

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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 Don Holmes were present also.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – CAROLYN MEADOWS

Chairperson Meadows welcomed everyone and announced that Johnson Overturf Funeral Home and volunteers will be placing flags on Veteran’s cemetery plots in Pineview Cemetery on May 20, 2024. She stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Larsen since 2011.

Eryn Russell, from Florida League of Cities presented the Mayor with the “John Land Years of Service Award” in recognition of his twenty years of service to the Town of Interlachen.

Chairperson Meadows presented the Northeast Florida League of Cities “Non-Profit Award” and a check for \$500.00 to The Interlachen Soup Kitchen, which was started by David and Linda Yonts in 2011 and has since served over half a Million meals to the elderly, disabled, and veterans.

Mayor Larsen read two Proclamations designating May 18-24, 2024 as “National Safe Boating Week” and designating May 12-18, 2024 as “National Law Enforcement Week.”

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Discussion and Consideration of Request From Brandon Cumbo to use the Town Logo on Awards in the “Best of Interlachen” Contest.

Mr. Cumbo presented a power point on his business and the “Best of Interlachen” project which showcases local businesses. A decision on this was tabled until the passage of the Town Seal Ordinance.

Discussion and Consideration of Request From the American Legion to Place Wreaths on Veteran’s Graves in Pineview Cemetery.

Irene Koenia, from the American Legion requested permission to place wreaths on Veteran’s Graves in Pineview Cemetery On December 14, 2024. They will conduct fund raisers to purchase the wreaths.

Council Member Connor moved to honor the request. Council Member Bennett seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of Request From the Rotary Club for the use of Jenkins Park for a Swap Meet.

Teresa Robertson, from the Rotary Club of Interlachen and Lakes Area stated that they are celebrating their tenth year and would like to use Jenkins Park for a celebration market on June 15, 2024 from 9am-1pm. Booth fees will be \$20.00.

Council Member Bennett moved to approve the request. Council Member Bakker seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

Discussion and Consideration of Request From Nicole Rathovic for a Refund of the Historical Society Rent.

Historical Society Vice-President, Nicole Rathovic asked that the town return the \$100.00 month rent paid by the Historical Society from January-April.

As to the question from Council Member Yonts as to the reason for the request, Ms. Rathovic stated that it was to further the progress of the Historical Society and because of termination by the town of the lease prior to the agreed date.

Council Member Bakker stated that the Historical Society used the building during the said time period. Ms. Rathovic stated once again as to within the boundaries of the lease.

Attorney Holmes stated that the premises were occupied by the Historical Society and to give the rent back would imply the admission of fault on the town's part and if the Council approved the request upon the insinuation that they did something wrong would not be a good precedence to set. He stated that there is nothing in lease that provides for the refund of rent.

Citizen Statements:

Teresa Robertson stated that if you utilized the facility you need to pay for the time that the facility was used.

Sheri White asked Ms. Rathovic if membership dues can be refunded since they were a nuisance. She was advised to send her request to the Historical Society.

Jessica Cole stated that the Historical Society was non-profit and while they occupied the building volunteers were providing a service to public and that their request probably was for moving expenses.

Lynn Brose questioned why the rent was started in January since they have been in the building for years and had use of the building for free.

Council Member Bakker moved to approve the request for the refund of Historical Society rent. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

Discussion and Consideration of Setting Budget Workshop Dates.

Budget workshops were set for June 17, 2024 at 10am and July 18, 2024 at 9am.

Discussion and Consideration of Setting Proposed 2024/2025 Milage for Budgetary Purposes.

The Council agreed to set the milage rate at 7.2553% for budgetary purposes.

Discussion and Consideration of Entering a Float in the July 4th Parade.

The Council agreed to have a float and will discuss it further at the June 17, 2024 workshop.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2024-1; Setting Service Fees.

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

Council Member Connor moved to approve Resolution 2024-1. Council Member Bakker seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2024-1; Business Impact Statement. – 2nd Reading

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

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

Ordinance 2024-2; Designation of the Official Town Seal. – 1st Reading

Attorney Holmes stated that more research is needed on the ordinance, so this item was tabled.

Ordinance 2024-3; Repealing Ordinance 2023-6 to Correct Error. – 1st Reading

Council Member Bakker moved to approve Ordinance 2024-3 on first reading. Council Member Yonts 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 Bakker stated that Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Meadows, and herself had attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new animal shelter today,

Council Member Yonts stated that he was glad to see everyone at the meeting.

Council Member Conner stated that the concert at the caboose went well and another one will be held when it's cooler. She thanked Mr. Griffis for working his help.

Council Member Bennett stated that she was glad to see the scouts present and hope they learned a little about how the business of the town is conducted. She invited everyone to attend the Community Visioning Workshop this Thursday at 6pm. This is an opportunity for citizens to join in conversation and get involved on how you would like our community to shape up in the future.

Chairperson Meadows stated that they attended the last quarter awards ceremony at Jenkins Elementary and that it's always a joy.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Larsen thanked everyone for the honors and stated that it's been a joy serving the town.

Mayor Larsen stated that he wasn't going to say anything about the Historical Society but felt that he had to. He has been a supporter and member for years and that the town has been demonized through the media. Town employees have been accused of stealing things. He was there about two weeks ago with Officer Foreman and asked the president

what

had been stolen and she responded; "I don't know but stuff is missing all the time." He told her "here is a Police Officer do your report right now." Mayor Larsen stated that the town has been innocent, understanding, and have done all they could. He said he appreciated the town staff and especially Joni and all she has done and has gone through.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Chief Wilburn thanked Mayor Larsen for his many years of service.

Maintenance Supervisor Richard Glover stated that the final tie into the water lines is being conducted.

Town Clerk, Joni Payne stated that the deadline for charter amendments to be placed on the ballot is August 31, 2024. She reminded the council that their Form 6 is due on July 6, 2024. A court date has been set for the Commonwealth Property for June 6, 2024.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney Holmes stated that he appreciated the opportunity to come to the meeting tonight and that it's good to see the Town's progress, but still retain it's the small-town charm.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.