

September 1, 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 Day, Aquatics Coordinator Pleacher 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

Council President Hepfer asked to have an additional item regarding the rescheduling of the Budget Public Hearings, added to the Agenda under City Manager Report 10)d).

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the agenda as presented with additional item as noted. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

John Holloway – 101 N Pine, Inverness, addressed City Council and spoke to Sponsorship signs could not understand why the City will not permit them at Whispering Pines Park Ballfield, as other cities allow this. He complemented projects throughout the City, and stated that it is about priorities and team sponsorships are not enough. He also spoke to downtown parking and how nothing has been resolved, and asking that Council readdress this.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 08/11/15WS; 08/18/15*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Inverness Sertoma 35th Anniversary”*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10) a) Inverness Middle School – Street Name Change was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who advised that the Citrus County School Board wished to rename a portion of Middle School Road to Ginger Porter Drive. The change is limited to sections that pass the front and side of the school building, and will not affect businesses along the road, nor will it create a need to change street signage.

Councilwoman Bega stated how she was a wonderful teacher and students loved her.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to support the School System’s initiative to designate a portion of Middle School Road to Ginger Porter Drive. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

10)b) Whispering Pines Park Ball Field Fee Change – Resolution was addressed and City Manager DiGiovanni advised that extended seasonal user fees for baseball/softball have been in place since 1997, which represents the high cost facilities in the Park. All organized leagues pay these fees for the use of baseball/softball facilities. The enclosed Resolution is structured to modify extended seasonal user fees for baseball/softball facilities. It was noted that this fee change is for extended season only. Normal season fees will remain the same. This is a prep fee that will be assessed per field.

Councilwoman Bega referenced the newspaper article which was making it sound as though this was a large charge instead of the two dollar increase per team.

City Manager noted all the expenses involved in turf facilities with the fence, equipment, supplies, maintenance, etc. and involves expertise on staff’s end.

Councilman Ryan motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Resolution 2015-10 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2015-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, ESTABLISHING FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF CITY FACILITIES; AND REPEALING PRIOR FEES AND CHARGES FOR BALL FIELD USEAGE.

Councilman Ryan motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-10, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. Roll call vote was as follows: 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)c) 106 E Dampier Lease Termination - The City of Inverness entered into a lease in December of 2000 with County Government to support their space needs with the Judicial System and Supervisor of Elections Office. Recently the Supervisor of Elections has exhausted the need for the building. The Department of Children and Family Affairs (DCF) wishes to expand and lease this location. Before that occurs we must terminate the current lease with County Government and renovations would need to take place. It is recommended that City Council takes steps to terminate the lease.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to authorize the City Manager to take the necessary steps to provide notice to County Government to terminate the lease for the property commonly known as 106 East Dampier Street. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

10)d) Budget Adoption Public Hearing Dates, Location and Time was addressed with City Manager DiGiovanni advising of modification to the scheduled Public Hearings for the 2015/16 FY. There was a schedule conflict with County Government, and it is necessary to reschedule, as the City is subordinate to the County and School Board. Once discovered, immediate action was taken by staff to rewrite advertisement and notification protocols to provide proper notification to the public of both Public Hearings. All was reviewed by the Dept. of Revenue TRIM Office. We need recognition of these dates and location by City Council and to maintain compliance with TRIM & State regulations. He noted that attendance to the Public Hearings is paramount, as the process taken by the City requires a unanimous vote of City Council to adopt the budget.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to establish Monday, September 14th, 2015, at 5:01pm, at the Inverness Government Center, 212 W Main Street, Inverness, FL, as the date, time and location for the tentative Budget Public Hearing; and to establish Tuesday, September 29th, at 5:01pm, at the Inverness Government Center, 212 W Main Street, Inverness, FL, as the date, time and location for the Final Budget Adoption Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- Spoke to the damage being done to roads in the Inverness Acres dirt road areas due to the violent levels of rain that has occurred. Some road areas have washed out extensively, and asked the Mayor declare an emergency to repair the area that was washed out and impassable. There are networks of roads in the city that aren't under the domain of the city, and in this area, the roads were accepted by the County.
- City of Inverness has strong relationship with Waste Management of Central Florida, under an exclusive franchise for many years. There is a stabilizing factor of that agreement, which is to keep the service very affordable for city government to provide it as part of the tax program to citizens. This has provided a huge windfall for those living in the city, as they are not being charged as county residents are. For the first time, next year's contract costs will actually drop. The city is really reaping a reward of entering into a very solid agreement.

- Referencing the recent TRIM notice, he stated that Inverness taxes continue to go down and services continue to rise. This is different than anywhere else in this county, with the citizens of the city being assessment free. Spoke to the advantages of living in the city.
- He spoke to today's issue of the Chronicle and gave kudos to reporter Mike Bates regarding his article on the initiative of four communities coming together around tourism. Those articles are written and composed with impact.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman Hinkle commented about the need to have City Manager & Attorney research the road situation in Inverness Acres and speak with the County to step up. People would be glad to move into this area if issues were resolved. He spoke of different activities, etc. that would draw people to our community, along with all the events.

Councilman McBride attended today's Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) meeting and presented a proclamation for Constitution Week. Referenced the services and taxes and wonderful place it is to live, raise children, retire. Our City is much stronger and these are good times for Inverness with the positive things in our City and community at large. We are moving forward in a progressive way, yet taxes are highly affordable. We are "Small Town Done Right". He spoke to the recent tragedies involving law enforcement and encouraged everyone to give our local officers praise, as we are thankful for our Sheriff's Dept., our local heroes.

Councilman Ryan attended the recent Friday Night Thunder and ribbon cutting at a new business. Commented on the August 29th Chronicle article on bold and costly initiatives in the City and how the city has accomplished these initiatives. Referencing the article regarding Cooter Kick Off, he stated all issues could have been resolved with a phone call, and asked if we made phone calls. City Manager stated this was a situation of staff working with staff and yes we did. This is the 10th/11th year we have done this event in the downtown, and we changed the location to be respectful of County policy and process. This is not a situation where we did not make calls.

Council President Hepfer stated it's unfortunate that things have broken down, and when we do something good it gets cast in a bad light. Very happy with everything that is happening in the City.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

City Clerk

Council President