

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Joni Conner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – JONI CONNER

Chairperson Conner stated that the Wreaths Across America was a success and announced that the Arbor Day Celebration will be held Friday, January 16, 2026 at 2:00pm in Council Chambers. Danny Hemphill will be honored posthumously. Raffle tickets will be available for a free tree.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Discussion and Consideration of Request From Chris Smith for Removal of Fines for 219 Duncan Avenue.

The Clerk stated that the new owner bought the property on a tax deed sale. The codes fines have accrued to \$286,750.00 which were for a dangerous structure. He came into the office for a demolition permit and wanted to bring the property into compliance but before he sinks money into the cost of a demolition he wanted to have a discussion about a fine reduction. In the past fines have been reduced to the Town's cost to pursue the case. She estimated the cost of this case to be around \$1,500.00. She recommended that the fine be reduced to what the Town received from the tax sale which is \$3,183.00.

Council Member Bakker moved to reduce the fine to \$3,183.00. Council Member Meadows seconded the motion. The motion and second were withdrawn.

Council Member Bakker moved that upon completion of bringing the property into compliance and removal of all structures from the property that the fine be reduced from the current amount of \$3,183.00 and once the property is in compliance the Mayor will be authorized to sign the release of lien on behalf of the Town. Council Member Meadows seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of Request From Mike Briseno for Signage on Tropic Avenue.

Mr. Briseno was not present but was requesting a sign be placed prohibiting four wheelers from driving on the right-of-way near his house.

Chief Wilburn said that his department is trying to catch those who are driving the four-wheelers.

No further action was taken.

Discussion and Consideration of Attending the Putnam County Legislative Reception in Tallahassee

The Clerk stated that the council is invited to this reception in Tallahassee on February 19, 2026. This will give municipalities an opportunity to speak to senators regarding proposed changes and how they will affect the Town.

The Mayor, Chairperson Conner, Carolyn Bennett, Annarose Larsen, and the Town Clerk will attend the reception.

A workshop was scheduled for 9:00am, January 27, 2027 to strategize what the Council wants to bring up for discussion at the reception.

Discussion and Consideration of an Update on Interlachen Hall.

The Clerk stated that staff has been working really hard on Interlachen Hall. The dais has been built, arrangements for installation of phones and internet have been made, and the punch list is almost complete.

She requested direction from the Council on the following items:

- 1) Did they want to keep the Kunta plants out front.? Lately there have been wasps in them. It was the consensus of the Council to keep the plants.
- 2) Did they want the door painted or leave it stained since it was replica of the original door. It was the consensus of the Council not to paint the door.
- 3) Since the building is considered a commercial building there needs to be a buffer between it and the residents to the south and west. She has received a quote under five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for a six-foot vinyl fence, so it doesn't have to go out for bids. It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with the fencing.
- 4) Remove curtain rail from upstairs? It was the consensus of the Council to remove the curtain rail.
- 5) Did they want to keep brush store replica doll house? It was the consensus of the Council to repair and keep it.

The events committee will make plans for a grand opening to be tentatively set for 11:00am, Friday, March 13, 2026. The Clerk will provide the committee with a guest list.

Discussion and Consideration of Plans for a Volunteer Luncheon.

Chairperson Conner stated that it has been awhile since the Council sponsored a volunteer luncheon. If it can't be held at Interlachen Hall they can use the Community Center. It will tentatively be held on a Saturday in April. She will come back with a definite date.

Discussion and Consideration of Setting a Date for a Sign Workshop.

The workshop was set for 9:00am, January 27, 2027.

CONSENT AGENDA :

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous general consent.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-7; Adopting the 2025 Putnam County Mitigation Plan.

By unanimous general consent Resolution 2025-7 was read by title only.

Council Member Meadows moved to adopt Resolution 2025-7. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

ORDINANCES :

Ordinance 2025-4; Adopting a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment. – 2nd Reading

By unanimous general consent Ordinance 2025-4 was read by title only.

Council Member Bakker moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-4 on second reading. Council Member Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

Ordinance 2025-5; Changing the Official Zoning Map. – 2nd Reading

By unanimous general consent Ordinance 2025-5 was read by title only.

Council Member Meadows moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-5 on second reading. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

Ordinance 2025-6; Creating a Sexual Offender and Sexual Predator Act. – 2nd Reading

By unanimous general consent Ordinance 2025-6 was read by title only.

Council Member Bennett moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-6 on second reading. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Hanes stated that he is excited to see what the new year brings and that he is thankful for the Wreaths Across America. He had a great time picking them up last Saturday. He looks forward to the Town's participation in putting them back out December 19, 2026. He stated that this is his 13th council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Carolyn Bennett wished everyone new year's blessings.

Council Member Annarose Larsen stated that it was good to see all the work being done at Interlachen Hall.

Council Member Carolyn Meadows stated that Interlachen Hall looks wonderful and thanked the Maintenance Department for all their hard work.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Town Clerk Joni Payne stated that Tracy Paterson was hired as the new Codes Enforcement Officer and she is ready to tackle the job.

Mrs. Glover is collaborating with Florida Power & Light on the lighting in the park and will present a plan to the council soon. Staff met with the new Florida Power & Light representative, and she assured us that she will keep the project on tract.

The FDLE Grant that was submitted by Angie Glisson for technical upgrades has been closed out and we were selected for a monitoring of the grant. We received a saying that we were in compliance and did an excellent job. She said she was proud to provide the Council with this good information regarding Angie.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A citizen inquired if Mirror Lake Drive would ever be paved. Council advised him that most of that road is in the county and to contact them.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney George Young reminded the Council of the Sunshine Law, especially since so many of them will be traveling together to Tallahassee and other events and meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.