



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 – 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

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 January 6, 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.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed, motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Audit Report – Jim Ashby of Weston and Gregory

35 This is the audit for year-end for September 2025, if you turn to page one and two of your report
36 you will see we have 2 government funds and water funds. Jim Ashby continued with the report
37 and the town assets cash, equipment and property 3397Million. Florida Retirement System was

38 245,000, the fund is under funded and if it went away, you would be responsible for that amount,
39 but the fund is strong and don't see that happening. You have 4.5 million in fixed assets. If you
40 turn to page 10 Income and expenses, you will see a decrease from last year and it's explained by
41 the sale of the bank building and ARPA funds. General funds decreased by 82,000 dollars due to
42 revenue is down. Page 15-16 Water Fund. You received the best rating for this year because
43 essentially you want to break even, you have very little debt with the purchase of the tractor.
44 Overall, you are in good condition. Jim Ashby asked the council if they have any questions and
45 they thanked him for his report.

46

47 b. Recommendation from Charter Review Committee – Town Attorney Scott
48 Simpson

49 Scott Simpson briefly described the process for approval of Charter review committees'
50 recommendations. That they can accept all changes or some of the changes or they can add to the
51 changes. He explained how it would go on the ballot a one item or the can break it down into
52 questions, but if you put it as one item it can be all or nothing. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
53 asked how many questions you can add, and Town Attorney Scott Simpson explained the
54 process. He then continued going through changes section by section. Section three explains the
55 power of the city and how after home rule came into effect you now look to charter for
56 restrictions. The charter becomes more of a granting document. Town Marshall and town
57 treasure are removed because they no longer exist or are used. He went into section about who
58 can run for council and how they would qualify. Explain how you need to be a little more
59 specific about how we conduct elections. He continued with forfeiture of office. How to fill a
60 vacancy and that they have three ways appointment, leave empty or a special election. Page six is
61 simplifying the title, Mayor. Deputy clerk Ryan Smith explained that the town used to have a
62 non-voting Mayor and that it was changed to a voting Mayor. Last change is how you follow
63 sunshine law for meetings and that state law says you must give 24-hour notice for a meeting and
64 that the 3-hour rule no longer applies. You must also follow state law when advertising. We need
65 to get this to Lisa Lewis in elections by August 18, 2026, to get on the November Ballot. Now
66 you must decide if you are satisfied or want to make changes or break it up or submit it new
67 charter. 75 words to describe it on the ballot and that's not a lot. Mayor Gray Leonhard maybe
68 change the language to a revision of the charter following state law or updated language.
69 Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked Town Attorney Scott Simpson for his opinion to break
70 it up or submit whole. He stated his preference would be to submit it as all or nothing. You can
71 have workshops to inform the public of the changes. Mayor Gray Leonhard states he believes it
72 should be all or nothing and asked council what their opinion is. Councilmember Linnie
73 Richardson and Vice Mayor Greenlund agree that all or nothing is good with them. Town
74 Attorney Scott Simpson asked if council wanted him to bring back a summary for the election
75 for them to approve and they all agreed.

76 c. Laptop for Emergency Management Purposes - Mayor Gray Leonhard
77 The person that is working with emergency management should have a laptop to communicate
78 with them. Council agreed.

79 **Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve getting a quote and pricing**
80 **for a new laptop: seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.**

81
82 d. Water bill 145 Echo Street forgiveness request – Resident Kelsey Beasley
83
84 Kelsey Beasley starts with the house has been vacant since 2021; the account has accrued monthly
85 charges and late fees. I want to bring it up to good standing and pay it off and place it in my name,
86 but I paid a year ago and it's over 700.00 dollars again. I know in prior years you have forgiven
87 water bill or removed the late fees so that is why I am here. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund states
88 that yes in the past we have forgiven late fees or bills. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if the house is
89 vacant. Kelsey Waters replied yes and it needs a lot of work done to it and we are hoping in the
90 future to fix it and possibly move one of our children into it. Council discussion ensued and Deputy
91 Clerk Ryan Smith stated 362.00 if we remove all the late fees and charges.

92
93 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve the late fees being removed and**
94 **have a payment of \$362.00: seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Anderson. All agreed,**
95 **motion carries.**

96
97 e. Water Intrusion at Community Center – Mayor Gray Leonhard
98

99 It looks like at some point the pressure tank fitting broke and it sprayed water into the community
100 center and it flooded it in there. We need to fix the wall where the water enters the community
101 center.

102
103 f. Airport Surveying and Rezoning – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith
104

105 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith discussed with council that we need to conduct a survey and get the
106 airport rezoned because right now it is one parcel with Chipper Jones Park. Since we are working
107 to get the emergency helicopter out there, it needs to be done.

108
109 **Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve Efird Surveying to survey**
110 **the airport: seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.**

111
112 g. RCM Utilities quote install sample points and replace two commercial meters -
113 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith.

114
115 Tabled until next meeting

116
117 **6. OTHER BUSINESS (Mayor, Council, and Staff Reports)**

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119 Mayor Gray Leonhard started off with the Volusia League of Cities Dinner in July. Town Clerk
120 Yvonne Braddock explained that her and Council member Linnie Richardson met with Crystal

121 Ward from 1928 Meat & Kitchen to cater the event and explained the quote to the council. Mayor
122 Gray Leonhard stated he would like to use someone from our town. The council agreed
123

124

125 **Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve 1928 Meat & Kitchen to cater**
126 **the Volusia League of Cities Dinner in July: seconded by Council Member Jimmy Anderson.**
127 **All agreed, motion carries.**

128

129 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked about helicopter coming to airport and Deputy Clerk Ryan
130 Smith explained that they were meeting with Volusia County for their permit and we should know
131 tonight. Council member Jimmy Anderson asked about removal of old desk that sat on stage and
132 if they could throw that out. Council agreed and Mayor Gray Leonhard also stated we need to
133 dispose of those water fountains. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund suggested that he would call Jim
134 Cowart to see if he wanted to come get that stuff and the extra air conditioners because he was
135 hurting for money and looking for some side work. Council agreed. Council member Linnie
136 Richardson explained that the cell tower is still not working, and she called again and they stated
137 that a plane would not run into it. It is scheduled to be repaired in the next few weeks. Council
138 member Brandy Peterson asked about should we get food trucks for the 4th of July since we are
139 like six months out and we can ask Kim about soulisious and Senor Peppers the council agreed.
140 Council member Linnie Richardson reminded council that ethics training was coming up and that
141 we need to get signed up. Town Attorney Scott Simpson had nothing at this time. Town Planner
142 Mark Karet stated he will be here for the Planning and Zoning next week and he will be here on
143 February 5th to meet with residents about their zoning questions.

144

145 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained that we have a little snag with the garbage, he was contacted
146 by GFL and Skip stated that in RFP it states a renewal clause and if we did it on the tax bill it
147 would be a lot easier for them so he will be on the next agenda. He continued, explaining what
148 Ernie Peterson does and how he collects data from the property appraiser's website to locate all
149 the homes in Pierson. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained the cost and Council member Linnie
150 Richardson deemed this an emergency.

151 **Council Member Brandy Peterson made a motion to approve Ernie Peterson working for**
152 **the Town of Pierson to collect data on homes in Pierson for trash services: seconded by Vice**
153 **Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.**

154

155 **Mayor Gray Leonhard asked audience and council if they had anything else and with**
156 **hearing no further business meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.**

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159 Minutes prepared by:

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Minutes approved by:

Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor