



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 – 3:00 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

1 **1. Call meeting to order**

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3 Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne
4 Braddock to take the roll call.

5 **2. Roll call**

6 PRESENT:

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9 Mayor Gray Leonhard
10 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
11 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
12 Councilmember Linnie Richardson
13 Councilmember Brandy Peterson

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15 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith was also in attendance.

16 **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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18 Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of
19 Allegiance.

20 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

21 a. Solid waste contract and Discussion

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23 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained to the council that we are adding solid waste to the tax bill
24 and has discussed this with FCC Environmental who does all the county trash for Volusia County
25 and if we follow the county contract that we can piggyback it and they can serve our residents here
26 in Pierson. Right now, everyone pays for their own trash. GFL only serves 300 houses in Pierson.
27 Scott and I both reviewed the contract and nothing jumped out to us. GFL contract ends March
28 first and with all our issues with them they may not want to renew with us. If we put it out for RFP
29 it could turn out to be very expensive for residents. Yvonne and I met with FCC environmental,
30 and they said they already cherry pick around Pierson for the unincorporated residents would not
31 be a problem. So, to get this process started we needed council to approve us by signing a letter of
32 intent with FCC and allowing staff and our town attorney to work with them. Council member
33 Linnie Richardson has a question about dumpsters for commercial businesses. Deputy Clerk Ryan
34 Smith stated this will only be for residential accounts. Discussion ensued about the expiration date
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40 with GFL Environmental, and bills were paid until the 31st of March. That's an interesting
41 question, maybe they will pick up by March 31, 2026, and by us sometime to set up service with
42 FCC. Council member Brandy Peterson has a question about paying trash for the year. So, the
43 first time they will be billed for one year and 10 months. The County pays FCC monthly so the
44 town will have to borrow money from our reserves to pay for this until it goes on to the tax bill
45 and then reimburse the reserves. We are talking about \$200,000.00 we will need to use, which is
46 the easiest way to do it. Council member Brandy Peterson reply's with so we will pay for the first
47 year and the get it back when it goes on the tax roll. During the trim stuff we talked to Chris Rowe,
48 and this is how it was explained to us so we will be paying for it monthly. Discussion ensued.
49 Council member Linnie Richardson as if the property is not taxed, Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated
50 it is an assessment added to the tax bill so, even if you are a veteran and pay no taxes you will get
51 charged the assessment. This also would work for agriculture exemption they would still receive
52 an assessment for the 299.00. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained we will have to provide trash
53 cans for residents that do not have trash service right now. The GFL contract states the cans are
54 the towns and will still with those residents. Council member Linnie Richardson asked how much
55 the cans cost, about 50.00 so, about 15,000.00. Vice Mayor asked doesn't trash company provide
56 a trash can. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated we must follow Volusia County's contract. Charles
57 from FCC introduced Mike and explained that they can handle the town's needs for solid waste
58 service. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if they had extra trash would they pick it up. Mike answered
59 yes sir we would pick it up. Council member linnie Richardson asked about a bulk pick up and
60 Mike responded we would collect on same day as your trash. Only thing we can't pick up is like a
61 refrigerator or tires. Mike stated that you would have to call for a refrigerator or tires. Charles
62 explained that's why Volusia County liked this contract if it's out there, we will pick it up. A
63 resident has a question from audience on Vannote Road. I am paid up with GFL, and I have
64 problems with them. I am paid up with them. So, they will pick it up until then. Mayor Gray
65 Leonhard stated they are all paid up. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated they will have to pick it up
66 or they will have to refund the residents. Price wishes are about the same. Resident stated he just
67 wanted his trash to be picked up. Charles states we will pick up everything this is part of the
68 contract. I was told by Town Attorney Scott Simpson that we need to pass an ordinance, but since
69 1990's we have had an ordinance for this already. I printed a copy for all you to see it and read it.
70 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith reads the ordinance. Charles asked about commercials because they do
71 the Volusia County schools and could easily do that. They also have a facility contract so we may
72 need to piggyback that on as well for Town Dumpsters. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked if
73 town roll off is GFL, yes that is correct. Vice Mayor Greenlund brought up that if the fernery has
74 a commercial dumpster before they didn't require them to have residential trash pickup. Charles
75 from FCC states that you will be piggybacking the county contract and that is not how their
76 contract is written. Discussion ensued. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith started to discuss Ernie Peterson
77 who used to work for the Property Appraiser and for agricultural property you can request an
78 exemption from Volusia County and Charles responded that is correct. Mayor Gray Leonhard
79 asked if they have over 10 acres and Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that the point I am trying to
80 make. We have big dumpsters in Pierson. Charles explains how they would have to get exemption
81 from the county and then we will not pick up their trash. Council member Linnie Richardson
82 believes this is positive and she hopes it will clean up some of the dumping and trash being dumped
83 elsewhere. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith states that we are never going to find a trash hauler for the
84 small number of residents that we have so it's going to be whether everyone has or no one has it.
85 Your other option is an RFP and it could be like Lake Helen, the cost is way hire to make it worth

86 it to get solid waste service from a provider. Council member Linnie Richardson stated that all the
87 problems we have had with GFL and resident complaints GFL will probably be going to double
88 their amounts. Charles explains that if you put an RFP out, we wouldn't apply. Council member
89 Jimmy Anderson asked if they do Emporia because he is having an issue with his church and
90 having the parsonage trash picked up. Charles asked if someone lived there and Jimmy confirmed
91 that someone lives in it. Charles stated that the church will have to contact the county and they
92 will look it up quickly. Council member Brandy Peterson asked if we need to make a motion for
93 staff to direct staff. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that motion needs to direct the staff to work
94 with FCC towards a contract that can be brought back to the council for approval. Vice Mayor
95 Robert Greenlund asked a question if people look at their tax bill and realize that the trash that's
96 thrown everywhere and that they are paying for trash service. Discussion ensued. Charles
97 explained that they have exceptions for handicap, but you must provide proof and not have a family
98 member that could walk it to the curb. Charles explained if you go with us, it will be seamless for
99 us. Mayor Gray Leonhard explained trash pick up on Shell Harbor and the neighbor is another
100 service. Deputy Ryan Smith explained that most cities are doing an assessment of the tax bill every
101 year for the residents. If anyone gets mad, where will they move that it's not like that.
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103 **Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion for staff to explore and negotiate a
104 contract with FCC for solid waste services; seconded by Council member Jimmy Anderson.
105 All agreed, motion carries.**

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108 Mayor Gray thanked them for coming to the meeting.
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110 **Mayor Gray Leonhard asked audience and council if they had anything else and with
111 hearing no further business meeting adjourned at 3:38 P.M.**
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114 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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118 _____ Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

_____ Gray Leonhard, Mayor