



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. 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 was excused. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith and the Volusia County Sheriff were also in attendance.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mayor Gray Leonhard

a. Regular Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025

Mayor Gray Leonhard read the title and asked if there were any additions or deletions, if not he would entertain a motion for approval.

Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert F. Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pierson Community Food Pantry – Heather Letendre

The name of the food pantry has changed to Pierson Community food pantry; we are in need of food assistance our grants have run out. The Christian Community Association has donated

40 \$250.00 dollars. We serve about 300 families in our area. We were hoping to set up a food box,
41 possibly at the town center, for non-perishable foods like canned meat and canned vegetable. We
42 need any help we can get, I have gone to local churches and businesses asking for support. The
43 lady that handled this has passed away and we are starting new. Lester Pulley stated that we are
44 the only food bank in area and we have exhausted our grant funds we received. Discussion ensued.
45 Resident Sue Elliott stated they do a very good job and that the money has dried up. Council stated
46 they can put a box up here and we will make residents aware of the need for non-perishable food
47 for our community food bank.

48

49 b. AM Mug Shots Coffee/ food truck at Town Center – Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock

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51 Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock started off with that we received an email asking if she can put her
52 food truck up at town center a few times a week in our parking lot to sell her goods. She was here
53 for our Christmas celebration. Discussion ensued amongst the council. Councilmember Linni
54 Richardson stated if we allow one, we must allow them all. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated we don't
55 have the parking spaces for this and council agreed. Discussion ensued. Vice Mayor asked if we
56 could send her a letter and explain that if we do for one, we must do for all, and we just don't have
57 any available parking for this with the other businesses we have up here.

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59 c. Water billing method clarification and discussion – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

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61 If you use 4000 gallons it will round up to 5000 gallons, only reason I brought this up is because I
62 was contacted by a resident that had a concern about increase on their bill. Resident Sherry
63 Whidden stated why do we round it up and that it's more cost out of our pockets. Vice Mayor
64 Robert Greenlund and Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that it has always been this way since the 90's.
65 Sherry Whidden then asked why such an increase in October, our bill used to be 70 something
66 dollars and now its 90 something. Councilmember Jimmy Anderson stated that his bill has
67 increased from 20 dollars a month to 50 something dollars a month. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated
68 everyone's bill increased including ours and we just pay it I do use my well to water my yard and
69 plants with and that does cut the cost down. The cost of everything is going up the chlorine, water
70 maintenance and this is only the 2-water rate increase since the 90's. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
71 stated that we should have been doing a water rate increase yearly and gradually so it wants such
72 a shock to residents and that's the council's fault. I know this doesn't resolve your problem but
73 that's the answer we have. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if anyone else has anything else to say on
74 this matter.

75

76 d. Airport RFP results and Discussion – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

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78 We received 3 RFP's the one was to help us grow the airport at a cost of 85,000 dollars to the town
79 for the first year. One other was to be an airport manager and build up the airport trying to get
80 grants, but we tried that prior with an airport manager. We really haven't explored trying for grants
81 for the airport. Then we have UF Health and Med trans that wants to put a helicopter pad and a
82 living pod for Shands to service Volusia County at our airport. The mayor and I have met with
83 them a few times and they are present. Mr. Allen introduces himself and partner and stated that
84 this would be mutually beneficial to them and us and that from our airport they would be able to
85 service 4 counties. Town Attorney asked if it would make that portion of airport taxable and Mr.

86 Allen stated that he doesn't know that answer and would have to find out from partner. Vice Mayor
87 Robert F. Greenlund stated this would be a great contribution to our town and all the residents in
88 the surrounding areas. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated it would also generate some income for the
89 town. Town Planner Mark Karet asked how many flights per day, and Mr. Allen answered 3-5 per
90 day is what we averaged so, some days it could be one and other days it could be 3, it varies day
91 to day. Mr. Allen stated it would be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, helicopter serviced we will
92 have a pod placed that will have 3 bedrooms and office and common space to be used by the staff.
93 Town Planner Mark Karet asked where they would be fueling up at, and the response was Deland
94 or Daytona. Town Attorney Scott Simpson asked will it interfere with the runway at all and they
95 stated no. Discussion ensued about the rezoning and getting a survey and Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith
96 stated it really needs to be rezoned and have its own address. Mr. Allen stated we are going before
97 Volusia County Council on the 20th of this month, and it would be about 90 days after that for
98 completion. Council stated so in April. Mr. Allen responded with a yes. Discussion ensued about
99 the rezoning and Town Planner Mark Karet was asked if it had to be rezoned prior to completion
100 and he stated no but we need to get working on this now. Deputy Ryan Smith asked if he could
101 sign the letter of intent to get the process started and he would send a group email out including
102 Mark Karet and Scott Simpson. UF Health thanked the council and handed out business cards to
103 the council.

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105 **6. OTHER BUSINESS (Mayor, Council and Staff Reports)**

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107 Mayor Gray Leonhard stated he had nothing at this time. Vice Mayor Robert F. Greenlund started
108 off with the idea that the sidewalk at the park was fixed by Billy Schmidt today and he did in fact
109 use the rebar as discussed at the prior meeting. Councilmember Jimmy Anderson stated he had
110 nothing at this time. Councilmember Linnie Richardson thanked the mayor and continued with the
111 Volusia County Animal Control bill and that she thinks this should be an emergency item. The bill
112 for three months is 11,876.80 and when Halifax stopped taking animals and Volusia County built
113 building for animals, I am not sure what to do but this is a lot of money. Town attorney Scott
114 Simpson stated that this is a county wide problem since Halifax closed its doors to stray animals.
115 Council Member Linnie Richards said they took in 52 animals from Pierson now is that all of
116 Pierson or just the Town of Pierson. Discussion ensued. Town Attorney Scott Simpson stated we
117 need to look at the contract and did we receive an updated contract for this facility and charges.
118 We also need to request from Animal Control supporting documents with addresses to confirm
119 this is just the Town of Pierson. Town Attorney Scott Simpson asked staff to send an email request
120 to them for supporting documents.

121

122 Councilmember Linnie Richardson continued with "we need to do something about people
123 defecating on bathroom floors in park restrooms". This is becoming a weekly issue. Vice Mayor
124 Robert F. Greenlund stated we need to put cameras up at doors outside and he was advised we
125 already have them, and they take 5000 pictures a day and public works can look at them on their
126 phones but how do you determine who is the guilty party. Councilmember Jimmy Anderson said
127 that the sheriff office used to close the bathrooms at sundown and the park gates, but they kept
128 changing officers and eventually keys got lost but now they are combination locks. Discussion
129 ensued about having someone closing them at sundown and paying overtime for 30 minutes a day
130 to complete this task. They also asked town attorney if cameras can be placed in common area of
131 bathroom not the stalls and he stated he does not know. Town Attorney Scott Simpson asked if we

132 could use automatic locks on the door and council stated that this could be a solution but voiced
133 concern about someone getting locked in the bathroom. Councilmember Linnie Richardson
134 brought up scheduling and employee/handbook workshop and what days did everyone have
135 available. Decision was made for January 22 at 4 PM. Councilmember Linnie Richardson thanked
136 Mark Karet and Zev Cohen for the employee Christmas dinner and then Mayor Gray Leonhard
137 thanked Mary Kay and Chris Hansen for the pickle ball courts and that he went by and 8 people
138 were playing and he is glad that the tennis courts are being used again.
139

140 Resident Mary Kay Hansen stated that water was sitting on side of court and was going to get
141 someone to trench it so the water could drain and if public works could flag the sprinklers on that
142 side. Councilmember Jimmy Anderson stated that it would not be a problem and that the boys
143 could use the tractor to dig a ditch out so that it drained. Mayor Gray Leonhard came back with
144 the culvert repair on East Washington is already washing out and had pictures on phone stated he
145 spoke with Louis Trivitt, and he will come out and look at it.
146

147 Town Planner Mark Karet gave update that he will be here on the 15th to meet with residents about
148 their zoning questions and concerns. Mayor asked Scott Simpson if he had anything and Scott
149 responded with a no. Mayor asked staff if they had anything, no. Vice Mayor Robert F. Greenlund
150 stated on the behalf of the Town of Pierson we send our condolences to Chris Hansens family and
151 discussed that Dodee was Tom Larrivee's wife and he was on our council.
152

153 **Mayor Gray Leonhard asked audience and council if they had anything else and with**
154 **hearing no further business meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.**
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157 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor