

June 7th, 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 Ryan
Vice President McBride
Councilwoman Hepfer
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman Hinkle (Not Present)
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Tonya Williams, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Finance Director Chiodo, Asst. Finance Director Carnevale, Deputy Clerk Jackson and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented with the removal of the Sweetwater Point Resolution due to advertisement. Seconded by Councilman McBride . The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4)a) Comprehensive Plan Amendment (EAL) Ordinance (Final Reading) was addressed.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read the Ordinance by Title only. Seconded by Councilman McBride . The motion carried

ORDINANCE 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 SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager DiGiovanni explained that Florida Statutes requires the City of Inverness to periodically review its Comprehensive Plan to determine whether plan amendments are necessary to reflect changes in the state law requirements. Through the evaluation and appraisal process, City staff assembled a set of comprehensive plan amendments for consideration. The City's Planning & Zoning Commission held a required public hearing and recommends approval of the amendments. City Council held a previous public hearing on the first reading of the Ordinance, which was then sent for state and regional review. The state review generated additional changes to the policy language.

Comments in “bold italics” accompany each amendment to clarify the scope and rationale for the amendments. Comments are not intended to be adopted as Comprehensive Plan policy content. New changes from state review are highlighted and shown in double underline format.

President Ryan opened the Public Hearing

There was no one who spoke for or against the Ordinance

The Public Hearing was closed.

City Manager spoke of the many elements to any Comp Plan, and the agenda packet is not precise to every course of action & protocol of our Comp Plan, but encapsulates what has been talked about through the years. It brings forward the smart growth principle, downtown mixed use development, elements of conversation. It pulls together what has been discussed by Council, staff, and planning development in a manner to make sure the Inverness community moves forward in a progressive manner without ignoring habitat and protecting the environment. It is still under review by the State and they will comment on how we are proceeding.

Councilman McBride questioned the state review and City Manager stated that they review everything and are there to make sure the community plans and recognizes the importance of lakes and waterways, etc.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated that she understood most changes to be the wording.

Councilman McBride motioned to adopt Ordinance 2016-713 on the second reading by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Ryan, yes. The motion carried.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Alex Sosnicki, of Inverness addressed Council stating that the condition of S Apopka, from 41/44 to Hill Street is in bad & dangerous condition and questioned if it would be paved or improved. It should be torn up and rebuilt. City Manager noted that this was a county maintained road, and we will look at it with them.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

6a) Festival of Arts Scholarship Presentation – Pati Smith, Embeth Nagi, and Jared Luboweiki, volunteer committee members for the City of Inverness, thanked City Council for their support over the years with the Festival of the Arts. She noted this to be special as they not only do the Juried Art Show, with involvement by the School System, but they brought back approximately 12-15 years prior the scholarship program where Seniors of the Citrus School System can apply for \$1,500 scholarships. Jared Lubowieki presented to Savanna Boudreau and Catherine Sisko two \$1,500 Scholarships, and spoke to each of their long lists of school involvement. This is the Festival of the Arts 45th Year Anniversary.

6b) Fiscal Year 2015 City Audit Presentation - Kelly Leary, partner for McDirmit Davis & Company presented the completed audit for Fiscal Year 2014-15, which included letters and financial statement numbers. The Auditor opinion has an unmodified opinion, which states that the City’s Financial statements are prepared in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, fairly stated. The actual report breaks down and

outlines what Managements responsibility is for internal controls over policies and procedures and their compliance. She stated that this year the City had two major grants, the Department of Environmental Protection Grant for principal and interest on Loans, and the new Cultural Facilities Grant for the Valerie Theatre improvements. The letter states that the City spent the money in accordance with rules and regulation and had no findings. In the previous Audit year there were two findings which were corrected, and this year there were no findings. The Management letter states that they performed financial condition assessment procedures to determine that financial condition of the City is good, and is determined by the Auditor General benchmarks and also look at the 5 year trend. She stated that the City is very financially stable, and the primary fund for the City is the General fund, and it is really good shape. The unassigned fund balance in the General Fund is 4.9 million dollars, which is 83% of your expenditures, which is a good cushion if needed for a disaster situation. She noted that the City is spending less money than what is budgeted. She wanted Council to know that Management and Finance are doing a good job in following the budget laid out to them. She spoke to Whispering Pines fund having a decrease and they (Auditor General Office) may not want us to show Whispering Pines Park as a separate fund, as the definition of a special revenue fund is that it is supported primarily by a specific revenue source, other than transfers from the General Fund. The biggest change which occurred this year that doesn't affect the fund statements, but the government wide statement, was that the City had to implement GASB 68, which relates to pensions and the Government-wide Financials, and we had to book a liability for the FRS. It may go up as the City is adding Special Risk Firefighters. Councilman McBride questioned what the level of cooperation was with the City in providing this report. Ms. Leary advised they were very cooperative. He asked if there are any specific recommendations to put in report. She noted not this year, and found no fault in their testing. Councilman McBride asked how Inverness compared to other municipalities of same size. She noted comparison with other cities with similar population and property tax values & based on that Inverness had a lot of favorable comparisons, and the General Fund is very healthy compared to other cities and is managed well. Councilman McBride expressed his appreciation to staff.

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Financial Statements, Supplementary Information and Independent Auditor Reports for year ending September 30, 2015, and authorize that documents are forwarded, to include related paperwork to the Office of the State Auditor General. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

a) Bill Listing*

- Recommendation – Approval

- b) Council Minutes –05/10/16WS, 05/17/16, *
- Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

10)a) Budget Transfers – Contingencies was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni noting that four categories affect the need to move existing funds to expense line area of the budget. The areas of need are personnel, planning, projects and the new fire department. ~ Changes have been made to maintain outcome levels in City Administration with the advent of staff retirement. ~ City Project construction, planning and development have been increased to bring forward the potential for accomplishments in this community and will continue for years. ~ Worker’s Compensation Risk Code for certain position resulted in a cost increase. ~ Special Event Programing required a slight increase in staffing. ~ Custodial Services at City Hall slightly modified. ~ FRS Category changes for personnel resulted in cost increase. ~ Fire Department start-up required four (4) months of services by the County at a higher cost than anticipated when budget was developed.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to approve the use of Contingencies as presented for the City Budget to cover the remainder of the fiscal year. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

10)b)Sweetwater Pointe – Resolution - was removed from the Agenda, to be placed on at the next meeting of City Council, June 21st, 2016.

10)c) FRS Special Risk Class Resolution was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni explained that we have followed the direction of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) to take additional steps to meet requirement measure. It is important that we provide retirement system protections and benefit to those assigned to perform duties at an elevated risk to their wellbeing. Enclosed is an enabling Resolution which moves the Fire Department personnel into the Special Risk Category.

Councilman McBride motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2016-09 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2016-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR CITY FIREFIGHTERS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman McBride wanted to clarify that the FRS is establishing the level of benefit, and yet if it falls short, then it would be the obligation of the municipality to make up the difference? City Manager DiGiovanni confirmed his statement and explained that the actuarial with the retirement systems may have what if situations, and too many unknowns. Every retirement system comes down to return on investment, cost to the contributions, and the level of benefits. He didn’t see that this would come down to the City of Inverness being unreasonably obligated over the next 20 years, but they are saying you are obligated if this starts to fail, and we need to be aware.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-09 that enables the City to execute the Agreement with the FRS, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Ryan, yes. The motion carried.

10)d) Budget Public Hearing Dates (Tentative & Final)- City Manager DiGiovanni explained that in an attempt to avoid last year's need to change the dates for the City to conduct a required Public Hearing as part of the Budget Adoption, representative from the School System and the County Commission were contacted to insure there would be no conflict with their dates. The proposed Dates, Times & Location are:

- Tentative Budget Public Hearing – Thursday, September 8th, 2016 @ 5:01pm
- Final Budget Public Hearing – Thursday, September 22, 2016 @ 5:01pm

Councilman McBride motioned to set the Tentative Budget Public Hearing, for Thursday, September 8th, 2016 @ 5:01pm, at the Inverness Government Center, 212 West Main Street, and the Final Budget Public Hearing for Thursday, September 22nd, 2016 @ 5:01pm, at the Inverness Government Center. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- Facebook is social media, and communication regarding City business should not happen there. Regarding the Sunshine Law, communicating with each other in that median prevents capturing that data and providing for possible records requests.
- There has been no word from the County on the Interlocal Agreement with Fire Dept.
- CDBG application coming this November will involve steps by City Council and include surveys of the City. These are federal funds that could bring some \$700,000, looking to complete MLK and Dampier (between Apopka and Seminole).
- Tree condition can be worrisome and some of the holly trees in downtown are diseased. Mistletoe, which is a parasite, has been found in several trees in downtown which will kill those trees. Staff has plans of improving sidewalks, removing and replacing trees in the downtown. Up-lighting of the trees and more bicycle racks will be added. Some of the trees in the downtown have reached the end of a life cycle. It is being considered to possibly replace the holly trees with another species of tree.
- Budget development is moving forward as well as costing out and price figures on all of the projects recently presented. We will be talking about funding protocols and how to get there in a shorter period of time. No reason to exhaust all the resources of City and maybe look at borrowing funds to get us through these projects.
- We are looking at modifications to the City potable water system, and permit renewal is moving forward. The 581 Wellfield has served the City for 30+ years and we are having conversations with SWFWMD to look at an alternative source and/or modification to the current wells and permits. Decisions regarding these material items will position the City for the next 30 years. Financial positions are

strong in the utility system and general fund, and the CRA expansion has identified a number of deficiencies that need to come to materialization. We will be bringing forward some very broad and dynamic proposals, built around project development, service delivery and the marketing of the City of Inverness.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted noted exciting things to take place and hopes Hwy 41 N will be on target for the expected date. Praised the Finance director on her work now and in the past.

Councilwoman Bega stated it is a pleasure to see the youth and their accomplishments. Complimented staff on taking care of a utility situation she had received a call about.

Councilwoman Hepfer is very proud of staff on all that is happening and commented on the great audit. Stated her middle grandson is in Washington DC on Safety Patrol trip. Thanked staff for immediately cleaning up the huge tree that fell in her street and an overgrowth issue at a neighboring residence.

Councilman McBride congratulated Nature Coast EMS for an award for Provider of the Year. Open house for I-75 Relief Task Force will be Thursday, 5:30-7:30, at the College of Central Florida. MPO will meet on June 21st and Flag Day will be June 14th. Great to have Festival of Arts representatives this evening providing 2 \$1,500 scholarships, and the level of talent from our youth in this county is great. Praised the Finance Director and all staff for the wonderful job.

Council President Ryan praised Finance and staff for the great audit. National recognition of the talent of our youth is fantastic. Joint government meeting coming up with the County, and looking forward to Flag Day and Friday Night Thunder.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Anne Perry questioned the overwhelming chlorine odor outside her house two separate times. City Manager questioned the date. She questioned if pipes were replaced when they lost use of water awhile back. City Manager explained the ruptured pipe was replaced but not all. She also commented on the smell of chlorine in her water. City Manager will look into this , and clarified the recent notice regarding City water.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:49

City Clerk

Council President