



TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025 – 5:30 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 5:30 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne
10 Braddock to take the roll call.
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12 **2. Roll call**
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14 PRESENT:

15 Mayor Gray Leonhard
16 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
17 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
18 Councilmember Linnie Richardson
19 Councilmember Brandy Peterson
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21 Town Planner Mark Karet was in attendance.
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23 **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
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25 Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge
26 of Allegiance.
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28 **4. NEW BUSINESS**
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30 a. Airport Workshop Discussion leases, proposals and cost
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32 Doug Karlson from Deland Florida stated he wanted to build a private building and is looking
33 to lease some land and possibly maintain the runway at the airport.
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35 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund Stated that it would be in the towns best interest to possibly
36 rent this gentleman some land on the north side of the airport.
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38 Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated that the airport has only cost us and taxpayers
39 money, and that we should start to require first, last and a security deposit. We also spent all
40 this money and time on evicting a tenant and now he has passed away, and we are dealing
41 with his wife.
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43 Mayor Gray Leonhard, we should do a lease agreement or an RFP for 5 to 10 years with a
44 credit check, get something concrete. RFP request for proposal would be the best way to go.
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Vice Mayor Greenlund stated he wanted to hear what everyone present has to say because maybe something could be done.

Doug Karlson stated if he could be granted access to the runway at the airport from property he is trying to acquire Big Loraine beside the airport.

Town Planner Mark Karet stated that Big Loraine is land locked and not accessible.

Kurt Seaphelp stated that he runs a flight training school and would like to know what the town is planning to do with the airport, and if they lease it, if we would still handle the maintenance of the airport and who does it now.

Councilmember Richardson stated that whoever leases it will handle the maintenance of the airport and follow FDOT and FFA regulations.

Vice Mayor Greenlund answered Kurt with right now the town handles the mowing and asked if the Emery Riddle guy was him.

Councilmember Brandy Peterson stated that this gentleman builds vintage planes.

Mayor Leonhard stated he walked the airport with a gentleman from Emery Riddle and that he would need a longer runway and would need to pave the runway, so he showed no interest in our airport.

Kurt Seaphelp stated he runs an LLC called Barefoot Flying club and he is a flight instructor and plane maintenance guy.

Councilmember Richardson stated that we should just do an RFP and what does Town Planner Mark Karet think. Town Planner Karet stated he thinks an RFP is a good idea, and that the airport would gain revenue and make for a more active airport.

Councilmember Richardson stated that we have a school to the north and one to the south and a sports complex across the street and is fearful of a more active airport. Town planner Mark Karet stated that having the fuel would be added income and Councilmember Richardson stated her fear of that. Vice Mayor Greenlund stated we have fuel all over Pierson at ferneries and businesses and it's no different. Mayor Leonhards stated we have fuel at the wells right by the airport and across the street at the new wells.

Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that he will get with the Town Attorney, Town Planner and Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith to work on an RFP and thinks we will have more interest than the Council thinks.

Mayor Leonhard asked if anyone had anything else to say and asked the audience if they had anything else to say.

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5. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:56 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor