



## TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 – 4:00 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 4:02 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne  
10 Braddock to take the roll call.  
11

12       **2. Roll call**  
13

14       PRESENT:

15               Mayor Gray Leonhard  
16               Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund  
17               Councilmember Jimmy Anderson  
18               Councilmember Linnie Richardson  
19               Councilmember Brandy Peterson  
20

21 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith was also in attendance.  
22

23       **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**  
24

25 Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge  
26 of Allegiance.  
27

28       **4. NEW BUSINESS**  
29

- 30               a. Volusia Sheriff's Office contract discussion – Linnie R. Richardson -  
31               Councilwoman  
32

33 Councilmember Richardson started out with the town is in trouble, we are not getting our  
34 money's worth. Three examples in the past five years. The first example was a sheriff sitting  
35 at a resident's home feet propped up. Prior Mayor called sheriff and after a meeting played  
36 the voicemail where they stated that IA looked into it and found nothing alarming and it was  
37 Sheriff's sister's house. Second example I set up a game camera at my house because of  
38 poaching issues and poacher called sheriffs office and they came and gave my game camera  
39 from my property to the resident who was poaching. Third example I gave three affidavits  
40 that were going to be given to the state attorney's office, and I called the state attorney's  
41 office, and they had no record of any of them.  
42

43       Vice Mayor Greenlund states we are not getting \$300,000.00 worth of service.  
44

45 Councilmember Richardson read part of charter section three that states we shall have the  
46 right, it means we don't have to have to?

Town attorney Scott Simpson states that per state constitution, the town does not have to pay sheriffs. Councilmember Peterson stated that the contract says two sheriffs, but we only get one. Mayor Leonhard states that they are counting the zone deputy into our contract.

Deputy Clerk Smith states we get one deputy for twelve hours and when we called about the ditch on Hagstrom we were told our deputy wasn't available, but he could call us. He was in Astor for a suicide

Town attorney Scott Simpson said he reads contract as two officers for twelve-hour shifts meaning twenty-four-hour coverage. Mayor Leonhard asks, so we have twenty-four-hour coverage. Town attorney Scott Simpson states that is what I read. Councilmember Brandy Peterson states we never have a deputy in the morning. Town attorney Scott Simpson states that according to your contract you should have twenty-four-hour service from the sheriff's office.

Mayor Leonhard stated that there was an emergency in Barberville, a motorcycle accident and our deputy George Carbajal directed traffic for three hours. He did not service Pierson for that time period, and we were not refunded for that time.

Councilmember Richardson asked if we abolish our contract do, they still enforce municipal law. Town attorney Scott Simpson responded with a no. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked the council if they ever enforced our ordinances. The council gave several instances when they gave excuses as to why they cannot.

Town attorney Scott Simpson explained that he recommends they give 180 days' notice which will bring us to new budget in October, I would not mention negotiations in termination, request clarification on two deputies and put that we get credit when deputies are pulled away from Pierson.

Deputy clerk Ryan Smith stated that on back page of 2024-25 cost from sheriff's office it comes down to sixty something dollars which is one deputy. VCSO millage rate Pierson residents are paying 141,000.00 in property taxes already before our contract.

Councilmember Jimmy Anderson stated all they do is sit around town doing nothing. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that he was at a family function at Pierson Community center and when he arrived at 12 in the afternoon the deputy was sitting in the back of the park and when he left at 6pm the sheriff deputy was still sitting in same spot.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked Councilmember Jimmy Anderson how it was when we had our own sheriff. Councilmember Anderson said that George Leary was pulling a lot of stuff like using a town vehicle to go to Tallahassee and releasing his pigeons during work hours and council did nothing. Vice Mayor Greenlund said that the arrest process he had to follow would take hours and Mayor Leonhard stated it was a problem with supervision and controlling issues.

Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock asked the Town attorney if we could put in contract a quota

94 for town revenue, we receive a month or how many tickets are produced. Town Attorney  
95 Scott Simpson said we can put in the minimum amount of revenue per month.  
96  
97 Councilmember Peterson asked if we are required to give them a substation. Deputy Clerk  
98 Ryan Smith responded with a yes and it's in all Sherriff's contracts.  
99  
100 Councilmember Peterson stated that the town needs to increase its borders. Vice Mayor  
101 Greenlund says to increase from 40 to 305 to Lake George to the left.  
102  
103 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked what we should tell them the reason is, the budget. Vice  
104 Mayor Greenlund states we can't afford it, it's a third of our budget.  
105  
106 Councilmember Richardson says our ordinances are out the window. Town Attorney Scott  
107 Simpson says no, we just must find a way to enforce them.  
108  
109 Town council agrees to add this to next agenda 180 days termination letter for Sherriff  
110 services. Town attorney Scott Simpson says we just need to be careful how this is handled  
111 and if we can reach a cost that works for the Town.  
112  
113 Discussion about creating a fire ban occurs.  
114  
115 Mayor Gray Leonhard asks if they have anything else to discuss,  
116  
117

## 118 **5. ADJOURNED**

119  
120 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:51 P.M.**

121  
122 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

123  
124  
125  
126 \_\_\_\_\_  
Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

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Gray Leonhard, Mayor