

December 20, 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 Bega  
Councilwoman Hepfer  
Councilman Hinkle  
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Senior Staff members, and City Clerk Jackson.

The Invocation was given by Councilman McBride and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda with the addition of Congressman Webster lease documents. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motioned carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

None

**SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

6b) **Chamber of Commerce New Image Award – Valerie Theatre\*** was presented by Chamber Committee Chair Jennifer Duca with Alan Forino accepting the award on behalf of the City.

**MAYOR’S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

None

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

City Attorney Haag referenced a lawsuit the City has been named in regarding Berry & Berry. The City placed a lien for utilities on the particular property, and will respond to the complaint.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 12/06/16\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

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

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) Annexation Fee Waiver\*** was addressed with City Manager DiGiovanni noting a request has been received from Ms. Helga Forbes, of 218 South Hunting Lodge Drive. Her property is part of an unincorporated enclave in the City limits. She is requesting voluntary annexation and that the \$200 fee be waived as provided by Chapter 8 of the Land Development Code (LDC) which states City Council may waive any and all of the fees required. Councilwoman Bega questioned if this action would set a precedence, with City Manager stating it should be made easy to annex into the City. Councilwoman Hepfer and Councilman McBride spoke of the number of residences that are ½ in and ½ out lots of the City Limits. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the annexation fee waiver for the property located at 218 South Hunting Lodge Dr. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)b) Budget Development Schedule – FY 2017/18\*** with City Manager stating that the enclosed development schedule for the 2017/18 City-Wide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Operational Budget Appropriation for General Fund, Enterprise Fund, Special Funds, and the Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA) are for review and approval. Elected Officials are asked to closely review the dates identified in bold of Council Member involvement, and if there is a conflict, state so at the meeting so either the schedule can be modified or left as is. Once approved, staff generated changes (if any) that affect a public meeting will be noticed to Elected Officials, the public, and media. **Councilman Hinkle motioned to confirm the Budget Schedule, to include the CIP and CRA, and to establish the dates and times for Council Workshops and Public involvement. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)c) City Clerk's Retroactive Pay\*** was discussed with City Manager DiGiovanni referencing clarification of information that had been forwarded to Council regarding retroactive pay of the new Clerk. On December 6, 2016, City Council approved the Working Agreement and pay amounts to be retroactively applied to the date the former City Clerk departed. No action was taken by Council, and the action will remain status quo.

**10)added) Congressman Webster Lease\*** was presented with City Manager detailing the desire of the Congressman to have a presence in the Inverness Government Center and will occupy the suite previously used by State Representative Smith. **Councilman McBride motioned to authorize the Council President to execute the lease documents and for the City Manager to execute any. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)d) 22<sup>nd</sup> State of the City Address 2016 (verbal)** was presented by City Manager DiGiovanni noting there is a lot going on in this City and probably wouldn't want it any

other way. He stated there are Project Team Members that were not able to attend this presentation but play a big part of how we accomplish what we do. We are a “can do” organization due to City staff and extended partners of Woodard Curran, Sheriff’s Office, and Waste Management. A group to be proud of. Nothing happens if we don’t work as one, and the stewardship of City Council and the Inverness Team creates a highly progressive agenda that invests and accomplishes quality projects for the community’s future.

**What Didn’t Happen:**

Whispering Pines City Park remains without reimbursement funds from the County. We know what makes a community is great people, history, lakes, parks, quaint downtown, Withlacoochee Trail, and an abundance of nature. Efforts to market the concept that the Bike Trail is in Inverness and the manatees are in Crystal River. We are close to providing online building permitting, and looking forward to a resolution of the hospital’s tax challenge within the CRA. Completion of the Sweetwater Pointe utility expansion is imminent, and the ½ in and ½ out lots remain a quirky issue.

**What Did Happen:**

Under city-wide operations and general services, the Fire Department started in January, and the retirement and transition of the City Clerk. A presentation of City history and planning was made to the American Planners Association of Florida in Tampa and we received the bronze level recognition as a Bicycle Friendly City. The parks are now pet friendly and we launched a marketing plan with the production of 8 videos titled: Welcome, Live, History, Outdoor, Thrive: Health and Fitness, Learn, and Play, which has garnered approx. 350,000 views online. 16 Capital Action Plan Projects were presented to define and chart an expanded vision for the City, and activity has commenced.

**Administrative Efforts:**

- 24 Agendas, 7 Ordinances, 25 Resolutions, and 2 Charter Referendums.
- 18 proclamations and workshops were conducted regarding the City budget, Oak Ridge Cemetery, and the CRA area.
- Operations of the Oak Ridge Cemetery has streamlined with contracted cemetery management.
- Provided support to the Supervisor of Elections to accommodate the entire election process from Primaries to Early Voting to Election Day.

**Programs, Projects & Services:**

- 21<sup>st</sup> year of being recognized as a Tree City USA.
- Fire Station was proclaimed a SAFE Place designation, and a Memorandum of Understanding was made with Nature Coast EMS. IFD has responded to 589 calls with 20 for fire, 282 medical, 122 vehicular, and 165 non-categorical. 17 calls were outside the City limits.
- Volunteer recruitment of 20 members of the fire department, with Inverness being the 1<sup>st</sup> in the state to have a new volunteer complete the Firefighter 1 course online and finish it. IFD has received \$64,000 in grant funds to support programs to assist firefighters.
- There are 1,020 total businesses in the City with the additions of Mattress Firm, Jimmy John’s, Dunkin Doughnuts, and Ashley Furniture.

- Construction values and permits, and building /investment permits are up, and there have been 80 registrations for business tax permits.

**Parks, Recreation & Activities:**

- At Whispering Pines Pool - swim lessons to 283 people, 4 Summer Day Camps, CHS and Hilltoppers swim teams practice, and 29 pool reservations.
- Reservations and events were 373 for pavilions, 461 in the City Recreation Building, 1,300 events on the ball fields, 13 wedding permits, 3 fishing tournaments, 6 distance races, and 3 events for the Plaza/Fountain area.
- Over 200 volunteers for events and festivals, over 200 vendors/exhibitors, and 8 event sponsorships were organized through the IEVB.
- Valerie Theatre sold out 8 live performances, had 32 movies, 12 facility rentals, and accommodated 9/11 memorial, Festival of the Arts, etc.

**City Utility System:**

- Roadway drainage swales are maintained, and Texas Aquatic Harvesting clears vegetation in waterways.
- Rehabs included the reclaimed water holding pond, reclaim water transmission line to IGCC, and wastewater permit renewal was processed.
- Established an assessment program and broke ground at Sweetwater Pointe. Rosemont & Rolling Green Water Systems are online as city service.
- Lightning protection infrastructure was designed and constructed at critical areas. Fire hydrants and water system maintenance are maintained.

**Everyday:**

- Potable water is delivered to residences, businesses, hospital, schools, etc. Solid waste and recycling is collected, wastewater is collected and reclaimed. Streets are maintained, parks open and maintained, trees and sidewalks kept safe, etc.
- Emails, social media, and telephones are managed to respond and provide information.
- Purchases are made and bills are paid. It gets done quietly, and without fanfare. This is what makes Inverness work.

**In 2017:**

- 2015-16 Year End Audit will be completed. Work will be to secure grants for all phases of the Capital Action Plan, and to support IFD and related services.
- Continue developing plans for a new fire house and recruitment incentives for volunteer and paid firefighters.
- Hope to achieve a mutual aid agreement with County.
- Info-tech wireless infrastructure build out to Wallace Brooks and Liberty parks, and network connectivity for newly relocated Visitors Center. Data center upgrades and archival solutions will be implemented.
- A fully automated solid waste program will utilize clean natural gas trucks in the community, and address the school system's solid waste account issue.

- Out of the Box Animal Rescue (a non-profit organization) and the City will work together to protect shelter animals and improve conditions, with a possible temporary use of available city property at little to no fiscal impact.
- Sidewalk Café compliance, parking enforcement, events and law enforcement elements analyzed. Must prepare for the future to achieve lifestyle quality.
- Work with consultants for financing to fund the Capital Action Plan, validate the TIF revenue stream, and bond CRA project improvements.
- Completed projects will include: Cooter Pond boardwalk, IGC exterior, Sweetwater Pointe water extension, downtown improvements, Zephyr and Highland Blvd. projects, Landscape 41/44 and Cooter Pond, finalize plans for depot district, Liberty Park and Wallace Brooks Park upgrades, Visitors Center opening, community garden, continue planning the medical district, and Bicycle Master Plan projects.
- Valerie Theatre Cultural Center Board will explore initiative to secure funding for events, educational opportunities, etc. Work with various entities regarding US 41N.
- Complete Military/Soldier Memorial and conduct more than 60+ events to market Inverness and keep the community in the forefront.

City Manager DiGiovanni closed stating we've been on a journey for decades that doesn't seem to end. People are investing, businesses are opening and the public is excited. We are looked upon as an example to others. He wished everyone Merry Christmas, enjoy the holidays, you earned it.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- The Florida housing project that was previously presented regarding Colonnade Street has been postponed until funding is secured.
- US 41 North should remain high on the priority list. Contact has been made with BOCC members regarding planning and missing funding.
- Recently spoke with representatives of the 501c3 group for the Community Garden noting the excitement surrounding the idea and a Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into, providing guidelines for the garden.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted spoke to the progress that he has witnessed over the last 20 years and is excited for the future of the City.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated every year gets better and loves the direction we are going.

Councilwoman Bega stated that the presentation was exciting, and spoke of recent TDC meeting. Noted discussions regarding involvement and promotion of all areas of Citrus County by the TDC. Floral City is now a trailhead, and talks of AAA baseball visiting.

Councilman Hinkle stated it is an honor to serve on Council, and spoke to the W/M trucks change in fuel use, the Community Garden is a great way to promote good health, Citrus Council Community Charitable Foundation has approx. \$4.2M and will start providing grants in 2017. Looking forward to great things.

Councilman McBride stated that we have the best municipal staff in Florida, and 2017 will be even greater. He referenced the US 41N issue being the entryway into the City and the need for improvements.

President Ryan agreed that the City staff is the greatest. He spoke of recent and upcoming events, and the ambitious plans ahead.

All Council thanked City Manager DiGiovanni and staff for work well done and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Commissioner Brian Coleman – Citrus County apologized for missing the State of the City presentation, and agreed that US 41N is a huge issue and needs attention. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

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City Clerk

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Council President