



CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

**THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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7 **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Chairman Paul George**
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9 Chairman Paul George called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne
10 Braddock to take the roll call.
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12 **2. ROLL CALL**
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14 PRESENT:

15 Chairman Paul George
16 Vice Chairman Rick Davis
17 Committeewoman Sue Elliott
18 Committeeman Jeremy Steadman
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20 Committeewoman Deanna Bennett was absent.
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22 **3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
23

24 Vice Chairman Rick Davis gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of
25 Allegiance.
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27 **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
28

29 a. Meeting June 5, 2025
30

31 Committeeman Jeremy Steadman made the motion to approve the above listed minutes
32 as written, except for line 32 which should be changed from “mad” to “made”; seconded
33 by Vice Chairman Rick Davis. All agreed; motion carries.
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35 **5. NEW BUSINESS**
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37 a. Discussion – edits and questions
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39 Committeewoman Elliott said she liked the comment on page 2 regarding eligibility for
40 Mayor/Town Council. Ms. Elliott said that stating a person must be a resident of Pierson
41 and a qualified elector was more concise than the previous language. Vice Chairman Rick
42 Davis agreed. Committeeman Jeremy Steadman asked if the Charter should specify that a
43 person must live within the Town limits to be qualified for a Mayor or Council seat. Mr.
44 Davis said that it was addressed later in the Charter.
45

46 Mr. Davis said *Article II: Municipal Powers* on page 3 should be stricken completely. Mr.

47 Davis discussed Town Attorney Scott Simpson's comments regarding primary elections.

48
49 Chairman Paul George said the Committee could start at the Attorney's first comment on
50 the latest Charter draft and work through them in order.

51
52 Vice Chairman Davis started at *Section 4: Officers*, regarding Mayor and Council eligibility.
53 "No person shall be eligible for election as Mayor or Councilman who has not resided in the
54 Town for a period of one year immediately preceding the qualifying date, is not a permanent
55 resident, and who is not a qualified elector of said Town of Pierson and a resident of the
56 State of Florida." Mr. Davis said it may be better to state that the person must also be a
57 permanent resident of Pierson. Committeewoman Elliott said there were part-time residents
58 of Pierson.

59
60 The Committee again discussed primaries. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith noted that the Town
61 does participate in primaries if there are more than two candidates running for the same
62 open seat. Vice Chair Davis asked if it was really a primary since primaries are typically run
63 by political parties. Mr. Davis read from the Charter which stated the candidate with a
64 plurality of the votes would be declared elected. Mr. Smith said it sounded like all the
65 candidates should go on the general ballot, but noted that this wasn't how Pierson conducted
66 previous elections. Mr. Smith asked if that was a Supervisor of Elections rule.

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68 Committeewoman Sue Elliott and Chair Paul George discussed the section titled *Provisions*
69 *for Elections* that mentions the November general election. Vice Chair Davis said his
70 interpretation of Part A is that if two or more people ran for office, the Town would call an
71 election.

72
73 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith looked up the 2022 election and stated that a primary was held in
74 August for a Pierson Town Council seat in which three candidates were running. The two
75 candidates with the most votes were on the ballot for the November general election. Mr.
76 Smith noted that other municipalities in Volusia County also had seats on the August ballot
77 where more than two candidates were running. Committeeman Steadman asked if the
78 primaries needed to be specified in the Charter. The Committee decided that this was
79 possibly covered in *Provisions for Elections*, Part A, which states in part "it shall be the duty
80 of the town council of the Town of Pierson to call an election." Mr. Smith said he would
81 clarify this with the Town Attorney.

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83 The Committee discussed *Section 7: Voter Qualifications* and decided that the section
84 should state that voters be registered in accordance with the Volusia County Supervisor of
85 Elections. Committeeman Steadman suggested changing "shall reside" to "is a permanent
86 resident" within the territorial limits of the Town.

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88 Committeewoman Elliott had a question about *Section 2: Town Council* regarding a Town
89 marshal and policeman. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith noted that it was discussed at the first
90 meeting and agreed that it should be left in place, should the Council ever want to appoint a
91 marshal or policeman.

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93 b. Set date and time for next meeting

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The Committee agreed that Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith would make the final changes and send them to the Town Attorney for approval. A follow-up meeting would be scheduled later if there were questions or issues to address.

Committeewoman Sue Elliott made the motion for Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith to make the proposed changes and send it to the Town Attorney for review; seconded by Committeeman Jeremy Steadman. All agreed; motion carries.

6. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Minutes approved by:

Ryan Smith, Deputy Clerk Paul George, Chairman