



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 – 6:00 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and asked Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

2. Roll call

PRESENT:

- Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett
- Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
- Councilmember Sergia Cardenas
- Councilmember Linnie Richardson
- Councilmember Brandy Peterson

Councilmember Sergia Cardenas was in attendance but arrived after the meeting had been called to order.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bennett gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget workshop and millage rate first reading – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

Mayor Bennett stated that Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith had been working on the budget and turned the meeting over to him for a summary.

- b. Budget summary

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith gave a summary of the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Mr. Smith explained that due to a loss in revenue from ARPA funds, as well as increases in insurance and the contract with Volusia County Sheriff, the Town would need to adopt the proposed millage rate of 5.2439. Mr. Smith said that even with this millage rate, the Town would be required to use reserve funds from a prior year to balance the FY2025 budget.

- c. General Fund report

Mr. Smith first presented the General Fund budget, explaining that most revenue and expenditure figures were based on the actual numbers from FY2024. Mr. Smith highlighted

47 that there were increases in multiple areas, notably a \$15,000.00 annual increase in the
48 Volusia Sheriff contract. Mr. Smith stressed that the Town should focus on ways of increasing
49 revenue in Fiscal Year 2025, such as increasing permit fees and ensuring that the Town was
50 being reimbursed for services provided.

51

52 Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked about a Worker's Compensation insurance increase
53 despite the Town having no claims. Mr. Smith explained that it was an industry-wide
54 insurance increase and was not related to the Town specifically.

55

56 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the proposed millage rate**
57 **of 5.2439; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. Motion carries on a roll call**
58 **vote 5-0.**

59

60 d. Water Fund report

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62 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith presented the proposed FY2025 Water Fund budget to the Council.
63 Mr. Smith noted that the CDBG grant funds were mostly exhausted, but that SRF grant funds
64 for the wastewater treatment plant design might be received if work continued on the project.
65 Mr. Smith said most Water Fund items were straightforward and included treatment and
66 maintenance costs to the water system, as well as expenses allocated from the General Fund
67 such as percentages of payroll, legal, and auditing costs. Mr. Smith noted that water rate
68 increases should be assessed.

69

70 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that costs would increase when the new wells were
71 finally brought online. Mr. Smith acknowledged that both treatment and operating costs
72 would likely double when the new well site was operational.

73

74 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the General Fund budget as**
75 **written in the amount of \$1,139,111.00 with the understanding that the Volusia Sheriff**
76 **contract amount would be updated; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson.**
77 **Motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.**

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79 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the Water Fund budget as**
80 **written in the amount of \$455,450.00; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson.**
81 **Motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.**

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83 e. Proposed C.O.L.A. rates

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85 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith presented a proposed Cost of Living Adjustment of 3% for Town
86 staff. Mr. Smith stated that Volusia County had approved a 5% increase.

87

88 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the 3% C.O.L.A. increase**
89 **for Town staff; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion**
90 **carries.**

91

92 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to hold the final budget and millage**
93 **rate meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM; seconded by Councilmember**
94 **Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

95

96 **5. ADJOURNED**

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98 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.**

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100 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor