

December 6, 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 Williams, Asst. City Manager Williams, Senior Staff members, and Interim City Clerk Jackson.

Prior to the meeting, Interim City Clerk Jackson swore in Councilwoman Hepfer and Councilman McBride, who were returned unopposed in the November Election.

The Invocation was given by Councilman Hinkle 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

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

7)a) Nick Nicholas Ford Check Presentation – Event Partnership was presented by Sharon Skeelee-Hogan with Shane Bryant, Nick Nicholas Ford representative. Their \$7,500 sponsorship is the 4th year of partnership between the City and Nick Nicholas Ford.

b) Safeco “Protecting What Matters” Check Presentation – Linda Van Allen with Van Allen Insurance and Jamie Dingle with Safeco Insurance, presented a \$2,000 check for the Inverness Fire Department, and spoke in appreciation of Chief Joe Campfield, for conducting a public fire safety meeting.

MAYOR’S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 11/15/16*
 - Recommendation – Approval

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

11)a) Pool Admission/Membership Fee Adjustment – Resolution* with City Manager noting annually, fees and charges are reviewed to preserve value and equity, and keep program fees and admissions balanced and affordable. This Resolution contains proposed changes for the upcoming 2017 year.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2016-24 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING FEES FOR POOL MEMBERSHIP AND WATER FITNESS OF THE CITY'S FACILITY AT WHISPERING PINES PARK, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Public Hearing was opened.

There was no one speaking for or against the Resolution.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Councilman McBride motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-24 on by roll-call vote. Seconded by Councilman 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.

11)b) Use of Contingencies – WPP Pool Heaters* with City Manager referencing the 2016-17 adopted Budget that was structured for the availability of contingency funds for unforeseen anomalies. The pool heaters have failed and are beyond repair. New units are ordered and will be installed once delivered, to support the (almost) year round swim program. Removal and replacement of units is \$6,100.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to authorize the use of \$6,100 in contingency funds to remove and replace the pool heaters in Whispering Pines City Park. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

11)c) Medical Marijuana* with City Manager reporting on the amendment to the Florida constitution regarding medical marijuana and dispensaries, and the various concerns for municipalities. Councilmembers voiced concerns about timing and the need

to act as soon as possible. A workshop will be scheduled on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 to discuss the dispensing of medical marijuana within the City limits.

11)d) Supervisor of Elections Correspondence* was noted thanking City Council and staff for partnering with their office for the 2016 Election cycle. City Manager spoke of the number of voters that used the IGC for voting purposes. Mayor Plaisted suggested a Cooter Kudo be presented to Susan Gill after the first of the year.

11)e) BFC Award – Bronze Level* was announced by City Manager that we were named a Bicycle Friendly Community at a Bronze Level. In 1995-96, talks began about Inverness being a community that catered to bike enthusiasts. By year 2000, we were making plans, investing and building to improve pedestrian and bicycle friendly components to the downtown. The job is not complete and there is much left to accomplish to reach a Silver Status and then Gold. City effort and plans of improvement continues using the following principles: Improve the environment, reduce congestion, save lives, increase opportunities, boost the economy by creating a community that is an attractive destination for new residents, tourists and businesses, enhance recreational opportunities, improve the health and well being of the population by promoting routine physical activity. City Manager spoke of the bicycle master plan and the changes that have been made and will be made within the City to be even more bicycle friendly. Councilman McBride spoke of the many people he meets from different areas while riding on the Rails to Trails.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- The recent gun shop burglary and vaping in public and the need for ordinance changes.
- This Saturday will be the Christmas Parade with a change in the route.
- Pickle ball is now happening at Whispering Pines City Park.
- Upcoming work will involve Inverness Government Center exterior maintenance, Cooter Pond Boardwalk, and Downtown streetscaping.
- Sweetwater Pointe water service construction is almost complete.
- Working with Waste Management regarding the School System's service, and resulting cost to the City.
- Concerns with FDOT, MPO, allocated funds, etc. and future improvements on 41N. He spoke of the decades of talks regarding pending construction of improvements that never has materialized to date.

Councilman McBride stated that US 41N continues to be the #1 priority of the Hernando/Citrus MPO, noting that he is the City's representative to the MPO. He spoke of funding, the newspaper article, etc. There needs to be a collective political will to get this roadwork completed. Mayor Plaisted spoke to the many years of conversations with different entities regarding improvements to 41N, with no action ever taken. Councilwoman Hepfer spoke of FDOT letters received by a few of her neighbors in the past, again no action. Councilman Hinkle noted he avoids 41N because of the danger.

Councilmembers were unified to open communication with the County and elected officials at all levels to gain support for US 41N improvements.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

12)a) City Clerk's Contract* was addressed with City Manager DiGiovanni noting that the City Council hires 3 Charter Officers, City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Manager. Council President Ryan stated this is to review the working contract for the position of City Clerk. He and Interim City Clerk Susan Jackson met several times to work through details being presented to City Council. He noted minor changes from the previous Clerk's contract. The current offer is \$43,500, with an added \$2,500 in the base amount for certification, \$1,000 increase at 6 months and at 1 year, and to include a Council awarded COLA (cost of living) on October 1st. Councilman McBride questioned the salary of the former clerk in comparison to this salary. Council President Ryan detailed the former clerk's beginning salary, tenure and other variables. Councilman McBride stated that this seems to be a fair salary, maybe on the conservative side, and understands the salary would be made retroactive to the time appointed Interim City Clerk. Mayor Plaisted questioned the amount of the total package, including benefits, with City Manager approximating the benefit costs being available to every employee. Councilman Hinkle questioned the banking of vacation/personal time of 90 days. **Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the presented Employment Agreement and pay program to hire Susan Jackson as the Inverness City Clerk. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Plaisted spoke of upcoming events including Light Up Inverness and Christmas Parade. Congratulated reelected Councilmembers, and City Clerk. He reminded everyone that tomorrow is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Councilwoman Hepfer thanked the voters for reelecting her to the City Council and looks forward to the future of the City.

Councilwoman Bega congratulated Councilman McBride and Councilwoman Hepfer, and City Clerk Jackson. She commented on medical marijuana that pending businesses are wanting permits to open within the City limits.

Councilman Hinkle congratulated City Clerk and how the transition between clerks has been fabulous. Congratulated both councilmembers on reelection. He agreed with Councilwoman Bega that something needs to be done sooner than later regarding medical marijuana. Looking forward to the Parade and the many activities at the Valerie Theatre. Noted that something needs to be done with FDOT and 41N.

Councilman McBride is looking forward to the next 4 years serving the City. 41N is a major issue that needs attention immediately. Spoke of an email from Dennis Dix, the director of the MPO, regarding funding toward the 41N issue, but feels that is not enough. Agrees with the issues with medical marijuana.

President Ryan stated his congratulations to Councilman McBride and Councilwoman Hepfer, and the City Clerk. Everyone needs to come together regarding FDOT and 41N.

Setbacks, ordinance, etc. needs to be made concerning the medical marijuana issue. Looking forward to Light Up Inverness and the Christmas parade.

Councilman Hinkle added that Mike Gudis is now president of the Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation. There will be an audit of the foundation accounting, as it is a quasi-judicial organization.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Bud Osborn congratulated and spoke of the anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack being tomorrow, Dec. 7.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Interim City Clerk

Council President