

November 15, 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, Senior Staff members, and Interim City Clerk Jackson.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4)a) CDBG Public Hearing* with City Manager noting the Public Hearing was duly noticed for public input and for City Council to finalize which CDBG grant category is most applicable to the project and to direct the consultant, Fred Fox Enterprises, to pursue. The project is for street and streetscape improvements for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. from SR 41/44 to Old Main Street, and similar improvements for West Dampier St. between Apopka Ave. and Seminole Ave. The CDBG commercial revitalization category relates best to streetscape, building façade work, etc. to the downtown commercial area. The maximum amount of the request is \$700,000. Mr. David Fox made a presentation on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program application process including the four program categories of Housing Rehabilitation, Commercial Revitalization, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Economic Development. He spoke to the points system within the application process and the steps required.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Karen Esty reiterated that this project include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Fox announced the Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF) recommendation on the project was the Community Revitalization Grant category, and authorization was

requested for staff to prepare a Small Cities CDBG Grant application for a specific project.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to move forward with the preparation of the CDBG application and conceptual plans. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

4)b) Fair Housing Workshop* with City Manager stating this is a requirement of the City's upcoming community development block grant (CDBG) to ensure that the City is aware of Federal policy regarding Fair Housing. A power point presentation was made by David Fox of Fred Fox Enterprises, speaking to the Fair Housing Act. Mr. Fox detailed what housing is exempt from the program, what is prohibited, as well as protection against different types of discrimination. He addressed the steps to take if a violation occurs and a complaint is to be filed. Councilman Hinkle questioned the inclusion of guide/service dogs with regard to housing.

4)c) 2017 Budget ICRA Projects Amendments (Infantry Memorial & Downtown Streetscape) – Resolution* with City Manager stating that anticipated project costs have been finalized for the Military Memorial and Downtown Streetscape, with cost estimates increasing and requires additional support. ICRA met and adopted a Resolution in support of these projects, which will use bond financing for construction, and recommended that City Council amend the budget to continue the projects. The Downtown Streetscape project was originally at \$315,391 and has increased to \$490,220, and the Military Memorial was at \$469,504 and increased to \$500,000. City Manager spoke to the rendering presented and the details of what is proposed. He referenced the connection the City has with the Veterans re: 40 & 8 award, Purple Heart award, Vietnam 50th Anniversary event, etc. City Manager noted that we do these projects once, so they need to be done right, and all of this expense will be reimbursable through TIF financing. He spoke to the aspects of the statues and how we received them.
Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2016-23 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2016 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, AMENDING ICRA CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Bud Osborn stated that as a Veteran he wanted to thank the City for their efforts of the Veterans events hosted by the City.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Council comments were positive of this future development and attention to the Veterans. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-23 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.**

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Bud Osborn spoke to the protocol of posting 2 American Flags at the memorial.

George Gouldbourn recommended a POW flag on one of the poles.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

6a) Andy Houston – Sheriff Services Funding with Mr. Houston presenting his points on local issues of equity and funding of law enforcement services by a municipality. Mr. Houston is familiar with these issues from his tenure with the City of Saint Petersburg, and spoke to various aspects, to include equity and not “double taxation”; “extra services” provided to the cities, etc. The views of the Board of County Commissioners were compared to facts that were previously presented to them, they suggested that the cities terminate their contracts with the CCSO if they do not want to pay. If that was to occur, no one would benefit from that decision. Surveys have been conducted in various areas for municipal services and municipal services taxing units (MSTUs), but this matter is about equity and basic services at a higher level within the cities. Councilman McBride questioned what needs to happen to resolve this issue, with Mr. Houston suggesting a study similar to other areas. We all need to work together for the benefit of all. City Manager DiGiovanni stated this comes down to people and prosperity, when building an economy as a whole county, the cities cannot be held back. He spoke to the services that the cities provide to the county as a whole. Mayor Plaisted spoke to Jacksonville and how issues were handled there. Councilman Hinkle spoke to Whispering Pines Park funding and the Interlocal agreement that has been eliminated, and spoke to the need of a better relationship between the various entities. Council thanked Mr. Houston for the presentation.

MAYOR’S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Haag spoke to Mr. Houston’s presentation regarding the distinction between equity and dual taxation.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 11/01/16*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Zoning Board of Adjustment Appointment* – Sue Newman with City Manager stating that Ms. Newman is a long time educator for Citrus County Schools, having retired after 32 years in the local school system including Inverness Primary School and WTI, Ms. Newman is looking for new ways to be involved in the community. This addition will bring the Board to a workable number. We continue to seek City residents that may be interested to serve on volunteer boards.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to appoint Sue Newman as a volunteer member to the Inverness Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried.

10)b) Charter Referendum Vote Tally* was explained that both referendums were presented to the electorate and were approved. Charter Amendment One: Sale, Leasing, Subleasing of real property passed by a vote of: 454–Yes and 329–No; Charter Amendment Two: Purchase of Real Property passed by a vote of: 488–Yes and 298–No. The results were read into the record by the Interim City Clerk.

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the vote tally for Charter Amendment One and Charter Amendment Two, and direct that the changes are incorporated into the City Charter. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

10)c) Grants Update (*Verbal*) reported on the progress of several grants that are being applied for to include FRDAP, SWFWMD, and SAFER grants. City Manager spoke of water quality management, and of the cuts in funding made by the Legislature. The parks, depot district, and the Withlacoochee State Trail are linked to certain grants.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the most recent events including the Festival of the Arts, Veteran's Day Parade, Farm Festival, and this week's Grand Prix. All have great attendance and success.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted thanked Commissioner Coleman for attending the meeting. He spoke of the upcoming Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance event. He noted how some festivals charge admission and how we do not, and comments on the Valerie Theatre events.

Councilwoman Hepfer thanked Commissioner Coleman for attending, and hopes that everyone can work together in the near future. She wished all a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, and thanked everyone for their concern during her recent surgery.

Councilwoman Bega welcomed Commissioner Coleman, and spoke of several topics addressed during the recent TDC meeting she attended and the approval of a 2% increase on the Service (Bed) Tax for hoteliers, and will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. She spoke to an advertising campaign including commercials, programs, and the recent filming of several television shows.

Councilman Hinkle thanked Commissioner Coleman and spoke to the elections. His term as Chairman of the Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation has ended and Mike Gudis is now the Chair. We have a lot to be thankful for in this great community.

Councilman McBride thanked Commissioner Coleman for his presence, and spoke of the new BOCC members recently elected. He noted the exceptional live performances at the Valerie Theatre. Stated he will be attending the next MPO meeting on December 8.

President Ryan congratulated Commissioner Coleman. Honored to speak at the Veterans Coalition to kick off the Veteran's Appreciation Week. He attended the Festival of the Arts, Farm Fest, and the Veteran's Day Parade. Thanked Andy Houston for his presentation this evening.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty enjoyed the Farm Festival and spoke of other events. She noted that she has reapplied to be a member of the Hernando/Citrus MPO Citizens Advisory Board. A new 501c3 has been created called Shelter Me Citrus and how it relates to the potential construction of a new animal shelter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

City Clerk

Council President