

July 5, 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
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Events Director Skeele/Hogan and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Hepfer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 06/21/16*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Board Appointment – Code Enforcement Board (CEB) – Was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni. He advised that Mr. Gary Brian Hamner, a City resident has applied to be a volunteer board member to the Code Enforcement Board, and staff is requesting Council approval.

Councilman McBride motioned to appoint Gary Brian Hamner as a volunteer member to the City Code Enforcement Board to a three year term. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

10)b) Visit Florida Grant – Budget Amendment – Resolution & Letter of Agreement City Manager DiGiovanni noted how this issue was previously announced, to pursue a grant opportunity through Visit Florida as a means to commence development of a web page, etc. and to promote the 4-City Initiative. Our submittal was funded at a project amount of \$10,000, using a 50/50 ratio match. The City portion will be funded by existing funds dedicated for tourism. The award must be formally recognized by City Council as unanticipated revenue, and be included into the current budget for application as intended. The enclosed Resolution recognizes the revenue and appropriates as an expenditure. The campaign is being led by Inverness, and this will move the project much closer to a positive “launch” date.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the State of Florida Visit Florida Tourism Grant and authorize that the City Manager execute the documents. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the City Clerk read resolution 2016-10 by title only. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2016-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-10 by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Hinkle, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Ryan, yes. The motion carried.

10c) IEVB Credit Card Merchant Services – Resolution 2016-11 – City Manager DiGiovanni noted that this will address two actions, 1) accepting the Merchant Agreement and 2) Credit card convenience fee, allowing for electronic transactions. The use of “plastic” is exceeding cash, and this agreement is essentially an extension of those programs. We are looking for ways to take convenience fees and make them invisible.

We are not there yet, and ask that City Council accept the agreement and proceed to adopt the Resolution to impose convenience fees.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the provided handwritten agreement, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement for the fee to be imposed as an added charge to a transaction for a credit/debit card. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle . The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bega questioned how long until fees are absorbed and was informed it would be in the new fiscal year.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Resolution 2016-11, by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

Resolution 2016-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR MERCHANT SERVICES AT VARIOUS CITY OF INVERNESS EVENTS.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-11, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Hinkle, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; President Ryan, yes. The motion carried.

10)d) Property Purchase - Nelson - MLK Ave – City Manager DiGiovanni stated that per Council adopted policy, a market analysis is required for property purchase between \$50,000 and \$200,000 and noting the enclosed evaluations for their review. While we have been in discussion for many years on this property, the recent display of future plans for the City elevated interest in this particular parcel. This is being brought forward as a property we evaluated to support development of The Depot District, and funding is found in the current Capital Improvement Plan for Land Acquisition. It is recommended that City Council proceed to support and finalize this matter.

Councilman McBride questioned why we were paying top dollar and comparing the Market Analysis? City Manager DiGiovanni, stated that he did not look at it as top dollar and it was a dollar amount that has dropped about \$150,000 from what it previously was, and explained if we did not get this property, it would create hurdles in development of the Depot District. He explained how the Market Analysis is for people who are going to live in the house or transform it into commercial use and would require reinvestment. We are looking at acquiring a piece of property forever and will support other public investment that already exists. We have an opportunity to secure this property for \$199,000k which was on the market for \$375,000k three years ago.

Councilwoman Bega questioned our intention to raze the building, and it was noted that we will.

Attorney Haag recused himself from any comment on this issue, as he has represented property owner in the past to market property to the County Commission.

Mayor Plaisted commented that in light of fact what we want to do with property, this is best all way around.

President Ryan stated that this was a key part of the expansion of the City projects he feels we need to do this.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the purchase agreement and price of \$199,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents and close the transaction. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried 3/1. Councilman McBride voting Nay.

City Manager DiGiovanni noted that there will be other purchase agreements coming forward in the future.

10)e) Promotional Presentation (Videos) City Manager DiGiovanni explained that there will be eight(8) promotional videos which can be accessed on the City Website. These videos are promoted by merchants of this community. The video's promote 8 different capacities, and also allows businesses an opportunity to have web presence. This goes back to the last year's FLC Conference, when several Council members saw a promotional aspect of how these videos can make people want to visit you. Through a lot of work from Sharon, and members of the Event and Visitors Bureau, and other staff of City, etc., a well done program was put together. Each video is under 3 minutes, uses few words, and makes people want more. All eight videos were played and were categorized as Small Town Done Right; Health/Fitness; Learn; History; Play; Outdoors; Live; Grow.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- He advised that we still do not have an Interagency Fire Services Agreement, but received a letter from the Sheriff and what the fees would be for the Radio System. He noted the current Interagency agreement regarding radios, and that still remains in effect. Our outlook is to speak with all parties about the agreement before we talk fees and charges.

President Ryan advised that he has the Inter-governmental meeting on the 15th of July, and asked council if they had anything to be brought up at the meeting. He was going to touch on the Inter-governmental Agreement and Whispering Pines Park.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of the new business opening in Inverness; i.e. Mattress Firm; Jimmy Johns and Dunkin Donuts. "City Done Right", and its showing. He mentioned Patriotic evening how it was the most astounding night!

City Manager DiGiovanni noted that Cumbie Jewelers also opened downtown last week.

Councilwoman Bega stated how great the improvements to the building for Mattress Store and Jimmy Johns were, as well as the renovation of the Dunkin Donuts. It made such an improvement driving into town. Questioned if we had any idea how many people attended the fireworks and stated how fantastic the July 3rd Event was.

Councilwoman Hepfer noted how she watched the fireworks from home. The City Promotion films were wonderful.

Councilman Hinkle spoke to videos and how great it was. Mentioned the Drum & Bugle Corp. performing at July 3rd event and commended staff for a “Small Town Done Right”.

Councilman McBride mentioned new business opening; i.e. Cedar River Seafood. Noted how he was in Atlanta July 3rd, and there is “nowhere like home”! Commended Fire Chief Campfield for his work.

President Ryan commended staff; Sheriff’s department and all involved with the July 3rd Event. He spoke of the many people he recently met who just moved to Inverness.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA
None

Meeting Adjourned @ 6:22pm

City Clerk

Council President