

January 3, 2017  
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 - *not present*

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 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 McBride. The motioned carried.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**4)a)Sweetwater Pointe Adjusting, Equalizing and Finalizing District Roll – Resolution 2017-01\*** with Council President Ryan asking for a motion to read the resolution by title only.

**Councilman Hinkle motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2017-01 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING ADJUSTING, EQUALIZING AND FINALIZING THE SWEETWATER POINTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROLL AND PROVIDING FOR THE RECORDATION OF THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Manager DiGiovanni noted prior discussions, meeting with property owners, and Public Hearing on the matter to extend central water services, by the Inverness Water Utility, to the Sweetwater Pointe Subdivision. City Council is to conduct a Public Hearing to receive comments by affected property owners, make adjustments deemed appropriate and necessary, and adopt the enclosed (final) Resolution for the assessment project/program. The assessed construction cost was initially anticipated to be \$5,906.38, but will be lowered to \$5,252.52 per assessed property, and residents will have 365 days to connect and use the system commencing January 10, 2017. Residents will be responsible to obtain a permit, order a meter through the

Utility System, contract a plumber to disconnect from well to create an “air-gap”, connect the meter, and open a utility account.

**The Public Hearing was opened.**

Jeff Kinnard thanked the Council for the project to provide good water to the area.

Frank Bose addressed ownership of 2 contiguous lots, with 1 lot he claimed was unbuildable (Lot 5, Block C). He spoke to information he received from the County regarding easements, etc. on this lot. He asked for reconsideration on being assessed for both lots, and referenced a lot summary conducted by Citrus County.

City Attorney Haag advised that changing now will create an impact on the other residents by raising their assessment. The concern is documentation is not available substantiating the request. This issue should have been presented some time ago for calculation of the assessment.

City Manager DiGiovanni advised Council the option of either to proceed with the numbers provided or delay the finalization of the project, possibly for months.

Councilmembers spoke of this change affecting the other residents, an extensive delay in service, and the lack of County documentation.

**The Public Hearing was closed.**

**Councilman McBride motioned to adopt Resolution 2017-01 on 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.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Albert McLaurin, with Unity of Citrus County, spoke of an upcoming visit by several Tibetan Monks to the area and provided an itinerary of planned events and spoke of the use of the historic courthouse as one of the venues.

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard spoke of members on the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners and spirit and hope of cooperation between the board and both cities to progress successfully in the future.

**SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

None

**MAYOR’S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

None

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 12/20/16\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – National Children’s Dental Health Month\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) Sweetwater Pointe Project Completion – Resolution 2017-02\*** with City Manager stating that the Resolution was reviewed by City Legal Counsel and structured to proclaim the project to extend water utility service for potable water and fire flow into the Sweetwater Pointe Subdivision complete and final. Residents will have 365 days to connect to the system, and the connection fees and assessment fees are separate. This is the final action by Council regarding the assessment and construction process. City Manager noted the project was completed under budget, and the support from senior staff to accomplish the end result.

**Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the Clerk read Resolution 2017-02 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING ACCEPTING SWEETWATER POINTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROJECT AS COMPLETED; PROVIDING THE PAYMENT DUE DATE FOR THE FIRST MONTHLY INSTALLMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR RECORDATION OF THIS INSTRUMENT.**

**Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2017-02 on 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.**

**10)b) Local Legislative Delegation Meeting\*** was addressed by City Manager noting that the City must attend this meeting to speak to US 41N, and referenced the letter sent by Inverness last year. Since the early 2000's, the number one issue has always been US 41N. A letter will be composed to present and submit at the meeting with nothing new, with a possible exception of an emerging issue with bed tax sharing. Beyond highway widening, Home Rule remains at the top of the list for local issues such as: weapon regulation, backyard gun ranges, smoking regulations, etc. We must always appeal to the State to assist with funding for storm water management, potable water and wastewater treatment systems, and boating improvement funds. Cities represent real tourism, and a municipality should be entitled to a fair share of TDC funding. Spoke of traffic redirection and Suncoast 2 topic to be included in the letter, with Councilman McBride stating the extension is going to happen. Consensus of Council was to direct City Manager to compose the letter and present it to the Delegation.

**10)c) Waste Management Renewal (Verbal)** was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni referencing the solid waste franchise agreement with the school system, and discussions to maintain the agreement. Looking at better efficiencies through fully automated, natural gas powered Waste Management trucks. This program could reduce labor cost,

City cost, and help ameliorate the fiscal impact by keeping the school system within the franchise. A presentation should be made within 4 – 8 weeks to Council.

**10)d) Florida League of Cities Awards Program\*** was detailed that the Municipal Achievement Award program is an annual opportunity for communities to promote their programs, initiatives, and achievements. An attempted made many years ago, and found that submittal required more work than anticipated, and learned the rating system to be very competitive. There are some 410 cities in Florida and many have undertaken challenging projects and initiatives. City Council consensus was to postpone submittal until next year after the Veteran’s Memorial was complete, to include Capital Action Plan initiatives.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- FMIT (Florida Municipal Insurance Trust) presented a reimbursement check for \$10,500+.
- New Sheriff Prendergast was sworn in today.
- Mutual Aid agreement has been revised and sent to County.
- Exterior work at IGC is progressing well.
- Cooter Pond Boardwalk and landscaping is starting.
- Conversations to be made for City to lease County parking lots.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilwoman Hepfer stated she attended the swearing in of the new Sheriff, and working with the BOCC.

Councilwoman Bega welcomed the new Sheriff in the community. Happy for Sweetwater Pointe water project. Presented photos of adult fitness equipment for parks.

Councilman Hinkle spoke of the County and Whispering Pines Park, Cooter Pond, and the upcoming Veteran’s Memorial. Everything is for the best for the people.

Councilman McBride thanked Commissioners Kinnard and Coleman looking to create a community to build upon one another for success. Congratulated Sheriff Prendergast.

President Ryan welcomed Commissioners, and noted the upcoming Medical Marijuana workshop.

### **CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Karen Esty stated she would be attending the Legislative Delegation meeting on Friday. Concerned about proposed minimum flow levels, has requested documentation from MPO regarding US 41N and the withdrawal of funding, and concerns for TDC money.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

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City Clerk

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Council President