

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.  
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – CAROLYN BENNETT**

Chairperson Bennett welcomed everyone and stated that the Tentative Budget Workshop will be September 7, 2023 and the Final Budget Public Hearing will be September 21, 202. Both hearings will be at 5:05 pm.

Mayor Larsen presented each volunteer fire fighter from Station 4 with a \$500.00 check and presented a plaque to Police Chief Larry Wilburn for his forty years of service on the Interlachen Police Department.

Chairperson Bennett stated that the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, and herself attended a North Florida League of Cities dinner meeting in Orange Park and that it was informative regarding Legislative updates. She suggested that the Town join the North Florida Chapter.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

***Discussion and Consideration of a Request for a Codes Enforcement Fine Reduction.***

C.E.O. Mary Ratliff advised the Council that this case came before the Magistrate on March 7, 2023 and a fine of \$25.00 a day was ordered if the property did not come in compliance by May 7, 2023. The Town Clerk inspected the property on June 8, 2023 and found it to be in compliance. The total amount of fines accrued is \$1,125.00. She recommended that the fine be reduced to \$200.00.

Council Member Yonts moved to reduce the fines to \$200.00. Council Member Meadows seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

***Discussion and Consideration of the Regular Appointment of Officer Dwayne Foreman.***

Chie Wilburn stated that officer Foreman is a thirty (30) year veteran and highly recommended his regular appointment.

Council Member Bakker moved to accept the regular appointment of Officer Dewayne Foreman. Council Member Conner seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

***Discussion and Consideration of a Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant.***

The Clerk stated that the Council may want to apply for this grant in the future for Public Works or Police vehicles, but it can't be used for an administrative vehicle.

**Discussion and Consideration of Adopting the Proposed 2023/2024 Millage Rate.**

Council Member Meadows moved to set the proposed 2023/2024 millage rate at 7.2553%. 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:**

All the Council Members commented on how good the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was.

Council Member Conner stated that there were eleven (11) cake entries and sixty (60) children participated in the fishing tournament. She also reminded everyone that the Fall Festival is November 4, 2023 from 11am-3pm.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Larsen stated that the Clerk, Chairperson Bennet, and himself went to St. Johns River Management District to accept the Redi Grant.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:**

Chief Wilburn stated that he will be applying for a JAG Grant to upgrade Police computers. Chairperson Bennet asked that he step up ticketing speeders in town.

Town Clerk, Joni Payne reminded the Council of the July 13, 2023 Budget Workshop at 10am.

Maintenance Supervisor, Richard Glover stated that three (3) new water service connections have been made and the Tremont Water Tank will be out of service starting July 13, 2023 for maintenance.

C.E.O., Mary Ratliff stated that she has one (1) case going before the Magistrate in August and she has several new cases.

The Clerk advised the Council that the Brush store will go before the Magistrate in two (2) months and then the Council Will have to decide to abate or foreclose on it.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Judi Costanzo thanked the Town for allowing her to be the Parade Marshall in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and for planting a tree in her honor.

Beverly Holley stated that she is conducting a backpack drive and passed out flyers with a list of needed items.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Attorney Young stated that he has had no response from the owners of the Dickens Street property, and he will proceed with a hearing.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.