



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 – 6:30 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

2. Roll call

PRESENT:

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett
Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
Councilmember Sergia Cardenas
Councilmember Linnie Richardson
Councilmember Brandy Peterson

Also present were Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith, Utility Clerk Marci Nichols, Town Attorney Christian Waugh, Town Planner Mark Karet, and deputies from Volusia Sheriff's Office.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bennett invited Pastor Larry Miller of Church of God of Prophecy to give the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

- a. Regular Meeting April 23, 2024

Mayor Bennett read the title 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 Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Beckie Sirolli for State House District 27

Beckie Sirolli spoke to the Council regarding her candidacy for Florida House District 27. Ms. Sirolli said she was running a grassroots campaign focused on door-knocking to meet constituents face-to-face and earn their vote. Ms. Sirolli stated that she and her husband

47 were from Marion County. She highlighted her strong business background and informed
48 the audience that she was a retired police lieutenant. Ms. Sirolli said that her main concerns
49 and priorities would be election reform, the increasing insurance and power rates in Florida,
50 and healing the divisions in our country by building stronger communities.

51

52 i. Food Truck Vendor discussion and action – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

53

54 Mayor Bennett moved Item 5i to the top of the agenda for discussion. Mayor Bennett spoke
55 with Kim Null, who has been organizing the monthly Pierson Vendor Market, regarding a
56 weekly food truck vendor night. Mayor Bennett proposed hosting the food truck vendor night
57 on Saturdays at Pierson Town Center because it would not conflict with local restaurants’
58 business. Most restaurants in town are closed on Saturday nights except for Señor Peppers
59 who has a mobile food truck and will participate. Mayor Bennett said the proposed event time
60 would be 4:00 PM until 8:30 PM and vendor registration would be handled by Kim Null. The
61 charge would be \$50.00 per vendor. Mayor Bennett said he would like to see this event
62 become a weekly occurrence, but it would depend on the response from the community.

63

64 Councilmember Linnie Richardson requested that the food truck vendors disposed of their
65 own garbage in the dumpster behind the Town Center so that food waste is not left in the
66 Town’s garbage bins over the weekend.

67

68 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve weekly food truck**
69 **vendor nights on Saturdays from 4:00 PM until 8:30 PM, with the stipulation that**
70 **vendors dispose of their garbage in the dumpster behind Pierson Town Center;**
71 **seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

72

73 b. Quotes to Paint Exterior of Building 3 – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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75 The Town received two quotes to paint the exterior of Building 3 where the Volusia Sheriff’s
76 Office substation will be located. Both quotes included pressure washing, scraping of old
77 paint, and re-painting. Jimmy Anderson provided a quote for \$4,000.00 and Steven Jones
78 provided a quote for \$5,000.00.

79

80 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the quote from Jimmy**
81 **Anderson in the amount of \$4,000.00; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas.**
82 **All agreed; motion carries.**

83

84 c. Flow Meter for Wells per Health Department – Linnie R. Richardson –
85 Councilwoman

86

87 Councilmember Richardson reminded the Council of the requirement per the Health
88 Department for a totalizing flow meter to be installed at the wells. Biometrics quoted
89 \$22,000.00 for the installation of the meter. RCM Utilities provided a quote \$6,041.89. Mayor
90 Bennett asked that RCM Utilities be added to the next agenda to discuss contractual services
91 for the Town’s water system.

92

93 Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock stated that the quote was reviewed by Tom Gustafson at
94 Florida Rural Water Association; Mr. Gustafson agreed that this quote was reasonable and
95 would satisfy the requirements by the Health Department. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said that
96 an itemized quote was requested from Biometrics but never received.
97

98 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the quote from RCM**
99 **Utilities for \$6,041.89; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed;**
100 **motion carries.**

101
102 d. R. Blaire Davis, Planning & Zoning – Linnie R. Richardson – Councilwoman

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104 Councilmember Linnie Richardson spoke with Blaire Davis of the Planning & Zoning
105 Commission and Mr. Davis requested a later start time for Planning & Zoning meetings due
106 to a change in his job. Town Attorney Christian Waugh and Town Planner Mark Karet agreed
107 that the issue would have to be decided by the Planning & Zoning Commission at their next
108 meeting because that Commission would set their own meeting times.
109

110 e. Maintenance of Vehicles and Equipment – Linnie R. Richardson –
111 Councilwoman

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113 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that there had issues with some Town equipment as
114 a result of blatant neglect. Councilmember Richardson spoke with Public Works foreman
115 Louis Longo regarding the lack of maintenance and service of the Town equipment.
116 Councilmember Richardson stated that as foreman, Mr. Longo was ultimately responsible for
117 ensuring that maintenance was being done. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said there must be
118 a chain of command. Town Attorney Christian Waugh said that no individual Council
119 Member had the authority to command a Town employee to perform any tasks and that it
120 must be a majority decision by Council.
121

