

December 15th, 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 Williams, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Interim Public Works Director McCulloch, Fire Chief Campfield, Finance Director Chiodo, Event Director Skeele-Hogan, IT Director Johnston, Facility Manager Hodges, Aquatics Coordinator Pleacher, Cultural Arts Director Forino, and City Clerk Davis.

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 Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

6)a Waste Management – Check Presentation – Mr. Larry Dalla Betta, Public Manager of Waste Management presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 as an Event Partner.

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

a) Bill Listing*

- Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 12/01/15
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – National Mentoring Month*
 - Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10)a) Budget Development Schedule – FY 2016-17- City Manager DiGiovanni reported that the enclosed development schedule for the 2016/17 City Wide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Operational Budget was enclosed for their review and approval. He asked that if they find a conflict, to please advise us so we may modify the schedule if possible. Once approved, staff generated changes (if any) will be noticed to Elected Officials, the public, and the media. **Councilman Hinkle motioned to confirm the CIP and Budget Schedule to establish the dates and times for Council Workshops and Public involvement. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

10) b) Lake County Fire Dept. – Piggyback Bid – City Manager DiGiovanni advised that Lake County secured competitive proposal for a wide variety of supplies and items necessary for the proper delivery of fire services. We have obtained from Lake County and the listed Vendors to take advantage of competitive pricing by opting to piggy-back their bid provisions. Lake County has been successful and aggressive to secure item/supplies at favorable pricing by engaging the eleven vendors listed in the agenda packet, through their process. Use of the Lake County bid will enable us to secure items at the most favorable price for the Inverness community.

Councilman Ryan motioned to authorize that we piggy-back the Lake County Bid #12-0806 through June 30th, 2016 and through June 30, 2017, if Lake County renews the contracts, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents, to include an extension, under this piggy-back bid award. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

10)c) Land Exchange Easement: City to County – City Manager DiGiovanni noted how this has been a multi-year effort, which originally was for the City to deed its property by the airport, in exchange for the County deeding the property near Whispering Pines Park, by the old Seaboard Railway (AmeriGas site). A shift in priority reduced the action to the County issuing a deed for their property near Whispering Pines Park and the City issuing an easement only. Council action will be to approve an easement for perpetual use of City lands at the airport for the County to construct a road to connect the northern side of Eva Holden, south of Airport Road at the animal shelter location (Watson Road). Upon receipt of the deed conveying the AmeriGas property, the City will begin the plan to expand connectivity of the Withlacoochee State Trail and Whispering Pines Park to residential centers and the City.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to approve the easement for the County to utilize a portion of the City owned airport property as a roadway, and authorize the Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motioned carried unanimously.

10)d) Hilltoppers US Swim Team Fee Schedule – Resolution – The action this evening is to adopt a fee based Resolution to enable the application and collection of certain charges for the City/Hilltopper Swim Team program. The proposed amendment is for the Annual USA Swim Team Youth Member Registration, and the Adult Master Program Registration Fees, and changing the current registration fees from \$60 and \$40, to a fee not to exceed \$70 for Youth Registration and to a fee not to exceed \$50 for the Adult Master Program.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2015-20 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 2014-06, AND ESTABLISHING A NEW FEE STRUCTURE FOR CITY OF INVERNESS HILLTOPPERS SWIM TEAM ASSOCIATION WITH THE USA SWIM ORGANIZATION, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to adopt the Resolution by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilman Hinkle, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

10)e) Zephyr Street Bid Recommendation – was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who advised that at the last Council meeting there was discussion regarding encroachments on Line Ave. and Zephyr St., as they relate to project construction. The project went out for competitive bid on July 31, 2015 but has not been awarded due to extenuating circumstances. The bid was advertised with a fair amount of inquiries, however, only one firm, Pave Rite, Inc. responded with a formal bid submittal, in the amount of \$446,867.26. The project is included in the 2015/16 CIP Budget being partially funded by FDOT through a County Incentive Grant Program and City Transportation Impact Fees. Following Council action, we will meet with the contractor to discuss the project and plan to issue a notice to proceed late in January.

Councilman Hinkle questioned the amount of contribution by FDOT, and it was noted to be less than one half of the total project.

Councilman McBride questioned why there was only one bid receive. City Manager DiGiovanni stated he wasn't aware, and could only assume it was due to the past failing economy with many of the contractors going out of business, and those remaining are quite busy with new projects due to improved conditions. It was noted that FDOT was comfortable proceeding with one bid.

