



TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 – 5:30 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. Call meeting to order

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9 Chairman Paul Martel called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and asked Town Clerk
10 Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

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2. Roll call

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PRESENT:

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Chairman Paul Martel

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Vice Chairman R. Blair Davis

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Commissioner Jonathan Vickers

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Commissioner Max Tyus

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Also present were Town Planner Mark Karet and Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith. Commissioner
21 Jeff Herren was absent.

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3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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Pastor Max Tyus gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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4. Approval of Minutes – Chairman Paul Martel

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a. N/A

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No minutes were available from the previous meeting. Chairman Paul Martel asked to
32 bypass this item.

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5. NEW BUSINESS

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a. Electronic Signage Within Town of Pierson City Limits, Ebenezer Lutheran
37 Church – Town Planner Mark Karet

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Town Planner Mark Karet presented an administrative proposal to amend Article 9 of the
Land Development Code to allow Electronic Message Center signs. The Lutheran Church
made a request to place an electronic sign on their property along Highway 17. Mr. Karet
prepared a draft for the changes to the sign code at the request of the Town Council. Mr.
Karet explained that most cities prohibited electronic signs in the past due to their old
technology which did not allow for variable light settings, but that cities are changing their
stance due to improved sign technology which allows for adjustable brightness and the
darkening of a sign in the event that it malfunctions.

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Mr. Karet read the updated definitions for Electronic Message Centers to be added to the Land Development Code and explained that signs would be prohibited from strobing, flashing, or moving lights and messages so that they were not distracting to drivers. Mr. Karet said that these Electronic Message Centers would follow the existing sign ordinance regarding the allocation of a single sign per property. The ordinance will also follow an industry standard regarding the measurement of light output which is used by most electronic sign ordinances.

Commissioner Max Tyus asked if there is a standard for the appearance of the sign and if that is part of the permitting process. Mr. Karet said that any inadequacies in the design or appearance of the electronic signs would need to be rectified before the permit for the sign is approved.

Commissioner Blair Davis expressed his concern that without an appearance standard, business owners may attempt installing do-it-yourself signs with flat-panel televisions or monitors.

Commissioner Tyus said he was concerned about messages that “built out” with letters or words appearing in a sequence. Mr. Karet clarified that the sign code would not allow any scrolling, animation, flashing, or strobing and that would include messages that Commissioner Tyus described.

Commissioner Jonathan Vickers asked if temporary signs such as a sign on the side of a mobile van would be allowed. Mr. Karet said that was a totally different scenario which may require FDOT involvement.

Chairman Paul Martel asked Mr. Karet if approving this ordinance would open a “Pandora’s box.” Mr. Karet stated that he did not believe so because the signs are very expensive.

Chairman Martel asked if it was a one-time permit fee or if there was an annual fee to have a sign. Mr. Karet said that some municipalities did have an annual fee but that was because the signs were inspected annually. Chairman Martel thought that an annual signage fee should be considered and asked Mr. Karet to investigate that. Mr. Karet said that what Chairman Martel was suggesting was broader than the current discussion of the electronic sign language in the ordinance.

Vice Chair Blair Davis expressed his disagreement with annual signage fees. Vice Chair Davis stated that his concern is that any business could rig a sign, and that he would like to see electronic signs installed by licensed companies.

Chairman Paul Martel asked for confirmation that the maximum size of the signs was 32 square feet. Mr. Karet confirmed this.

Commissioner Jonathan Vickers made the motion to approve the changes outlined for the sign ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Blair Davis. All agreed; motion carries.

94 b. Changing of Meeting Hours for Planning & Zoning – Vice Chairman R. Blair
95 Davis

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97 Vice Chair Davis stated that he would like to change the hours for Planning & Zoning
98 meetings due to his new job. Vice Chair Davis said the drive time could cause conflict with
99 the original start time of the Planning & Zoning meetings.

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101 **Commissioner Max Tyus made the motion to change Planning & Zoning meeting times**
102 **from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM; seconded by Jonathan Vickers. All agreed; motion carries.**

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104 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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106 There was none at this time.

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108 **7. OTHER BUSINESS (Council and Staff Reports)**

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110 Commissioner Max Tyus inquired about the missing meeting minutes. Town Clerk Yvonne
111 Braddock explained that the minutes were hosted online by the person formerly contracted
112 by Town of Pierson to prepare the minutes, but that access was revoked when that
113 agreement was terminated.

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115 Chairman Martel asked Mark Karet about the status of the sewer project. Mr. Karet
116 explained that the Town was still in discussion with the School Board about the location of
117 the plant and the school's connection to the system. Chairman Martel expressed his
118 dissatisfaction with the length of time it was taking for the School Board to provide an
119 answer.

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121 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (Public Participation)**

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123 There was none at this time.

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125 **9. ADJOURNED**

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127 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.**

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129 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Paul Martel, Chairman