

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
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 Day, Deputy Clerk Jackson 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 Councilman Hinkle. The motioned carried.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**4)a) Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Ordinance #2016-713(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** was address by City Manager DiGiovanni, explaining that Florida Statutes 163.3191 requires the City of Inverness to periodically review its Comprehensive Plan to determine whether plan amendments are necessary that reflect modifications in state law. Through evaluation with State Land Planning Agency, the Planning and Zoning Commission held the required Public Hearings and recommends approval of the amendments. Before Council is an Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the City Comp Plan which has been led by Community Develop Director Bruce Day. He noted how Director Day was previously with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Commission, and we now have expert opinion leading us with this.

**Councilman Ryan motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Ordinance 2016 - 713 by title only. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE NO 2016- 713

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 2008-654 OF THE INVERNESS CODE OF ORDINANCES: PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL BASED AMENDMENTS TO THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**The Public Hearing was opened.**

**For: None**

**Against: None**

**The Public Hearing was closed**

City Manager DiGiovanni noted that this update is done every seven years.

Councilwoman Bega questioned if there is a new zoning map or maps we made need for our use. Community Development Director Bruce Day stated there were three new maps in the packet: The Future Land Use Map, which those amendment have been adopted by City Ordinance already; The Flood Plain Map was adopted by FEMA's edict in 2014, by City Ordinance, as well as the expansion of the CRA. This action is just compiling these changes that have already occurred.

Councilman McBride noted verbiage with reference to the Citrus/Hernando MPO in the document, which needed to be corrected to read the Hernando/Citrus MPO, and was noted to be corrected.

City Manager stated that this action this evening doesn't end the process, as we will continue at the staff level looking at criteria in the Land Development Code, as it relates to mixed use, future develop, consideration for the City of Inverness itself, and done promoting smart growth elements to stay ahead of the curve.

**Councilman McBride motioned to approve Ordinance 2016-713 on the first reading, and approve to transmit the Comprehensive Plan Amendments for state and regional review, 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.**

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

None

#### **SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**5)a) Citrus County Sheriff Department – Yearly Crime Activity State Report**  
Captain Justin Ferrara spoke to the 2013-2015 Tracked Crime Combined comparison in the areas of Homicide, Robbery, Sex Offenses, Residential Burglary, Commercial Burglary, Vehicle Burglary, Auto Theft, and Arrests decreased from 71 in 2014 to 44 in 2015. Residential burglaries also dropped from 26 in 2014 to 12 in 2015. Arrests were also down from 541 in 2014 to 533 in 2015.

Councilman McBride questioned how to determine if an arrest is contributed to the City. If someone commits a crime outside of the City, and they arrest him in Inverness, if that would add to Inverness numbers. Captain Ferrara clarified no, and it would be registered where the crime actually occurred.

Councilman Hinkle questioned the drop in residential burglary. Captain Ferrara noted their goal is to target the right offender, as it will show the best reduction in crimes. For the last four years, since implementation of this philosophy, we have seen double digit reduction each year.

Captain Ferrara noted he shortened the report down from previous year to the -Top 10 offenses vs. Top 20, and the biggest thing we do is traffic stops and traffic complaints in the City. He spoke to the breakdown of different citations that occur in the city, with the main one occurring is careless driving.

Councilman Ryan question how we compare to the rest of the County. Captain Ferrara stated that overall crime had decreased almost 50% within the City and Countywide an approximate 27% reduction overall.

Mayor Plaisted questioned targeting elderly people with Captain Ferrara advising how the Sheriff Dept. has a program which provide funds back to the elderly that have been scammed, as well as notice put out each week to the elderly community advising them of variety of different scams occurring.

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

**7)a) Inverness Rotary Club** – Representatives appeared before City Council. Mayor Plaisted awarded to them a Cooter Kudo for Recognition of their dedication, commitment and work to the betterment of the community by improvements made by the Rotary Club at Whispering Pines Park.

### **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 – 02/16/16
  - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Water Conservation Month”  
“Springs Protection Awareness Month”
  - Recommendation – Approval

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

City Manager DiGiovanni presented videos and pictures of the Little League Opening Day and Sign Dedication of the Concession Stand in Whispering Pines Park – Social and Economic Benefit of Whispering Pines Park.

**10)a) Fire Services – Mutual Aid Agreement** - City Manager advised that we currently do not have an Mutual agreement, but respond when backup is needed. The City Attorney Haag and the city received correspondence from Fire Department Attorney Bradshaw asking to not address the Mutual Aid Agreement at this meeting. He is not sure what the reason may be. We have looked at other surrounding Mutual Aid Agreements. We will continue to respond when needed.

Attorney Haag advised he was contacted by Attorney Bradshaw, who stated that they were not onboard with the agreement and asked for it to be removed. The City Manager sent copies of the agreement with a cover letter to Sheriff Dawsy about a week before assembling the agenda. Attorney Haag stated he was told that the Sheriff wasn't in agreement with the Mutual Aid agreement he had received from City Manager and wanted to add to it, and if they send a truck into the city they want to charge us for that service. Attorney Haag stated that he has never seen an entity charging the other entity for showing up, which is not mutual aid at all.

Councilman Hinkle stated how he had conversation recently with a long term County Fireman who made statement to him that he relished the fact that the City got a Fire Department and thanked him, as it really helps them. He as a councilman, public safety is number one, with or without an agreement.

Councilman McBride questioned if the Courthouse caught on fire, what if we would be charged?

**10)b) Council Meeting Date Change** was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni reminded Council that due to the Presidential Preference Election being held on the regular Council Meeting day of March 15<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will take place Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. Council had approved the action in January, 2016. No action is necessary.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- Re-Organization of City Council will be at the next meeting, on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff continues to develop the first step of Budget, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is being updated and will receive much attention.
- Highland Blvd Project has a goal to preserve median trees and the dynamic of bicycle/walking path is protected and pronounced.
- Meetings are begin held on the Soldier Memorial concept to be located in the IGC Plaza circular area.
- Diligence is being taken on the project development of the train depot, warehouse, house, etc. Improving Liberty Park and Wallace Brooks Park around the lakes are a very important element of the future economy to include kayaking, sculling, boats, etc.

## **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted spoke to water front issues and questioned if there are any lands available commercially for restaurants on the water. City Manager stated there is privately owned property that may need rezoning. Public lands are more difficult and we need to be forward thinking in that aspect. Mayor is looking forward to March 12 St. Patrick's Day Festival and encouraged all to be sure to vote.

Councilman McBride attended the Friday evening Valerie Theatre event featuring Col. Ed Shames, 94 year old World War II Veteran who is really a true hero, and also attended

the comedian show on Saturday. We had Chamber of Commerce weather for the Little League Opening and the Joe Silvestro sign dedication. Joe Silvestro has laid a solid foundation for Little League and the community.

Councilwoman Bega spoke to the Inverness Big Bass Tournament in March that will be sold out, and brings a lot of business to Inverness. This Friday starts Early Voting in the Chambers in the IGC.

Councilman Ryan praised the Joe Silvestro Concession Sign presentation as a great time. City Staff are so dedicated and hopefully that commitment is reflected by our Council. The vision of senior staff and the City have made this a better place to live and proud of.

Councilman Hinkle stated Joe Silvestro was a model example and had such an impact on the entire community. He noted that Joe was a professional drummer and was on the Johnny Carson show along with another local resident, and how these programs create leadership. Spoke highly to City Manager DiGiovanni and complimented him on helping so much in the community. Be sure to exercise your right to vote.

Council President Hepfer questioned fire services dispatch and the mutual aid agreement, with City Manager stating those are two separate issues. She agreed this weekend was amazing and this was the best Little League opening she has seen.

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

Bud Osborne spoke to the ballpark and that Joe Silvestro was part of Inverness Sertoma in the past and thanked the City for making that available to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

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City Clerk

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Council President