



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 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

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 February 17, 2026

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 Council Member Brandy Peterson. All agreed, motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance 2026-01 Parking of boats and RV Second Reading

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the ordinance and stated it was a second reading.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if Council or audience had anything to say about this ordinance. He then entertained a motion to pass ordinance 2026-01 on its second reading.

Vice Mayor Robert Grenlund made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01 on its second reading. Second, by Council Member Jimmy Anderson. Roll call vote taken, all agreed, motion carries.

b. Ordinance 2026-04 Amendments to personnel Regulations Second Reading

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the ordinance and stated it was a second reading.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if Council or audience had anything to say about this ordinance. He then entertained a motion to pass ordinance 2026-04 on its second reading.

Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-04 on its second reading. Second, by Council Member Brandy Peterson. Roll call vote taken, all agreed, motion carries.

c. AMI Meter Pilot Program – Sean Siebert STAline

Sean Siebert came up to podium and introduced himself to the council. He explained the NEXT meter and how they have a few pilots set in Florida and explained that the pilot is for 10 meters and you have no contract and its \$2,500.00 and you get to keep the meters afterwards. He stated he had 3 things to explain to the council about the next meter. 1. The Accuracy is 0.1 it will register a toilet flush, hose bib leak or a leak with a toilet. 2. Reliability 15 years with 5-year prorated warranty and if you do the entire package, it's a 20-year warranty. 3. How the next meter communicates, cellular sends read to office in 15-minute intervals, and we have web-based software. No more meter readings and manual writing down readings will be obsolete. It has Realtime alarms, we are linked to all 4 cellular providers. We also have a solar powered panel collector that collects data and sends it to the office. Everything is automated, including a customer portal that gives the resident transparency and options to customize service during vacation so they can set alarms if they see usage or for a possible leak.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked if they could get grants from the state of Florida for water savings or a grant. Sean explained that there are several grants that we could get from FRWA. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that Town Planner Mark Karet recommended we contact Sean Siebert after he saw a presentation for another city. We can get grants for this benefit of taking human error out of the equation and save time with public works from reading the water meters. He then explained that Lake Helen had a water issue with meters costing \$ 500,000. We can apply for grants with FRWA, St John's River Management or possibly clean water from DEP.

The pilot will give you 90 days to try out and see if it improved the reads. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if each resident could have the app on their phone so if they had a leak they could get notification. Sean explained that it allows transparency with the residents and they can track their water consumption and if they had a spike in water consumption at a certain time of the day. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained when he worked for real estate company one of the rentals was using a lot of water at 1AM every day and Ormond had meters similar to these and pinpointed the time, and we found out it was a broken sprinkler running wide open at 1 AM. Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked since we have a contract with Verizon could we possibly work out a deal for a lower internet cost. Sean Siebert explained that sim cards work differently and that the all-in price includes all 4 servers. Councilmember Linnie Richardson states that a 90-day trial with a 15year warranty at 2500.00 is a no brainer. Mayor Gray Leonhard explains that maybe we should discuss this more at the water workshop. Vice Mayor and Council agree that this is a good idea to do the pilot.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve pilot for 2,500.00 for 90 days. Second, by Council Member Linnie Richardson. All agree, motion carries.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund states he is looking forward to seeing how the pilot goes and hopes we can get a grant to cover the cost. The council thanks Sean for coming.

d. Repairs to cafeteria Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explains what is covered in quote and discussion ensued. Council member Linnie Richardson states we need to get more quotes. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked for the size of the cafeteria. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith states that its 40 feet of drywall stage is 14x22, 10x14 and 12 feet in the back also includes trim for entire room. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked council if they have recommendations for other people to give quotes that do these things. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund, one more quote would be helpful. Mayor Gray Leonhard suggests Randy Hutchinson, Paul MacTee, resident Sue Elliot Mike Layfield and resident Mary Kay Hansen Steven Jones.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund makes a motion to table until we get other quotes. Second, by Council Member Linnie Richardson. All agree, motion carries.

e. 2 Doors bathroom utility rooms at parks quote – Mayor Gray Leonhard

Mayor Gray Leonhard stated he only knows of the door at North Road Park and was not aware of the one at Chipper Jones Park. Town Clerk states that it is what she was given from public works. Mayor Gray Leonhard states that the door is in poor shape, Council member Jimmy Anderson states you are just giving them another target to shoot at, and it will get wet and rust again. Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock explains that the hill behind it causes the water to rush

towards the door and water sits there and that's what's rusted out the bottom. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund states we need to go check it out and find a solution. Council Member Jimmy Anderson states we can dig a ditch and throw rock in the ditch. Council decided to go look at this issue before approving a new door.

