



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025 – 2:00 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and asked Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

2. Roll call

PRESENT:

Mayor Gray Leonhard
Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
Councilmember Linnie R. Richardson
Councilmember Brandy Peterson

Also present was Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposed Millage Rate discussion and action

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said that historically the Town had tried to stay with the rollback millage rate, but acknowledged that it would likely need to increase. Mayor Leonhard asked how much the average resident's taxes would increase if the Town chose the highest millage rate. There was discussion regarding calculating taxes based on the millage rate.

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith reminded the Council that they were proposing a millage rate which could be lowered at the upcoming budget meeting if necessary, but could not be increased. Mr. Smith briefly summarized the estimated annual revenues for each of the millage rate options and highlighted some of the items in the upcoming budget that may necessitate increasing the revenue.

Mayor Leonhard briefly discussed an upcoming meeting with Rep. Richard Gentry and noted that he would like to speak with Mr. Gentry regarding State appropriations for road repairs.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to propose a millage rate of 5.6529 mills; seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Anderson. Motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.

The Council discussed setting dates for the tentative and final budget/TRIM meetings and agreed on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5:01 P.M. for the tentative budget meeting, and Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 5:01 P.M for the final budget meeting.

[It was discovered the day following the Special Meeting that the TRIM timetable would not allow a tentative budget hearing date prior to September 4, 2025. The decision was made to re-schedule the tentative budget hearing for Monday, September 8, 2025 at 5:01 P.M., and the final budget hearing for Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:01 P.M.]

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained the Volusia County Fire District and its effect on the Town's maximum millage rate.

The Council discussed annexing additional properties into Pierson to increase the tax base.

5. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor