

**TOWN OF INTERLACHEN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.  
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Conner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: JONI CONNER**

Chairperson Conner stated that her time as Chair is almost over and that it has been a learning experience. She thanked the Town Attorney and staff for keeping her on the straight and narrow.

County Commissioner Larry Harvey gave an update on the Christmas Celebration and advised the Council that the County Commissioners will be using the Town Council chambers for a community meeting regarding ARPA funds on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6pm.

Vice-Chairperson Judi Costanzo presented Robert & Sherri White a plaque in appreciation for their service to the community by spaying and neutering feral cats.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

***Discussion and Consideration of Update from Property Appraiser, Tim Parker Regarding Homestead Exemptions for low Income Senior Citizens.***

Mr. Parker explained that the Florida Statutes has changed regarding homestead exemption for low- income senior citizens. Homeowners need only to submit proof of income one time and their household income must be \$31,100.00. Municipalities need to change their ordinance to reflect such changes.

***Ordinance 2021-5; Homestead Exemption for low Income Senior Citizens. – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading***

By unanimous general consent Ordinance 2021-5 was read by title only.

Council Member Bakker moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-5 on first reading. Council Member Meadows seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the Council.

***Discussion and Consideration of a Mental Health Facility in our Area. – Zennie Best.***

Mr. Best was not present.

***Discussion and Consideration of the Regular Appointment of Officer Derrick Holmes.***

Council Member Costanzo moved to approve the regular appointment of Officer Holmes. Council Member Bennett seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Discussion and Consideration of Dowda Field.**

The project died due to a lack of a motion.

**Discussion and Consideration of the Feasibility of a Waiver for Concerts in the Par.**

The Council agreed that a waiver is not needed but will have a workshop to discuss rules for concerts after the first of the year.

**Discussion and Consideration of Lien on 181 Keuka Road Property.**

Council Member Costanzo moved to file the lien and to authorize the Town Clerk to file future liens at her discretion. Council Member Meadows seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Discussion and Consideration of Budget Transfer #2.**

Council Member Bakker moved to approve Budget amendment #2. Council Member Bennett seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Discussion and Consideration of Codes Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report.**

Mary Ratliff gave an update on the Codes Enforcement Board decisions and the current cases. There was some discussion regarding the Dickens Street property, abatements, and foreclosures.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous general consent.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Costanzo stated that Hastings Park looks good with the new mulch and voiced her concern of animals getting loose on Strickland Road.

Council Member Bakker stated that if anyone receives complaints about Waste Pro to contact Dana Miller and stated that the new street signs on CR 315 are nice.

Council Member Bennett stated that she had received a complaint that Town flags were not flown at half-mast for Colin Powell, and she wanted to know the procedures for stray dogs. The Chief explained that it is Animal Control's responsibility but if someone is bite by a dog, they do a police report.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Larsen thanked Sherie White for her service and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:**

The Chief stated that the intersection at CR 315 & SR 20 should be completed by the end of December.

The Maintenance Supervisor stated that 170 yards of mulch was put in Hastings Park and that the pavilion should be up by the end of this week. The Grassy Lake Water Plant is temporarily down that's why the water pressure is low.

The Clerk thanked everyone for the cake and coffee for her birthday and thanked the Veterans for their service.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Attorney Young swore in incumbents Beverly Bakker, Carolyn Bennett, and Carolyn Meadows.

**Appointment of a Chairperson:**

Council Member Meadows nominated Carolyn Bennett for Chairperson. Council Member Bennett declined.

Council Member Meadows nominated Beverly Bakker for Chairperson. Council Member Bakker also declined.

Council Member Meadows nominated Judi Costanzo for Chairperson. Council Member Costanzo accepted and stated that this would probably be her last time. The nomination was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**Appointment of a Vice-Chairperson:**

Council Member Meadows nominated Carolyn Bennett for Vice-Chairperson. Council Member Bennett accepted and the nomination was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.