

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 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 for safety reasons she felt that the council attending the session in Tallahassee should stay overnight instead of driving late at night. Those attending were in agreement. The Town Clerk will make the reservations. She announced that the Pet Adoption will be Saturday, February 21, 2026.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Discussion and Consideration of the Introduction of New Codes Enforcement Officer Tracy Paterson.

Tracy Paterson stated that she is a lifetime resident of Putnam County, has two children and loves arts and crafts. She currently has five codes cases and has sent out three notices of violation.

Discussion and Consideration of the Appointment of Nadine Lebron to the Better Place Plan Committee.

Council Member Bakker moved to approve the appointment of Nadine Labron to the Better Place Plan Committee. Council Member Larsen seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council

Discussion and Consideration of an Update on Interlachen Town Hall.

The Clerk announced that the office will start moving this week. The phones will be connected tomorrow. She stated that the council needs to begin thinking about landscaping. The grand opening is scheduled for March 13, 2026.

Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the Proposed Interlachen Town Hall Sign.

Council Member Meadows moved to approve option #2, with the scrolled edges. Council Member Bennett seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA :

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous general consent.

Emergency Item:

Council Member Bennett moved to add Resolution 2026-1 as an emergency item to the agenda. Council Member Meadows seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the council.

Attorney Young explained that Putnam County has declared an emergency proclamation for a temporary burn ban for seven days for the unincorporated areas due to the recent drought and fires and that the Town should do the same.

By unanimous general consent Resolution 2026-1 was read by title only.

Resolution 2026-1; Town of Interlachen emergency order proclamation declaring an emergency order regarding open burning during the forest and brush fire declared emergency.

Council Member Meadows moved to approve Resolution 2026-1. Council Member Bakker seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Hanes expressed his gratitude to the Police Department and first responders for their diligence during the midst of the fire and smoke conditions. He gave a brief report on last month's Florida League of Cities meeting which included information on home rule and Ad Valorem taxes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Larsen expressed her gratitude to the Police Department for directing traffic at the school.

Council Member Bakker also expressed her gratitude to the fire rescue and first responders.

Council Member Bennett stated that she attended a Florida League of Cities on-line conference and the main takeaway was "local voices making local choices" and how proposed bills may impact cities. Florida League of Cities is the Town's advocacy group and helps to keep us informed. She hopes that when the council returns from the session in Tallahassee they can bring back information to the community on what's being discussed and what's going to impact our community.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Chief Wilburn stated that he is glad the Council passed the burn ban resolution and the smoke has caused a few car crashes.

Town Clerk, Joni Payne stated that the audit is almost complete and should be ready to present to the Council at the April meeting.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney Young advised the Council that at the Legislative Session in Tallahassee people might approach them asking them to support certain bills. He reminded the Council that as individually they don't have the power of the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.