



# TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 – 3:00 PM  
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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## 1. Call meeting to order

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9 This special meeting was called by Councilwomen Linnie R. Richardson and Brandy  
10 Peterson. Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and asked Town Clerk  
11 Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

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## 2. Roll call

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### PRESENT:

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Mayor Gray Leonhard

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Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund

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Councilmember Jimmy Anderson

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Councilmember Linnie Richardson

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Councilmember Brandy Peterson

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Also present were Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith and Utility Clerk Marci Nichols.

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## 3. NEW BUSINESS

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### a. Attorney discussion and action

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Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated that Town Attorney Christian Waugh resigned with  
29 no advanced notice on Monday, January 13, 2025 and she felt it warranted an emergency  
30 meeting. Mayor Leonhard asked if Councilmember Richardson had any recommendations.  
31 Councilmember Richardson said she had contacts for a couple of attorneys in Orlando but  
32 that she hadn't contacted anyone.

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34

Councilmember Richardson spoke with Town Planner Mark Karet. Councilmember  
35 Richardson stated that Mr. Karet recommended Scott Simpson who is currently the City  
36 Attorney for Holly Hill. Mr. Karet said the Town's current meeting schedule would conflict  
37 with Mr. Simpson's schedule.

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Councilmember Brandy Peterson spoke with Brooke McCormick of Smith Bigman Brock in  
40 Daytona Beach and asked for recommendations for an attorney who specialized in municipal  
41 law.

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Mayor Gray Leonhard said he could reach out to Judge Kathy Weston and ask if she had  
44 recommendations.

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46 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said she was willing to change the days for regular council  
47 meetings in order to accommodate an interim attorney.

48

49 Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock said Mr. Karet had spoken to Mr. Simpson and confirmed that  
50 Mr. Simpson would be willing to serve as interim counsel, but it would require changing the  
51 days of the Town's council meetings.

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53 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund expressed his dismay at Mr. Waugh's sudden resignation and  
54 asked if anyone on the Council had insight into why he might have resigned. None of the  
55 Councilmembers knew of any issues. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that Waugh Law's  
56 website showed an announcement from December 2024 regarding Mr. Waugh's selection as  
57 interim attorney for the City of Clermont. Mr. Smith said he had been in contact with Mr.  
58 Waugh's office as recently as a week ago and his staff gave no indication that anything had  
59 changed.

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61 Councilmember Richardson stated that Mr. Waugh's hourly rate was \$150.00 and she did not  
62 feel a new attorney could be obtained for this rate.

63

64 Mayor Leonhard said he echoed the Vice Mayor's sentiment about the sudden resignation.

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66 The Council discussed the upcoming regular meeting scheduled for later in the evening and  
67 which agenda items may need to be tabled until legal counsel is present. Mr. Smith highlighted  
68 items on the agenda that might need input from an attorney.

69

70 Mr. Smith said the City of Orange City also paid \$150.00 per hour for their attorney.

71

72 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said she did not feel anyone should contact Mr. Waugh  
73 regarding Town business. Mr. Smith noted that there may be items in progress with Mr.  
74 Waugh's firm, such as the GFL exclusivity issues and the Dave Howell eviction at the airport.  
75 Mayor Leonhard said he felt that Mr. Waugh should tie up any loose ends.

76

77 Mr. Smith said the Town might need to put out a Request for Quote for an attorney.

78

79 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association, Florida  
80 League of Cities, and Volusia League of Cities may have information or resources available  
81 which the Town could utilize.

82

83 The Council discussed finding an attorney who is more local to reduce conflicts involving  
84 travel distance.

85

86 Mayor Leonhard asked if meeting hours should be changed to earlier in the day. Vice Mayor  
87 Greenlund felt that meetings should be held after 5:00 PM.

88

89 Councilmember Richardson asked if Mr. Karet should reach out to Mr. Simpson to find a day  
90 which would work.

91

92 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said council meeting days would have to be set by passing a  
93 Resolution.

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95 Councilmember Richardson asked to call Mark Karet during the meeting to determine which  
96 days Scott Simpson would be available. Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock called Mr. Karet on  
97 speakerphone. Mr. Karet said the second and fourth Tuesdays were unavailable, but that the  
98 first and third Tuesdays would work for Mr. Simpson.

99

100 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to instruct the Clerk's Office to**  
101 **draft a Resolution changing the regular council meeting days from the second and fourth**  
102 **Tuesdays of each month to the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with time and**  
103 **location remaining the same; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed;**  
104 **motion carries.**

105

106 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to appoint Scott Simpson as the**  
107 **interim attorney for the Town of Pierson, effective immediately, if the hourly rate does**  
108 **not exceed \$250.00 per hour; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed;**  
109 **motion carries.**

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111 **4. ADJOURNED**

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113 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.**

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115 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

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Gray Leonhard, Mayor