

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Conner called the meeting to order at 10:00am and dispensed with the formalities.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members present were Chairperson Joni Conner, Vice-Chairperson, Carolyn Bennett, Beverly Bakker, and Anna Rose Larsen and Carolyn Meadows. Mayor Hanes was present also.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Town Clerk, Joni Payne stated that before the budget was discussed she needed to know which council members wanted a town issued cell phone. Council members desiring a phone were Carolyn Bennett, Joni Conner, Anna Rose Larsen and Mayor Hanes.

Chairperson Conner requested that item 4(C) be discussed at this time.

Discussion and Consideration of the Next Step for the Chief of Police Selection.

The general consensus of the Council is that there was no need to conduct interviews since the review committee did such a good job with screening the applicants. A special called meeting for the appointment of a police chief was set for Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 3:30pm.

Discussion and Consideration of the Proposed 2026/2027 Budget for all Departments.

The Clerk stated that the liability, workers comp, insurance is \$119,915.00 and she had budgeted \$129,725.00. The cost for employee health insurance is \$301,500.00.

Seventeen (17) employees were surveyed regarding implementing direct deposit and bi-weekly payroll. Twelve (12) surveys were returned. Of the twelve (12), eleven (11) wanted direct deposit, one (1) did not, five (5) supported bi-weekly payroll, four (4) did not and, two (2) said it didn't matter and one (1) said definitely not.

The yearly cost of direct deposit will be \$994.00 if payroll is done bi-weekly.

The general consensus of the Council is that this should be implemented in January in order to give employees time to prepare for the changes.

Discussion by Department:

Mayor/Council: The purchase of laptops at \$1,275.00 each for council members. This includes IT service.

Town Clerk: Outsourcing cleaning services to free up a maintenance worker.

Police: Full-time Police Officer. Possible Jag Grant and other funding resources, along with ARPA Funds.

Public Works: The purchase of a Ford F-250 with ARPA Funds in the current budget.

Non-Departmental: Special Events line-item was increased by \$4,000.00 for the purchase of wreaths for the “Wreaths Across America” event at Pineview Cemetery.

Capital Projects: Current CDBG paving and construction grant.

There were no changes in the Cemetery or Water Departments.

Discussion and Consideration of Florida City Week.

The Clerk reported that Robert H. Jenkins Elementary requested Town Officials and Staff give four twenty-minute after-school presentations. She felt that this would be a good project for Florida Cities Week.

Council Member Bakker will team up with Mike Cemer to discuss Public Works.

Council Member Meadows will team up with the Police Chief to discuss the Police Department.

Council Member Bennett will team up with office staff to discuss the Administrative Department.

The workshop adjourned at 10:54am.