Councilman Ryan motioned to award the contract for the Zephyr Street Improvement Project to Pave Rite, Inc. as lowest and best in the amount of \$446,867.26 and authorize the Council President execute the contract, and authorize the City Manager to administer change orders to finalize the project in the best interest of the community. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

10)f) State of the City Address 2015 was presented by City Manager DiGiovanni mentioning our extended family of 3P Partners, Woodard & Curran, Waste Management, Sheriff's Office, and others. He began with items that were not successful, including the continued County use of the historic Coke Building, lack of County funding to Whispering Pines Park, Sweetwater Point Water Utility expansion, etc.

City-wide Operations and General Services –

3 new directors were added to include Alan Forino, Bruce Day and Joe Campfield. Scott McCulloch transitioned to Public Works Director.

Public Interaction

- Quarterly City newsletter is delivered to every resident and business.
- E-blasts are sent monthly to over 3,500 addresses.
- 6 websites are managed through the City, in addition to Facebook with increased number of followers.
- 10 info-commercials produced and aired.

Programs, Projects, Services

- Land exchange with the County was completed.
- Partly funded, organized, and assisted the 50th Anniversary of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, with a parade, traveling wall, ceremonies, music, vendors and a Black Hawk Helicopter, etc.
- Highland Blvd. planning was completed.

Increased Activity

- Building permit fee revenue and construction value for building projects are up.
- Worked with the Hospital to complete heli-pad and various medical departments.
- Finalized CRA expansion of 1,200 acres.
- Conducted 11 new business ribbon cuttings.

Operations and Enhancements:

- Re-organization of the City continues

Parks, Recreation & Activities:

- Upgraded several bathroom facilities and reroofed two buildings
- Completely Remodel interior of concession stand (Helps Youth Programs)
- Worked with Inverness Rotary to create the Family Recreation Area and improve the Picnic Pavilion with a Sand Blasted Sign, Post Rail Fence, Sidewalks, Landscaping & irrigation, and handicap parking spaces.
- Purchase new reel mower for turf maintenance and management.

Generalized Public Works Activity:

- 2 “Big Belly” Solar compactor Trash Containers to Cooter Pond boardwalk for its upcoming lighted opening.
- Razed the 2-Story Apartment Building on MLK at Dampier; graded and sodded the site and added wood fence. Definite improvement.
- Improved Storm Water Roadway Management in Residential areas .
- Repaired damaged storm water inlets on Tompkins Street
- Replaced the fountain pump at Cooter pond.

- Installed New Energy Efficient LED bulbs for downtown lights and Public Works Building.

Utility Operations:

- Dealt with largest system failure ever, and managed a week of boil water notices.
- Engaged a system-wide Chlorine Burn to flush every pipe.
- Finalized the fully automated water utility meter program and migrated a new Utility billing system.
- Acquired the Rosemont & Rolling Green Water Systems from County.
- Implemented on-line meter management to monitor water leaks, meter tampering and meter failures daily, and able to notify customers immediately of potential problems.
- Improved Utility account collections to achieve a 99.5% collection ratio.
- Approximately 1900 Work Orders were completed.
- We produced 364,413,000 gallons of water and treated 179,903,000 gallons of wastewater; a slight increase compared to the prior year.

Technology Achievements Involved:

- Launched new software program to track and manage projects.
- Computerization and connectivity from the Valerie Theatre to IGC.
- Rebuilt the City Main Web Site at Inverness-FL.Gov.
- Updated security monitoring software and network security.

More:

- 24 Agendas, 4 Ordinances, 18 Resolutions, 16 Proclamations, 3 Fire Services Workshops, 1 CRA Workshop and 5 Budget sessions.
- \$21,500 on-line surplus sales.
- Training and preparation for incoming Clerk in preparation for the current Clerk's Departure.
- On May 30th, a Black Tie Gala Opening of New Theatre Cultural Center, Plaza, and Fountain. Community Open House on June 6th with hundreds attending.
- June 15th Alan Forino was hired as Cultural Director for the Valerie Theatre.
- September 11, the Valerie hosted the 9/11 Exhibit & Tribute to over 1,500 people.
- www.valerietheatre.org – new website was launched.
- Valerie participated in the Dec. 3 Holiday Light-Up Night for another huge turnout. The fountain was bathed in red as snowflakes fell from the marquee.
- December 5, the Theatre opened with two (2) sold out performances.
- 471 Children attended school safety swim program, and 356 children and adults attended Summer Swim Lessons.
- Pool Complex diving board was replaced and pool heaters received major repair.
- Hilltoppers Swim Team participated in three (3) Kingdom of the Sun swim meets, (7) USA meets and three (3) USA Championship meets.
- Conducted Junior Lifeguard, Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor certification classes.

