

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
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 Hepfer  
Vice President Ryan  
Councilwoman Bega  
Councilman McBride  
Councilman Hinkle  
Mayor Plaisted (Not Present)

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Jeannette Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Project Director Malm, and City Clerk Davis.

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

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**Councilman Ryan motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motioned carried.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**6)a) Captain Justin Ferrara – Sheriff’s Dept.** presented semi-annual crime statistics for the first 6 months of 2015. He referenced the provided handout regarding tracked crime, combined tracked crimes which was down, 2015 semi-annual combined comparison including arrests, calls for service, the City arrest report is up from last year, breaks down the top 20 calls, and security checks. For the third year in a row they will be increasing the amount of citations issued within the City.

Councilman Hinkle questioned if youthful arrests are more prevalent during the summer due to school being out. Captain Ferrara stated that situation will vary, but the various school SROs do education to most all school grade levels. They show a high amount of presence just prior to school getting out for the summer.

Council President Hepfer commented for a city that is growing and changing, after looking at the crime overall and listening to other cities, we are thankful for what we have here. She questioned if we are a high area for cybercrime. Captain Ferrara stated that due to elderly population we could be more vulnerable. He spoke of various types of cybercrime.

Councilman Ryan questioned any incidents of skimmer crimes at the gasoline pumps. Capt. Ferrara noted that is not a major problem especially within the City.

**6)b) Greg Bianco – Pine Grove Subdivision** - Mr. Bianco addressed City Council, advising of previous meeting with City Manager DiGiovanni regarding the maintenance of the roadway and landscaping in Pine Grove. He noted how they never developed the Homeowners Association

(HOA) in his subdivision and how the City has periodically mowed the front entrance. They wish to get their property values back up, and would like the City to extend further than the central core, have the cul de sacs and trees trimmed, and would like more help from the City. He thought the cul de sacs and drainage areas were to be maintained by the City. Would like for trees to be placed in the middle of the cul de sacs, and was told approximately 5 years prior that the city was going to pave the whole cul de sac. He asked to be put on an agenda to have this accomplished in the next year or two. If they cannot organize an HOA, they could use a little help.

#### **MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

None

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 08/04/15\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Constitution Week”
  - Recommendation – Approval

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

10)a) ICRA Inter Agency Agreement was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni explained that the attached enclosed agreement was between the City Council and the Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency (ICRA) includes the expanded area, and provides for the ICRA Board to reimburse the City (General Fund) for services provided. Per the ICRA Board request, clarity was provided with the City's commitment on liability and protection to members and the board in general. He noted that consultation with the legal counsel, the document was acceptable with a slight modification to Section 4.06 Indemnification: The CITY will indemnify and hold the members of ICRA harmless as long as they are acting within the limits of the law, “and within the scope of their duties”. The scope of the agreement was noted and approved by ICRA members at their last meeting, and approval of City Council at this meeting will enable the document to be in place for the new fiscal year that commences October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. He stated that the CRA, for the first time, is able to reimburse the General Fund for services provided. This Agreement is straight forward and provides the mechanism for the adopted Budget to formally function and allows the charges and support mechanisms to be fully funded as they should.

**Councilman Hinkle motioned to adopt the Agreement between the City and ICRA, and authorize the Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

10)b) 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni advising that the amount of \$46,906 will be used to provide a Law Enforcement Data Storage and Retrieval System & Training. A requirement of the grant is for the Sheriff's Office to secure support from 51% of the Law Enforcement Agencies of the community for the application and use of the funds.

**Councilman Hinkle motioned authorize the Council President to execute the Byrne (JAG) Grant fifty-One percent letter in support of the Sheriff Office application to be awarded \$46,906 for local use. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.**

10)c) Citrus County Legislative Delegation was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni advised that the Delegation meeting is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00pm. He asked is council wished to attend and speak to any of the listed items in the agenda packet, or if they wished to have the City Manager's office make the presentation. Councilwoman Hepfer noted that she was interested in the Home Rule issue.

**Councilwoman Bega motioned to authorize the approved items be transmitted by letter and publicly, by the City Manager or Asst. CM and have Councilmembers present at the Delegation meeting. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilman Hinkle asked that City Manager continue with day to day discussions that you feel necessary.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- He spoke to the recent issue with regard to water interruption with a boil water notice and how the staff from various departments, contractors, etc. pulled together to handle that emergency. There was a gathering in a local venue to show appreciation to those involved during the emergency. The words of appreciation from Council members came across very well. The hard work during 10 consecutive days was very much appreciated.
- MPO with Councilman McBride as chairman are working to move forward. An email is floating around regarding the condition of the Withlacoochee Trail and that the MPO has given the trail a lesser priority. It was mentioned that the trail was paved by former County Public Works Director Gerry Clark's initiative, and involved trading ballast rock for asphalt. Pavement has been there since 1994 and isn't the greatest foundation. Anything we can do to keep this trail in shape and safe, we would like to encourage the state to make it happen.
- Discussed the history in Inverness and the Main Street Program. Years ago we tried to bring the Florida Main Street Program to the downtown, but that program requires the businesses to commit to funding as well as support it. Support was not forthcoming and on our own and with our own funding, we used elements and concepts of main street created what you see in the downtown. We built relationships with the state and made plans, and they chose to help us complete the project. Our main Street program will continue to grow and expand. He spoke of Crystal River participating in the Main Street program and wishes them much success.
- Hoped the recent budget presentation was informative, though being extremely complex and having many new elements coming to forward to include the broadest CRA we have ever experienced.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Councilwoman Bega spoke of attending the FLC Conference and it was great to have all Council, City Manager, Asst. City Manager and City Clerk in attendance. The conference was packed with information and had a very full schedule.

Councilman Hinkle attended the FLC Conference and noted Inverness is the leading edge compared to some other cities. The opening ceremony for Conference included the Fire Honor Guard and it was extremely impressive. Pete Peterson, the key note speaker, was very interesting. He noted that school is back in session and appreciates our educational system.

Councilman Ryan enjoyed the budget presentation and being able to know what is going on and how the budget is being managed. Other cities of our size spend all their money capriciously, and we spend our funds in a metered manner. He attended the appreciation event for employees who worked on the water break and can't praise them enough.

Councilman McBride agreed it was good to attend the FLC Conference in Orlando, and noted going to a major metropolitan area, it is great, but will take Inverness. Attended the Purple Heart Ceremony representing City. There was an MPO meeting today and will get with City Manager on the Withlacoochee Trail issue.

Council President Hepfer spoke to the FLC Conference and speaking to other councilmembers. Listening to others and their issues makes us appreciate our City and reaffirms what we are doing right.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Karen Esty, Inverness also complemented staff of the City in all they do, and how it is a pleasure dealing with City staff. Didn't attend today's MPO Meeting, and will see what she can do with the Withlacoochee Trail and the sidewalk issue. She was recently appointed as an at large member on the Shareholders Advisory Group for the County, and is not sure what it entails. Thank you to the Council for all they do.

Bud Osborne recently attended a convention in Chattanooga and spoke to a man that noted Inverness is the town with the trails. The gentleman was here last year with 5 car loads to ride the trails, and are coming back this year. They loved it.

Attorney Jeannette Hagg spoke of three law firms, Moring and Moring, John Clardy, Keith Taylor, and Haag & Haag, raising \$5,600 for United Way to buy one million pieces of paper for middle school students in the Citrus County School system that have no supplies. All of the middle schools will be receiving a share of the paper.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41.

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City Clerk

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Council President