



CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Chairman Paul George

Chairman Paul George called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and asked Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith to take the roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Chairman Paul George
Vice Chairman Rick Davis
Committeewoman Sue Elliott
Committeeman Jeremy Steadman
Committeewoman Deanna Bennett

Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock was absent.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Rick Davis gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting May 1, 2025

Committeeman Jeremy Steadman made the motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Committeewoman Sue Elliott. All agreed; motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion – edits and questions

The Committee discussed a Strong Mayor form of government. Committeewoman Sue Elliott said she liked the unique way Pierson's government was run. Vice Chair Rick Davis said he agreed; he did not think the first four sections of the Charter needed to be materially changed. Vice Chair Davis said there should be changes in Section 1 regarding the municipal organization and officers. Vice Chair Davis said there had been discussion at the previous meeting about introducing a new Charter, but he felt it would be better to strike items from the current Charter. Vice Chair Davis said Pierson had a simple system and he did not want to see it changed too much. Vice Chair Davis said State Statutes 165 and 166

47 gave the Town the powers to do what it wanted.

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49 Vice Chair Davis said he felt that Article III, Section 1 could be removed entirely with
50 perhaps the exception of administering oaths.

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52 Committeewoman Deanna Bennett noted outdated language in Article I, Section 4, stating
53 officers would take their seats following elections in October. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith
54 said this contradicted the next section which correctly noted that the election was in
55 November.

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57 Mr. Smith noted another issue in which the Charter and the Pierson personnel manual had
58 conflicting information regarding employee reprimands. Mr. Smith said Town Attorney
59 Scott Simpson had clarified that in this instance, the Charter would take precedence. Mr.
60 Smith said in situations such as this, it might be best to rewrite the Charter to refer to
61 Resolutions or Ordinances which are more easily modified, rather than giving specific
62 instructions in the Charter itself.

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64 Committeewoman Elliott said the previous Charter was very restrictive. She felt trimming it
65 down and making it simple was the best solution.

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67 Committeeman Jeremy Steadman asked for a copy of the personnel manual for reference.

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69 Max Elliott asked if there was an Article I because it was not in the copies of the Charter.
70 Deputy Clerk Smith checked the original Charter and said Article I was called General
71 Provisions and should have been located at the top of the first page. Mr. Smith said it was
72 probably erroneously omitted when it was digitized.

73

74 Committeewoman Bennett asked if salaries were set by Ordinance as the Charter stated.
75 Vice Chair Davis said the Charter was giving the Council the authority to do so. The
76 Committee discussed changing the wording. Vice Chair Davis said he felt it could be left as-
77 is.

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79 Vice Chair Davis felt Section 5 should be deleted. Committeewoman Bennett agreed and
80 said the Charter should reflect how the Town operates. Max Elliott asked if the sections
81 would be renumbered if entire sections were dropped; Mr. Smith said yes.

82

83 Mr. Elliott asked about providing a new draft Charter to residents for review. Deputy Clerk
84 Smith said the Town could provide a copy online or via mailer.

85

86 Committeewoman Bennett asked about officers referenced in the Charter such as the Town
87 Marshal or Town Treasurer, which the Town currently doesn't have. Vice Chair Davis felt
88 the paragraph regarding officers could be dropped.

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90 Vice Chair Davis said he would remove references in Article III, Section 1 regarding the
91 Mayor acting as judge and jury for violations of Town Ordinances. Vice Chair Davis said
92 most of that paragraph could likely be dropped.

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94 Vice Chair Davis asked if someone needed to be designated to handle violations of Town
95 codes. Deputy Clerk Smith said the Land Development Regulations stated that code
96 enforcement violations would be handled by the Developmental Regulations Administrator
97 (DRA), which is currently Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock. Deputy Clerk Smith noted that
98 the Charter was written when the Mayor was not a voting member of the Council, but it
99 would likely be an issue to have a voting Mayor who set Ordinances and enforced them.
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101 The Committee discussed the role of the Mayor being mostly ceremonial prior to combining
102 the title with the Council Chair seat.
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104 The Committee discussed the following items for removal:
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106 - Article I, Section 4, Paragraph 4: Officers of Town Marshal and Town Treasurer
107 - Article III, Section 1: Mayor [Generally]
108 - Article III, Section 5: Salaries
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110 The Committee discussed rewriting or modifying the wording of the following items:
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112 - Article III, Section 2: Mayor [Additional Powers]
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114 Committeewoman Bennett asked if the Town Attorney should be consulted on items that
115 may be in contradiction with current laws.
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117 Committeeman Steadman asked about the section regarding a Town Depository.
118 Committeewoman Bennett said the Council made the decision on where to do banking. The
119 Committee discussed leaving it in place.
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121 Vice Chair Davis discussed Article IV, Section 1 regarding Special Meetings. He said it
122 should be updated to include e-mail and text messages by striking “written” from the
123 section.
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125 Committeewoman Bennett asked about Article III, Section 7 which discussed the power of
126 the Council to create offices. Committeeman Steadman said it leaves it open for the Council
127 to create an office and take it away if it did not work out.
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129 The Committee briefly discussed Article III, Section 7 regarding an employee being bonded.
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131 The Committee discussed the personnel manual and whether the Charter should defer to the
132 manual on issues related to employee salaries, reprimands, etc.
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134 Vice Chair Davis asked if the Committee could be provided with a draft Charter reflecting
135 the proposed changes. Deputy Clerk Smith said he would prepare a draft and send it to the
136 Committee for the next meeting, along with a copy of the current personnel manual.
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138 Deputy Clerk Smith said a lot of Town policies and procedures were currently set by
139 Ordinance and this could allow the Council more flexibility than adding items to the
140 Charter.

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b. Set date and time for next meeting

The Committee discussed scheduling meetings every two weeks, on Thursdays. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith noted that there was an airport workshop on Thursday May 29, 2025, and suggested the following Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. Vice Chair Rick Davis asked for confirmation of the meeting date and time to be sent via e-mail.

6. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Ryan Smith, Deputy Clerk

Paul George, Chairman