

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.**

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 Don Holmes were present also.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – JONI CONNER

Chairperson Conner stated there were ten participants in the chili cook-off and it was well attended. She thanked the following: All the sponsors, Pam Glover, Chuck Conner, and Richard Glover for cooking the hotdogs, Buck Griffis and Chris Crusaw for setting up and keeping things clean and neat, Council Members Beverly Bakker, Carolyn Bennett, and Carolyn Meadows for manning the bounce house, and Events Committee members, Michael Bleach, Leslie Schiappa and Judi Costanzo.

Mayor Hanes read a proclamation on water conservation and telecommunication week. A short video was viewed on 911 dispatchers and a cake was presented to Putnam County Communications Officer Gotshall.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Discussion and Consideration of use of the Town Banner Board to Advertise Jenkins Scholarship Banquet.

Council Member Bennett moved to approve the use of the banner board to advertise the Jenkins Scholarship Banquet. Council Member Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Chairperson Conner requested that the Maintenance Department place the banner on the board.

Discussion and Consideration of a Bulletin Board.

Council Member Meadows moved to allow the Maintenance Department to construct a bulletin board. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Council Member Bakker moved to have the bulletin board placed west of the building and east of the mailbox as presented in picture #3. Council Member Meadows seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of Interlachen Town Hall Porch Improvements.

The Clerk stated that according to the current Florida Building Code the porch step is one inch too high. She presented two options. #1 was a wood railing & #2 was a metal railing.

Council Member Bennett moved to approve option #1 with the wood railing and a concrete ramp. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of an Update on the Dickerman Building.

The Clerk presented the proposed plans for the back room of the Dickerman Building which includes extending the mayor's office and constructing an interrogation room. The estimated cost is \$3,850.00, which can come from ARPA Funds.

Council Member Bakker moved to allocate \$5,000.00 of ARPA Funds for the modification of the Dickerman Building. Council Member Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of the Purchase of a Police Vehicle.

The Chief stated that some of the current vehicles are getting old and are in need of repair.

Council Member Larsen moved to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion.

Council Member Larsen amended her motion to include the use of ARPA funds for the purchase of a new police vehicle. Council Member Bakker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a four to one roll call vote with Chairperson Conner voting no.

Discussion and Consideration of Approval of a Surplus List.

Council Member Meadows moved to approve the surplus list. Council Member Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Any bids received will be presented at the next Council meeting.

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

A Charter Workshop was set for 10am, May 19, 2026.

Discussion and Consideration of Setting Budget Workshop Dates.

Budget workshops were set for 10am, June 10, 2026 and 10am, July 22, 2026.

Emergency Item:

Mayor Hanes stated 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.

Council Member Bennett moved to amend the agenda by adding the burn ban as an emergency item. Council Member Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

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

Resolution 2026-2; Town of Interlachen Emergency Order Proclamation Declaring an Emergency Order Regarding Open Burning During the Forest and Brush Fire Declared Emergency.

Council Member Bakker moved to approve Resolution 2026-2. Council Member Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

ORDINANCES :

Ordinance 2026-1; Rezoning to Change the Official Zoning Map. – 2nd Reading

Council Member Bennett moved to approve Ordinance 2026-1 on second reading. Council Member Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA :

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous general consent.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Hanes thanked everyone that participated in the remodeling of Interlachen Hall and that he was excited to see the Police Department participating in community events.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

All of the council members thanked the Events Committee for a successful Chili cook-off. The only suggestion was the bounce house opening face west.

Council Member Larsen thanked the Police and fire Department for keeping the town safe.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Chief Wilburn thanked the maintenance department and office staff for helping with the move to the Dickerman Building.

Chairperson Conner recommended that the Police Department purchase Town phones for all officers. This will be put on next month's agenda.

Town Clerk, Joni Payne stated that the water department has started taking credit card and online payments. Thus far twenty customers are utilizing this payment method.

Senate Bill 180 requires that the Mayor, Town Clerk and Public Works take FEMA training by July 1, 2026. The Council does not have to participate but it is highly recommended that they do so.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney Holmes stated that the building looks great.

Leo Granger thanked supporters of the Robert Jenkins Scholarship Program, and that the banquet will be May 16, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