- The City Pool accommodated Day Camps, Citrus High School Swim Team, and booked 34 reservations.

Park Reservations:

- 328 pavilion rentals and 432 rec. building reservations 1,541 field reservations.
- 5-5K runs, United Way Triathlon, and many family and organizational gatherings. Whispering Pines Park accommodated: 5 – 5KRuns, the United Way Triathlon, and dozens of family and organizational gatherings.
- Installed (6) dog waste stations in the Pines and will add in other parks as well.
- CHS Cross Country Race
- Inverness Little league Spring, Summer, Fall Seasons.
- Cheerleading, Football, Soccer, Disc Golf, weddings, family reunions, etc.

Events: (not all listed)

Inverness Farmers Market, Friday Night Thunder, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Walk, 10th Annual Car & Truck Show, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Music on the Square, Wine Over the Water, Taste of Inverness, Pine Avenue Jam, Music in the Park, Rock the Block Concert, Flag Day Ceremony, Patriotic Evening, 9/11 Memorial & Freedom Walk, Festival Queen Event, Cooterstock, Cooter Fest Family Weekend, Festivals of the Arts, Fine Wine & Food reception, Veteran's Day Parade, Inverness Grand Prix and Motorsports Festival, Inverness Christmas Parade.

Expected in 2016:

- Changes will be made to the City Charter.
- City website redesign with greater functionality, etc.
- Video promotion added to the website for business participation and general marketing.
- A new city event web portal to provide a unified location for events.
- Sidewalk Café program will be evaluated with possible changes.
- Safety bollards will be introduced at angle parking spaces downtown.
- The monthly utility bill will include 12 months of usage graphs and You Tube videos re: Utility Issues.
- Online vendor registrations and bid management, and updated purchase policy.
- Security cameras will be added for the IGC perimeter area and counter sections in Finance / DDS / Valerie Theatre and Plaza area.
- Complete the Zephyr Street project and commence work on Highlands Blvd.
- The joint venture with Inverness Rotary to improve Whispering Pines Park.
- Water Utility Services to Sweetwater Pointe.
- Utility system SCADA monitoring system.
- Concept Plan for the Depot, Lumber Building, House.
- The Inverness Fire Department Web Site will be developed.

- The Clerk's Office will prep for Early Voting for the Presidential Preference Election; the Primary Election; General Election; and handle Qualifying, for Council Elections 2016.
- In 2016, Two Charter Officer Positions will be determined by City Council
 - Transition of Deputy Clerk to City Clerk
 - Transition of the Assistant City Manager to City Manager

City Manager DiGiovanni closed stating businesses are opening and succeeding, people are excited, and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and an eventful New Year.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman McBride spoke of the events in downtown and Ditchfield Family Singers were enjoyable and recognized Alan Forino. Appreciation of staff & City Clerk who will be leaving in Spring.

Councilman Ryan praised Light up Inverness and the Parade, and enjoyed the children's reactions. Attended wall rising for Habitat for Humanity. Commended all the City employees.

Councilman Hinkle noted how events brings our community together. We do government right. Investing in our youth brings a great future for community.

Councilwoman Bega gave kudos to Liz and Sharon working with TDC. Thanked Alan and looks forward to future events at the Valerie and website is very user friendly.

Mayor Plaisted enjoyed the Ditchfield Family Event and looks forward to future events. Spoke of work on corner of Ella and Emory duplex that elevates our community. Kudos to Habitat for Humanity. Commended all staff.

President Hepfer commended City Manager for the State of the City address. We are like a family and it's sad to have staff leave but we are growing. Wished all a happy and healthy new year.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty, Inverness stated it is a pleasure representing Inverness PZC and MPO advisory committee and read a poem about the last meeting of 2015.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:43pm

City Clerk

Council President