



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 – 5:01 PM
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 Richardson
Councilmember Brandy Peterson

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. TRIM/millage rate discussion

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith to summarize the millage rate and budget. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith reminded Council that they had selected a preliminary flat millage rate of 5.2439 which is 6.64% higher than the rolled-back millage rate of 4.9172.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked the difference in revenue between the rolled-back millage rate and the flat rate. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said it was approximately \$20,000 – 25,000 dollars. Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that with a tight budget, every dollar mattered.

b. General Fund budget discussion

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith noted that the proposed budget had not changed since the preliminary budget meeting on September 8, 2025. Mr. Smith said that the Volusia Sheriff's Office had sent a proposed contract earlier in the afternoon, which would require a budget amendment in the new fiscal year if the contract were approved by Council at its next meeting. Mr. Smith noted that the budget for law enforcement would be reduced from \$345,522 dollars

to \$200,000 dollars, reducing the Town's expenditures and eliminating the need to use reserve money to balance the budget.

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith again stressed the need to find ways of increasing revenue in the upcoming fiscal year but noted that Pierson's options were limited. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she had met with Deputy Clerk Smith and Town Planner Mark Karet to discuss annexing more properties into the Town which would increase ad valorem tax revenue.

Mr. Smith also discussed exploring more grants to help fund Town projects.

c. Water Fund budget discussion

Mr. Smith said the new water rates passed by the Town Council were included in the estimated revenue for the FY 2025-2026 budget. Mr. Smith briefly summarized the expenses from FY 2024-2025 including substantial water tower upgrades, finalizing the new water treatment plant, and hiring CWS as the Town's new water operator. Mr. Smith said that money spent on a wastewater treatment plant design was reimbursed dollar-for-dollar by a State Revolving Fund grant, but reminded Council that a portion of that design grant included a loan which the Town would begin paying back in FY 2025-2026.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked how much was in the Water Fund reserves. Mr. Smith said approximately \$200,000 dollars. Mr. Smith said the Town should start putting more money into reserves so that the Water Fund carried at least twelve months' worth of reserves.

d. Resolution 2025-14 – FY 2025-2026 Final Millage Rate

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith read Resolution 2025-14:

A Resolution of the Town of Pierson of Volusia County, Florida, adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for Volusia County for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 final operating millage rate is 5.2439 mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 4.9172 mills by 6.64%.

Councilmember Linnie R. Richardson made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-14 which adopts the final operating millage rate of 5.2439 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Anderson. The motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.

e. Resolution 2025-15 – FY 2025-2026 Final General Fund Budget

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith read Resolution 2025-15:

A Resolution of the Town of Pierson of Volusia County, Florida, adopting the final budget for the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The Town of Pierson set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,234,302.00.

87 **Councilmember Linnie R. Richardson made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-15**
88 **which adopts the final budget for the General Fund in the amount of \$1,234,302.00 for**
89 **Fiscal Year 2025-2026; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. The motion**
90 **carries on a roll call vote 5-0.**

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92 f. Resolution 2025-16 – FY 2025-2026 Final Water Fund Budget

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94 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith read Resolution 2025-16:

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96 *A Resolution of the Town of Pierson of Volusia County, Florida, adopting the final budget for*
97 *the Water Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The Town of Pierson set forth the appropriations*
98 *and revenue estimate for the Water Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of*
99 *\$482,065.00.*

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101 **Vice Mayor Robert F. Greenlund made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-16 which**
102 **adopts the final budget for the Water Fund in the amount of \$482,065.00 for Fiscal Year**
103 **2025-2026; seconded by Councilmember Linnie R. Richardson. The motion carries on a**
104 **roll call vote 5-0.**

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106 **5. ADJOURNED**

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108 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM.**

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110 Minutes prepared by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Gray Leonhard, Mayor