



TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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7 **1. Call meeting to order**
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9 Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.
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11 **2. Roll call**
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13 PRESENT:

14 Mayor Gray Leonhard
15 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
16 Councilmember Linnie Richardson
17 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
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19 Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock, Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith, and Town Attorney Scott Simpson
20 were also in attendance. Councilmember Brandy Peterson was absent.
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22 **3. NEW BUSINESS**
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24 a. Mike Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff
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26 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said the Town had issues which had gone unaddressed or
27 handled improperly. Councilmember Richardson discussed an ongoing issue in which there
28 are loud parties with large numbers of attendees, eventually leading to many rounds of gunfire
29 in the early hours of the morning. Councilmember Richardson said she had called in a
30 weapons complaint and noise complaint during one of the parties, and explained to dispatch
31 how the Town's ordinances worked. Councilmember Richardson said someone was going to
32 eventually die.
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34 Sheriff Chitwood said the 4th Amendment prohibits the VSO from going onto private
35 property. Mayor Leonhard said he could hear fully automatic gunfire from his house at certain
36 times. Sheriff Chitwood stated that it could be heard all over the county, but that VSO could
37 not go onto private property without a warrant.
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39 Sheriff Chitwood said there was not a lot that VSO could do because the State had taken away
40 the enforcement authority from local jurisdictions. Councilmember Richardson asked what
41 the protocol was when a weapons complaint was called in. Sheriff Chitwood said if an
42 individual was walking down a public street with a gun, they would be arrested, but the VSO
43 could not go onto private property. Sheriff Chitwood noted that a noise complaint was
44 different and that could be addressed more easily.
45

Town Attorney Scott Simpson asked if there was anything the Town could do to help the VSO, in terms of adopting regulations. Sheriff Chitwood said the Town could investigate how it was going to handle large gatherings of people.

Sheriff Chitwood said if a party was advertised on social media, a pop-up event ordinance could be used to shut down an unpermitted event. Sheriff Chitwood discussed other options such as heavier traffic enforcement if an unpermitted gathering was taking place.

Town Attorney Scott Simpson discussed noise ordinances in other municipalities and how noise is measured. Mr. Simpson asked the VSO if they had meters for measuring noise levels; VSO confirmed that they did.

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked what would happen if a resident fired a weapon on their personal property, but the ammunition crossed the property line and hit something on a neighboring property. Vice Mayor Greenlund said he no longer stays on his property during New Years because his neighbors kept him up all night long with shooting through his property. Vice Mayor Greenlund asked if there were any laws on the books for that scenario.

Vice Mayor Greenlund asked if a mound or berm was required by law if there was shooting on a property. Sheriff Chitwood said that was required for a gun range. Mayor Leonhard said all the issues in Town could be considered celebratory gunfire and the problem is that no one knows which direction they are shooting.

Sheriff Chitwood discussed a plan to include extra patrols, potential aerial surveillance, and the Town passing an ordinance regulating pop-up events or large gatherings.

Town Attorney Scott Simpson cited Florida Statute 790.15(4) which makes it a misdemeanor to recreationally discharge a firearm in a primarily residential area with a residential density of one unit per acre, but explained that certain agricultural areas of Town would not meet that density.

Sheriff Chitwood said he would come back in 30 days and offer some suggestions based on what VSO found. Sheriff Chitwood and the Council agreed to host a workshop versus add it to a regular Council Meeting agenda. Sheriff Chitwood provided the Council with his personal cell phone number and said to call or text him if something came up and they were not getting an adequate response. Mayor Leonhard said he had a difficult time reaching VSO; Sheriff Chitwood admitted that the non-emergency number was difficult.

4. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 1:31 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Ryan Smith, Deputy Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor