



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and asked Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith 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

Also present were Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock, Town Attorney Scott Simpson, Town Planner Mark Karet, and Volusia Sheriff’s Office.

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 January 21, 2025
- b. Workshop January 23, 2025

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

Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2024 End of Year Crime Report presentation – Volusia Sheriff’s Office

Lieutenant Adam Huffman of Volusia Sheriff’s Office gave a slideshow presentation highlighting the 2024 crime and enforcement statistics for the Town. Lieutenant Huffman

47 said there were a total of 4,619 calls for service, with 698 traffic stops and 161 citations or
48 warnings issued. Lieutenant Huffman explained that while drug-related calls increased from
49 the previous year, there were no deaths from overdoses in Pierson. There were 41 reported
50 persons crimes and 22 property crimes investigated. Volusia Sheriff's Office cleared nearly
51 90% of persons crimes and 50% of property crimes. The national average for persons crimes
52 clearance is 40%, while property crimes clearance is 15%.

53

54 b. Field updates and Opening Day Ceremonies – Northwest Volusia Little League

55

56 Northwest Volusia Little League proposed a March 8, 2025 opening ceremony at 10:00 A.M.
57 The League said there would be eight teams this season. Northwest Volusia Little League
58 would like to have vendors, food trucks, and carnival games at the opening ceremony to help
59 raise money for the League and encourage more community involvement. Mayor Gray
60 Leonhard was asked if he would like to throw the first pitch on Opening Day.

61

62 Northwest Volusia Little League asked if they could place a banner over Highway 17 to
63 advertise the event. Council explained that the post for the banner was on private property and
64 belonged to Mr. William Bittorf.

65

66 Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked if the League was still preparing its schedules. The
67 League stated that they were finalizing the schedules and would have approximately 75 home
68 games.

69

70 Mayor Leonhard spoke about dragging the clay on the fields. Mayor Leonhard stated that
71 Volusia County Parks & Recreation was considering letting the Town use the machinery, and
72 noted that the League might be able to drag the fields. Lindsay Link of Northwest Volusia
73 Little League highlighted the costs for materials to line and chalk the fields and said she did
74 not know if the League would have enough manpower to drag and line the fields. Mayor
75 Leonhard said he hoped the League would be able to take on this responsibility, noting that
76 the League currently uses the fields at no charge. Mayor Leonhard said he did not want to
77 charge Little League, but it may be necessary if the Town had to pay someone to drag the clay
78 and maintain the fields.

79

80 Ms. Link said the League was able to get concrete poles donated to replace the dilapidated
81 wooden poles at Chipper Jones Park. Ms. Link said the new sod on the infields was doing well
82 and that Stacy Jones had seeded the outfields.

83

84 Ms. Link said the League might have to do more fundraising or increase its dues to cover
85 expenses.

86

87 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said a lot of high school students needed volunteer hours
88 and suggested those students could line fields or help with other field-related tasks.

89

90 c. Wastewater Treatment Plant scope of work change – Town Planner Mark
91 Karet, Zev Cohen

92

93 Town Planner Mark Karet reminded the Council of a presentation by Brad Blais of Mead &
94 Hunt from a recent meeting, outlining a change in scope to the wastewater treatment plant
95 design.

96

97 Mr. Karet explained that the scope of work did not change the overall loan or grant amounts,
98 but that it did reallocate funds from a contingency line item to cover increased surveying
99 costs.

100

101 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to proceed with the change to the**
102 **scope of work; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. Motion carries on a roll call**
103 **vote 5-0.**

104

105 d. Vacating Lee Street north of Washington Avenue to Myrtle Street – Mayor
106 Gray Leonhard

107

108 Mayor Leonhard said he was approached by a citizen who wanted the Town to clear a
109 fifty-foot right-of-way along the west side of the Methodist cemetery. Mayor Leonhard said
110 he was not sure this road was an extension of Lee Street and felt the road was cemetery
111 property. Mayor Leonhard said he did not think this was a street that was maintained by the
112 Town.

113

114 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she did not feel the road in question was an extension
115 of Lee Street. The Council discussed whether the road was marked. Mark Karet stated that the
116 Town maps were pulled from county GIS. Resident Lester Pulley said his map showed the
117 road named as Lee Street.

118

119 Vice Mayor Greenlund asked how to determine whether the road was a platted Town road.
120 Mr. Karet said it could be researched, but noted that the Town was not required to maintain
121 any road. Mayor Leonhard said that there were platted roads all over Pierson and Volusia
122 County that were not maintained.

123

124 Vice Mayor Greenlund said a survey would show who owned the property surrounding the
125 road.

126

127 Town Attorney Scott Simpson said there would need to be documentation in the public record
128 explaining how a road was created. Mr. Simpson said if the Town had no records showing
129 public use or a plat dedicating the road to the Town, then the road was not public. Mr.
130 Simpson said if the Town truly had a right-of-way there and decided to vacate it, the Town
131 would not be able to direct where the ownership goes. Mr. Simpson said the road would
132 typically be split down the middle with ownership going to the property owners on either side
133 of the road, but not always.

134

135 Mayor Leonhard asked if Town Planner Mark Karet would check into the status of Lee Street.

136

137 e. Quote from CTS Paving for asphalt repair at Blake Street near Washington
138 Avenue – Mayor Gray Leonhard

139

140 Mayor Leonhard said there was a section of asphalt in need of repair on Blake Street. A quote
141 was obtained from CTS Paving but Mayor Leonhard felt more quotes would be needed.

142

143 Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked if Public Works could get a load of asphalt and patch
144 the hole. Councilmember Linnie Richardson said the hole did not look too deep and felt it was
145 salvageable. The Council discussed semi truck traffic on Blake Street. Vice Mayor Greenlund
146 said the Town's roads were not built to carry the amount of weight from constant semi traffic.

147

148 Mayor Leonhard asked if Public Works should get a truckload of asphalt to patch the road.
149 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said there was another area in front of the school on
150 Washington Avenue that needed to be patched. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said he felt the
151 repairs should be made in-house.

152

153 f. September 2024 invoice from Hough Electric for rodeo grounds repairs – Town
154 Clerk Yvonne Braddock

155

156 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said the Town received an invoice from Hough Electric addressed
157 to Lamar Dixon for repairs at the rodeo grounds in September 2024. Mr. Smith said the
158 Clerk's office wanted to have the invoice approved by Council before paying it due to the fact
159 that it was not addressed to the Town. Vice Mayor Greenlund noted that the rodeo grounds
160 were the Town's responsibility.

161

162 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve payment of the Hough**
163 **Electric invoice in the amount of \$1,870.00; seconded by Councilmember Linnie**
164 **Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

165

166 g. Quote from Hough Electric for electrical upgrades at water tower – Deputy
167 Clerk Ryan Smith

168

169 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith presented a quote from Hough Electric for electrical work at the
170 water tower, including the replacement of an electrical panel and the installation of power to
171 security cameras onsite.

172

173 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the quote from Hough**
174 **Electric for electrical upgrades at the water tower in the amount of \$1,260.00; seconded**
175 **by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

176

177 h. Quote from CWS to replace pressure switches at wells – Deputy Clerk Ryan
178 Smith

179

180 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith presented a quote from CWS to upgrade the pressure switches at
181 the water wells. Mr. Smith explained that CWS could adjust the new switches for a higher
182 pressure to keep the water tower filled properly. Town Foreman Louis Longo said the
183 pressure needed to be maintained at 50 PSI but the current switches could only be set as high
184 as 40 – 45 PSI.

185

186 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the quote from CWS to**
187 **replace the pressure control switches at the well in the amount of \$2,982.00; seconded**
188 **by Councilmember Jimmy Anderson. All agreed; motion carries.**
189

190 i. Updates by Mayor Gray Leonhard
191

192 Mayor Leonhard asked Town Attorney Scott Simpson to read a proclamation for the Ancient
193 Order of the Hibernians in recognition of Irish American Heritage Month. Mr. Simpson read
194 the proclamation.
195

196 Mayor Leonhard asked for a progress report on the culvert at Washington Avenue in front of
197 the school. Mark Karet said discussions with the Volusia County School Board were on hold
198 until FEMA determined if the culvert replacement would be covered. Mr. Karet said if FEMA
199 did not repair the culvert, communications with the school would need to continue.
200

201 Mayor Leonhard asked Mr. Simpson if the Town could fill in the culvert. Deputy Clerk Ryan
202 Smith said he had contacted Todd Bush at Zev Cohen. Mr. Bush said he would get elevations
203 to determine which way the culvert was draining, and obtain pricing to sleeve or replace the
204 culvert. Mr. Smith said the Town would likely have to repair the culvert because FEMA did
205 not see damages in its initial evaluation.
206

207 Mr. Simpson said laws regarding flooding were based on reasonableness. Mr. Simpson
208 recommended sending a letter to the School Board stating the Town's intentions to fix or
209 block the culvert based on the School Board's representation that the culvert flows onto the
210 school's property, giving the School Board a chance to respond.
211

212 Mr. Simpson recommended getting the opinion of a stormwater engineer as to what would
213 happen if the culvert was blocked or removed.
214

215 Mayor Leonhard asked for this item to be added to the next agenda if there were any updates.
216

217 j. Updates on Town Projects from Town Attorney Scott Simpson
218

219 Town Attorney Scott Simpson did not have updates at this time.
220

221 k. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet
222

223 Mr. Karet noted that the new pump at the existing well site had been installed. Mr. Karet said
224 between the new pump and the new pressure switches that the original well site should run
225 much better.
226

227 Mr. Karet said the new wells had passed their sampling clearances and that the final
228 paperwork was all that was required to bring the wells online. Mr. Karet said the water system
229 still needed improvements and noted that valves should be addressed.
230

231 Mr. Karet said he would be available at the Town on Thursday, February 5, 2025 to meet with
232 residents regarding their planning questions.

233

234 The Council discussed identifying and replacing inoperable valves in the water system.
235 Mayor Leonhard said he had reached out to grant writer Fred Fox regarding funds for
236 replacing the valves. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she wanted the Council to agree
237 on the best use for grant funds and discussed whether CDBG funds could be used for roads.

238

239 Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked if Todd Bush of Zev Cohen was working on a map of
240 the Town's water system including valves. Town Foreman Louis Longo said there had been
241 discussion of working with Mr. Bush to identify and label the valves.

242

243 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

244

245 **7. OTHER BUSINESS (Council and Staff Reports)**

246

247 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked Town Attorney Scott Simpson to write a Resolution for
248 former Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett, recognizing Mr. Bennett for his years of service to the
249 Town of Pierson. Vice Mayor Greenlund noted that a plaque had been ordered and received.

250

251 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson said there was a large amount of metal at the original burn
252 site that needed to be loaded on a truck and hauled to the scrap yard. Councilmember
253 Anderson noted that the backhoe needed to be checked to determine if it was repairable,
254 otherwise it should be scrapped as well. Councilmember Anderson asked for Rusty Peterson
255 to evaluate it. Mayor Leonhard and Vice Mayor Greenlund asked Louis Longo to contact Mr.
256 Peterson.

257

258 Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked about the Resolution to increase the Town's permit
259 fees. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said the Resolution was complete but that he forgot to add it to
260 the agenda.

261

262 Councilmembers Linnie Richardson and Brandy Peterson agreed that the Clerk's office
263 needed to address the records room. Councilmember Peterson noted that it had been a year
264 since the Town moved into the Town Center. Mayor Leonhard said he felt that getting the
265 records room in order should be a priority.

266

267 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson discussed the old Public Works tractor. Councilmember
268 Anderson said it needed to be repaired or auctioned. Town Attorney Scott Simpson said
269 typically cities would make a list of equipment to declare a surplus.

270

271 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (Public Participation)**

272

273 Ormond Beach resident Daryl Hickman spoke to the Council regarding the airport. Mr.
274 Hickman said he was informed by Olin Cannon that the Council was considering closing the
275 airport. Mr. Hickman presented a check and said he had contributed funds in the past because
276 the airport was important to his one-person business. Councilmember Linnie Richardson
277 asked the scope of Mr. Hickman's business. Mr. Hickman stated that he offered tailwheel
278 training and said that people travel here from around the country to train. Mr. Hickman asked

279 the Council to consider keeping the airport open because there are not many grass strips in the
280 area. Mr. Hickman volunteered to help with the airport if needed.

281

282 **9. PIERSON EVENTS**

283

- 284 • Pierson Vendor Market – Saturday, February 15, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

285

286 **10. ADJOURNED**

287

288 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.**

289

290 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

291

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294 _____
Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor