

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.  
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Carolyn Meadows called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – CAROLYN MEADOWS**

Chairperson Meadows welcomed everyone and introduced Bill White from St. Johns River Water Management.

Mayor Larsen read a Resolution declaring the month of April as Water Conservation Month and a proclamation designating the week of April 14-20 as Telecommunications Week.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

**Discussion and Consideration of 911 Telecommunications Week Presentation**

Office Clerk, Angie Glisson presented a PowerPoint for 911 Telecommunications Week.

**Discussion and Consideration of the Installation of Fitness Equipment at Jenkins Park.**

Council Member Bennett moved to accept the proposal from Gametime. Council Member Bakker seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Discussion and Consideration of the Caboose/Pavilion Project.**

Council Member Conner moved to accept RJ Corman's proposal to move the caboose and for the Maintenance Department to install new composite decking. Council Member Yonts seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the use of ARPA Funds for the Caboose/Pavilion Project.**

Council Member Bennett moved to use ARPA funds for the caboose/pavilion project. Council Member Bakker seconded. Council Member Bennett amended her motion to include the use of \$36,000.00 from the ARPA funds for the project. Council Member Bakker amended her second. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council

**Discussion and Consideration of Reconsideration of Historical Society Lease Termination.**

Attorney Timothy Keyser spoke on behalf of the Historical Society and apologized and retracted accusations made toward town employees. He stated that the Town and Historical society have had a long-standing relationship and asked the Council to reconsider termination of their lease.

Council Member Conner moved to continue with the termination of the lease. Council Member Bakker seconded.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Historical Society Vice-President, Nicole Ratlovic went over the events held by the Historical Society and stated that it is important to keep the relationship with the town and work through any misunderstanding.

Jessica Cole stated that it looks like certain council members have it out for the Historical Society.

Historical Society Secretary, Sharon Varnes Stated that if the town loses the museum, we lose history.

Council Member Conner moved to continue with the termination of the lease. Council Member Bakker seconded. The motion passed by a four (4) to one (1) roll call vote of the Council, with Council Member Bennett voting no.

**ORDINANCE:**

*Ordinance 2024-1; Business Impact Statement. - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading*

By unanimous general consent, Ordinance 2024-1 was read by title only.

Council Member Bakker moved to approve Ordinance 2024-1 on first reading. Council Member Conner seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous general consent.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Bennett thanked the public for their participation in the meeting.

Council Member Conner announced that the concert at the caboose will be from 4-7pm on April 20, 2024. Music will be provided by two (2) bands, and there will be three (3) food vendors.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Larsen stated that he was saddened by the events with the Historical Society, however the Council had to respond to their accusations against town employees.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:**

Maintenance Supervisor, Richard Glover showed a picture of the new fence at Lagonda Park and stated that the new water lines passed DEP inspections.

Chief Wilburn introduced new Police Officer, Ethen McKellar and stated that he now has a good Police Department.

Town Clerk, Joni Payne thanked the police officers for coming to the office at closing time to make sure the office staff gets to their cars safely. She stated that it saddens her that the relationship with the Historical Society has come to this, but the staff has suffered through allegation for almost two years. She thanked the council for making a difficult decision.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Nicole Ratlovic, Jessica Cole, and Sharon Varnes spoke under Agenda Item 3E.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Attorney Young asked that the Council extend the Historical Society lease termination more than thirty (30) days and he will collaborate with the Clerk and Attorney Keyser on inventory of museum items.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.