f. Special Council Services related to solid waste Assessment – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explains that this is to set up special assessments for solid waste and do all the legal ordinance requirements that need to be done. It's \$ 350.00 an hour and he believes he will need 10 hours. Town Attorney Scott Simpson stated he highly recommends that council use his services as he has worked with Holly Hill, Lake Helen.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund makes a motion to approve the special council services related to solid waste assessment. Second by Council Member Jimmy Anderson. All agreed, motion carries.

g. Discussion of Procurement policy for Town of Pierson – Mayor Gray Leonhard

Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that we need to do something so that we and staff can just handle basic everyday things that come up. Discussion ensued. Town Attorney Scott Simpson suggested that we look at other procurement policies for other cities and then you can come up with one that's fits the town. He went into discussion on written quotes of over 100,000 RFP needed etc. Resident Mary Kay Hansen stated that we have had issues in the past with town clerks and feel that we need to have a checks and balance policy for everything. Council stated that they would still have to sign the checks and we would have record of transaction. Discussion ensued.

h. Solid waste Receptacle quote – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

Deputy clerk Ryan Smith started off with the different quotes and said that they do half orders usually but did us a favor with the quote for 260 95-gallon cans at \$ 13,455.20 or you can get 350 which is a half order at \$ 17,552.02. You should also know that GFL picked up several trash cans in Pierson so we will need to provide one. Recycle bins will be 600 for \$ 7,816.84. Discussion ensued about they don't believe that things are recycled anymore and that they all go to the same place. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that he would go and find out if they process recycling separately.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve the quote for 350 95-gallon trash receptacles at a cost of \$ 17,552.02. Second Council Member Linnie Richardson. All agree, motion carries.

i. Blood Drive Mobile Vehicle Town Center – Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund explained that he was contacted by Angela, and they used to set up the bank building, and they would like to set up the new town center now. All the council agreed that it is a great idea.

j. Truck Discussion for Public works employee Chris Nichols – Mayor Gray Leonhard

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that he got quotes from the Florida Sherrif Association I have 3 quotes for ford dealerships. 2026 250 4-wheel drive service body. I have found out that there is a shortage of service beds so we will have to wait about 12 weeks to get it. Discussion ensued. Mayor Gray Leonhard got a quote for a 2026 Ford F350 at Gary Yoeman. Council Member Linnie Richardson stated I believe a 250 would get the job done. Council agreed that we need to get a truck.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve a 2026 Ford F250 from Garber Ford for \$ 54,900.00. Second by Council member Jimmy Anderson. All Agree, motion carries.

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

The Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmember Jimmy Anderson had nothing to report. Council Member Linnie Richardson asked Town attorney now that we passed the RV ordinance we need to come up with violations, charges. Scott suggested \$ 250 a week or \$ 500 a week. Town Attorney Scott Simpson stated he would have to review the enforcement policy and do you have a special magistrate and better they don't live in Pierson. Town Planner Mark Karet stated the DRA job duties. Town Attorney went into the process to ticket someone and who would they appeal too. Town Attorney Scott Simpson went into the process and how all cities and municipalities are having problems with enforcing the ordinances. He also stated that code fines are last to be taken in a lien situation. Council Member Jimmy Anderson said so we basically can't do anything. Discussion ensued and council was frustrated that they basically can't do anything.

Council Member Brandy Peterson stated that she was asked, and she already approved the location change for the vendor market to the big parking lot closest to the road. This is a 1-time trial to see if it's going to work and bring more business to the vendor market. Town Clerk reminded council that the library uses that parking lot as instructed and they would have to be notified. Council Member Brandy Peterson brought up the reduced parking and that the town clerk and utility clerk should park in the side parking lot.

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked council about pump shed by the clinic and that Katie Ruth was interested in buying the shed and what was under it. Council Member Jimmy Anderson said it's a well with a concrete pad. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked does something stick out of the ground.

Council Member Jimmy Anderson stated we can cap off the well. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated it needs to be capped, and we need to look at it.

Melissa Thorne running for county council stood up and explained that county council failed us, but she will continue to fight the good fight. We need 23,000 more votes to get it on the ballot.

Mayor Gray Leonhard read the events going on and asked audience if they had anything. With there being no further business.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked audience and council if they had anything else and with hearing no further business meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor