

May 5th, 2016
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in City-Wide Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget Workshop Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Ryan
Vice President McBride
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman Hinkle
Councilman Hepfer
Mayor Plaisted (not present)

Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) Members, David Arthurs, Tim Nash, Cindy Devries, and Diana Fender.

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, Asst. City Manager Williams, Senior Staff Members, Deputy Clerk Jackson, City Clerk Davis.

The meeting was called for by the following Notice to all council, mayor, media, as well as publicly posted.

FY 2016-17
INVERNESS BUDGET WORKSHOPS
PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: March 1st, 2016

PLEASE BE ADVISED **BUDGET RELATED WORKSHOPS FOR 2016/17 FY ARE CALLED FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, AT 212 W. MAIN STREET, INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

April 7 th	5:30pm	Overview of Projects & Goals
May 5 th	5:30pm	City-Wide Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
May 10 th	5:30pm	CIP Workshop (if necessary)
July 26 th	5:30pm	City-Wide Budget Workshop
July 28 th	5:30pm	Budget Workshop (if necessary)
TBA		Tentative Budget Adoption - 1 st Public Hearing
TBA		Final Budget Adoption - Final Public Hearing

/s/ Jacquie Hepfer
President of City Council

City Manager DiGiovanni started by acknowledging the staff and their diligence and commitment to bring forward the information that will be experienced. He stated this is CIP workshop will be in 2 separate presentations, with the typical CIP presentation, followed by something totally different, and to view the detailed boards displayed around the Council Chamber room of planned projects. Inverness Community Development Agency members were present so that this particular presentation would not have to be made twice.

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

City Manager presented a list of what has been achieved from 2013 to 2017. General Government and Whispering Pines (WPP) totaled \$20,487,510; Utilities totaled \$9,846,680, bringing a grand total of \$30,334,190 in investment to the community.

GENERAL / WPP CIP FUNDING

He spoke to the different sections of government and the funds being anticipated through Grants, CRA, Debt Proceeds, Equipment Reserves, Transfer from General Fund, IGC Reserves, Transfer from Land Acquisition Reserves, and Carry Forward Reserves. He spoke of land acquisitions that will become very important for the projects the city plans and the development aspects to be achieved. The grand total for the General Fund, Whispering Pines Park, and Utilities is \$2,301,900. He noted that the proposed funding sources pie chart (excluding Utilities) and the proposed expenditures by function pie chart (excluding Utilities) shows this information in percentages.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – 2017 PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES (utility excluded)

A pie chart illustrated revenues and sources. Grants 12.19%, General Fund 28.42%, CRA-1990 2.39%, CRA-2013 3.26%, Equipment Reserves 10.08%, IGC Reserves 2.61%, Land Acquisition 15.20%, Debt Proceeds 4%, and Cash Carry Forward 21.51%, - totaling \$2,301,900.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – 2017 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT (utility excluded)

This pie chart illustrated: General Government Services 28.80%, Community Development 3.91%, Public Safety 10.51%, Roads & Streets 33.46%, Satellite Parks 11.51%, Special Events 1.72%, and Whispering Pines Park 4.87% - totaling \$2,301,900.

GENERAL FUND 2017 PROJECT BUDGETS

He addressed projects in the areas of Master Plans/Studies; Land/Buildings; Equipment; Downtown Improvements; General Improvements; and Park Improvements (WPP and Satellite). Funding will be from the general fund, grants, ICRA, etc.

General Fund Project totals by divisions were displayed as: Master Plans/Studies (\$410,000), Equipment (\$656,650), Downtown Improvements (\$120,000), General Improvements (\$615,250), and Park Improvements (\$295,000).

Equipment: City Manager highlighted more expensive items regarding equipment such as the pumper fire truck and the bucket truck, which has exceeded its normal life. The total cost is \$656,650.

Downtown Improvements: He noted the façade program, expanding the Pine Street parking, downtown amenities, and street pole banners. Total cost is \$120,000.

General Improvements: Wayfind signs, share the road identification, road resurfacing, traffic calming, sidewalks, storm water, etc. Total cost is \$615,250.

Park Improvements: City Manager spoke to both the Satellite Parks and Whispering Pines Park improvements to include Cooter Pond boardwalk deck, Mossy Oak & Bellamy parks, Whispering Pines comfort stations, street lighting, and court resurfacing. Total cost is \$295,000.

UTILITY CIP FUNDING

A chart represented utility projects including water plants, sewer plants, and lines division. He spoke to the Utility program and funds being anticipated through Grants, Transfer from Water/Sewer Revenues, and Equipment Reserves. The total funding source is \$1,981,748.

A pie chart illustrated revenues and sources. Water/Sewer Revenue Transfer-Projects 36%, Water/Sewer Revenue Transfer-Debt 19%, Grants 31%, and Equipment Reserves 2%- totaling \$1,981,748.

UTILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – 2017 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

This pie chart illustrated: Water Plants 17.54%, Wastewater Plants 20.13%, Water/Sewer Lines 18.17%, and Debt 52.17%, with the debt coming from the sewer plant note, - totaling \$1,981,748. The key is to keep these numbers even over a 5 year period, which is very stable.

UTILITY CIP 2016 EXPENDITURES

Water Plants \$347,500 with water quality improvement and water well field being the larger expenses; Lift Stations \$160,000 including Master Lift Station pump and piping, Lift Station upgrades and rehabilitation, etc.; Waste Water \$239,000 with Water Reclamation Facility upgrades, etc; Water/Sewer Line Systems \$360,000 to include replacements, upgrades, and extensions, sewer laterals and lines, and a service vehicle replacement- Totaling \$1,981,748.

DEBT

State Revolving Fund Loan:

Debt payment - \$708,248

Grant portion of debt - \$500,000/annually

City portion of debt - \$208,248/annually

Master Lease Purchase Agreement – Automated Metering

Debt payment - \$167,000

City Manager DiGiovanni's closing thoughts questioned if the 5-year CIP strengthens the City (absolutely), are we planning to invest and boost the economy (absolutely), is it affordable and attainable, and are we leaving Inverness better than we found it. The visionary components of this supports the other initiatives that have come about throughout the year. This is setting the stage and providing a foundation for what is coming next. This is about culture, dynamics, and quality of life. A five minutes intermission called.

The workshop was called back to order and City Manager DiGiovanni began the second part of the presentation. A visual presentation was viewed while City Manager highlighted the various elements of the PowerPoint slides. "Make no little plan. Think big, aim high, get people passionate and excited, and that plan will come to materialization." "These plans they are all part of changing an environment, not the culture, to be much more people friendly, business agreeable, and laying a foundation to move further on." This part of the presentation will address

properties, buildings, conditions, situations, and items of interest. He spoke of various questions and concerns that have been voiced, such as the Valerie Theatre, the old Police Department Building, the Depot, etc. He spoke of the need to move forward on this restoration/building program to prevent further deterioration. He noted the various elements, buildings, and concerns around the depot property, and spoke to Liberty Park and a boat launch. As this started growing it came to the point of reaching out to consultants.

Highland Boulevard is associated with the Zephyr Street project which will start in 30 days. Highland will start as we are half way through the Zephyr project, in this fiscal budget cycle. There will be a very pronounced bicycle pathway on the south side of the road. There will be theme lighting, better turn lanes, more landscaping, and become a gateway into the medical center.

Downtown Streetscape would include electrical upgrades, tree replacements, bicycle racks, tree lighting, and the stamped pavement will be replaced with pavers. We want to provide a safe haven for the cyclists and welcome them to the downtown.

Fire Department was built in 1962/63 and is no longer useful for the current vehicles. The building needs to be functional and meet City of Inverness standards. This concept will have drive-through bays, but the roof will change along with the fascia and elevations. With nature coast EMS in the building also we want things to work fluidly.

Infantry Memorial will be located in the IGC plaza and transform this area into something very special with life like bronze statues that are being donated to the City of Inverness. Our commitment is to put \$40,000-\$50,000 in a reserve account in case these ever have to be replicated. They will be placed on black granite with up lighting, as well as landscaping, etc.

Cooter Pond boardwalk is now lit, with improvements to be made regarding the wood before we inaugurate it. It is being suggested to soften the landscaping as traffic enters into the city. This project is one of the projects that needs to happen sooner.

Visitors Center is proposed to have the former Godowski residence moved to be located on the corner of Dampier & MLK. This area will become a very active center. This would be a one block distance from Liberty Park and the trail.

The Depot can become a market area with a plaza outside along the trail, with seat walls and a water tower with a stage located underneath. **The Train Station** will be relocated behind this building. Located inside would be retail businesses, farmers market, etc. The water tower would be visible even from the highway. This will become a very active component of the **trailhead** area. Once completed, this will make Inverness the premier city on the Withlacoochee State Trail. This is all about cycling, tourism, and the economy.

Wallace Brooks Park has boating activity. The current fishing pier can be extended to include a mooring facility for boats. Managing the boating at one park makes sense, with parking, drop off point, and have this park function in connection with the trail. All of this within walking distance of each other.

Liberty Park is proposed to manage the shoreline by creating a wall which will keep people from beaching boats and push them towards Wallace Brooks Park. This will also include a children's area which is convenient to the market area. A central entrance needs to be located for public safety by using seat walls. The reconfiguration and redesign of Liberty Park will make it very well situated and elevate its status and performance.

Community Center is being proposed to be located on the old police department property and the ballfield used for parking. This building can be large enough to also accommodate the Boys and Girls Club as well as other things.

Withlacoochee State Trailhead will be connected from Forest Drive, the former AmeriGas property, to the trail, via Whispering Pines Park and then to the Depot. This is very intermodal and sells well and plays well in quality of life issues. This connector concept could provide parking, restrooms, and other amenities. The trailhead has to be more than just for bikes. We want them to be able to drive here, unload their bikes and then head downtown.

Whispering Pines Park has deficiencies that have been identified. It has been suggested that a new entry be made into the Park directly off of Highway 44. Whispering Pines is one of the biggest municipal parks and needs to be more visible. The concept is to connect with South Boulevard creating an additional access point into the park creating a more fluid flow throughout the park. The wayfind sign program would be very beneficial providing direction to the various areas of the park. It is also suggested to change the name of the park to West Side City Park.

The presentation was then recessed for those present to move around the room and study the various display boards that depicts all of the concepts that have been presented.

City Manager DiGiovanni reminded Council this is not a meeting to vote but to focus on CIP and moving forward. Diligence is being done to provide costs with a high degree of accuracy on everything that has been presented. There are issues with deteriorating buildings, we will need to complete Zephyr Street, focus on the Infantry Memorial (which are being delivered in 2 weeks), and prioritize the different projects. ICRA and Council will work together on budgeting, funding, the approach et al. Most of these conceptual projects will be built, with some possibly changes. The tax base for the City of Inverness will have a future. Government will be partnering with the community to keep the City on the forefront moving forward. This will have a pronounced effect on the cycling trail, the four city initiative, and very welcomed by the Tourist Development Council. Note, this is a conceptual situation that is constantly evolving. We want to feel it, see it, and do it.

Council Comments:

Councilman McBride stated this is creative, healthy, robust, and aggressive. Would like to work on "West Side Park". This needs to be done within our general tax structure and noted current CRA funds. The people of this city and community will see what it means to invest with tax dollars, so the community benefits.

Councilwoman Bega stated these conceptual ideas have the purpose for economic growth and to bring Inverness into the future. Can't see how there could be a doubt that this will happen.

Council President Ryan agreed that this is very adventurous, and spoke of the adventurous spirit of the staff.

Councilman Hinkle spoke to a possible film Festival at the Valerie Theatre and all of this will make Inverness a destination for people, and put us on the map. He spoke of the impact of the Infantry Memorial.

Public Comments:

Ed Lattin, Boys & Girls Club noted that he grew up in Inverness and wants to applaud the City Manager and the City for what has been done in support of the Boys and Girls Club. That support has affected so many young lives and it is important for the youth of our community.

Mike Bayes spoke of having an Inverness address and is very encouraged by the vision of the City. When he first moved here there were a lot of needs in this community and has watched through the years all of the changes and progress made. He noted a past conversation with the City Manager saying to him that it's not about how cheap and how many taxes we cut, but the vision of what we do with those dollars so people can see it and feel it and be part of it.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22pm.

City Clerk

Council President