County Administrator re; Deed to CSX property, and doesn't understand why these are coming to him, as they should be going to the City Manager. He had a concern about being asked to hold the Deed for CSX, as it was executed months ago, with a legal description that he has no idea if it is correct, and has asked them to dig out the old CSX files as I knew there were title problems with it years ago. Until all these items are researched, he doesn't even know if the Deed they presented is correct.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke to recent editorial in Chronicle regarding Fire Services/MSBU. , and the lack of communication over last 12 years. He didn't understand how the county goes to City Attorney instead of the City Manager. He commented on how great the Vietnam Program was and thanks to all. Made him very proud.

Councilman Hinkle spoke to how Tallahassee took away the Regional WRPC, and members will be dispersed to Tampa, and other locations, and hoping to get it closer. **City Manager DiGiovanni** stated how the City used the WRPC to develop its Comp Plan, and this creates a difficulty. It was noted that it will now cost each municipality \$2,000 per year. Councilman Hinkle spoke to Fire Tax and how it will hurt the business', especially the smaller ones, which will cause them to go out of business. Graduation is coming up and we should encourage them for their future. Spoke to the Vietnam Event and how proud he was.

Councilman McBride spoke of comments from people at the Vietnam Event and thanked all involved. He spoke to the Closing Ceremony of the event and a man who broke down and will always think of Inverness' proudest hour.

Councilwoman Bega spoke briefly to the editorial. She stated how Events bring a quality of life to Inverness. She can't express the emotional roller coaster, with the Welcome Home Vietnam Event this weekend, and the pleasure to be a part of it.

Councilman Ryan spoke of the Vietnam Event and the emotion, fireworks, vendors, bands and veterans, and witnessed more emotion than he has in a long time, and thanking all involved. Spoke to County going around Administration, which puzzles him and it seems like the norm for them since the new administrator and elected officials were appointed/elected.

Council President Hepfer stated how the Welcome Home Vietnam Event, was the best and most meaningful event. She displayed the flag given to us from State Representative Smith and the Department of Defense at the Opening Ceremony.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Officer for Citrus County wished to introduce herself to the Mayor and City Council, and how great it is working with the city. She commented on the parade that weekend, and kudos for doing it as the military doesn't get the credit deserved. She introduced Jim Rashley, Asst. Director at the Health Department and noted how they are both available if needed.

Councilman Hinkle spoke to the Charitable Foundation and how they have just written their first RFP for Banking Services and are moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29pm.

City Clerk

Council President