122 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said that a maintenance log should be required for each vehicle
123 and piece of equipment so that Council could check to see if maintenance is being recorded.
124 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that a log book is a good idea but only if the
125 employees actually perform the tasks. Mayor Bennett suggested documenting conversations
126 between Council members and employees to keep a paper trail and put those documents in
127 employee files.
128

129 Resident Jimmy Anderson reminded the Council that in the past, Friday afternoons were
130 designated for servicing equipment and washing trucks during his time at Public Works.
131

132 Resident Mark Barnett asked who was responsible for assigning job duties to employees.
133 Councilmember Linnie Richardson explained that general job duties were assigned in
134 employee workshops. Mayor Bennett said that the foreman had the ability to lay out job duties
135 and that he spoke with the foreman every morning.
136

137 Councilmember Brandy Peterson requested another workshop for employees which would be
138 discussed later in the meeting.
139

140 f. Lutheran Church Electric Signage on Highway 17 – Mayor Samuel G.S.
141 Bennett

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143 Town Planner Mark Karet stated that the Town’s sign ordinance prohibited everything unless
144 it was expressly allowed, except for governments who can have the signage they desire. Mr.
145 Karet said that in the past electronic signage was prohibited because it was considered
146 distracting, but that over time they have been allowed with restrictions on aspects such as
147 brightness and flashing displays. Mayor Bennett spoke with the Pastor of the Lutheran Church
148 and they would like to install an electronic sign on Highway 17. Mayor Bennett would like to
149 send the issue to Planning & Zoning for a recommendation. The Council had no objection to
150 referring the issue to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

151
152 g. Travis Roach Quote for Rodeo Grounds Bleachers at Chipper Jones Park –
153 Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

154
155 Mayor Bennett requested a quote from Travis Roach for the welding of the railings on the
156 bleachers at the rodeo grounds. Mayor Bennett asked if Travis Roach submitted a quote to the
157 Town Clerk; Yvonne Braddock stated that nothing had been received. Councilmember
158 Brandy Peterson asked that a second quote be obtained and said she would contact Brad
159 McNaughton.

160
161 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until quotes were**
162 **received; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

163
164 h. Irrigation Well at Pierson Town Center – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

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166 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith obtained a quote from James Evans Well Drilling in the amount of
167 \$850.00 to repair the control box on the irrigation well at Pierson Town Center. Mr. Smith
168 stated that the well stopped working when Public Works was attempting to locate and repair
169 irrigation lines.

170
171 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the quote from James Evans**
172 **Well Drilling in the amount of \$850.00; seconded by Councilwoman Linnie Richardson.**
173 **All agreed; motion carries.**

174
175 j. Proclamation – Teacher of the Year – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

176
177 Mayor Bennett reads a Proclamation for Jamie Davis, T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School’s
178 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year:

179
180 ***PROCLAMATION***

181
182 ***JAMIE DAVIS, T. DEWITT TAYLOR MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE***
183 ***YEAR 2023 – 2024***

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185 ***Whereas, Jamie Davis was nominated by her peers for Teacher of the Year at T. Dewitt***
186 ***Taylor Middle-High School; and***

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Whereas, Jamie Davis was voted by her peers as the Teacher of the Year for T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School; and

Whereas, Jamie Davis has exemplified extraordinary commitment to the success of her students at T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School, Volusia County, Florida; and

Whereas, Jamie Davis has spent countless hours developing lesson plans, implementing said plans, communicating with parents, working with her peers and administration as a leader in education; and

Now Therefore, on behalf of the Town of Pierson, I, Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett, would like to encourage all citizens to congratulate her for being selected Teacher of the Year.

As read at our Public Meeting and has become a permanent record in the Minutes for the Town of Pierson on this 14th day of May, 2024.

k. Proclamation – Teacher Appreciation – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

Mayor Bennett requested that this item be tabled until the next Regular Meeting.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until the next scheduled Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.

l. Chipper Jones Park discussion and action – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

Mayor Bennett addressed the issue of the sand pit area on the west side of the Community Center. Mayor Bennett noted that the item had been discussed multiple times and several ideas had been considered including paving and sodding. Councilmember Linnie Richardson recommended millings. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund agreed but said that a base might be required so the millings did not sink into the sand. Vice Mayor Greenlund said the area was between one-half and one acre in size. Town Planner Mark Karet said that the millings could not cover an area larger than 4,000 square feet or it would require stormwater.

The Council agreed that the area should be measured, and quotes should be obtained for multiple solutions including a base with millings and sod. Vice Mayor Greenlund said that irrigating the area and blocking it off from parking should allow sod to grow there.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until quotes can be obtained; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.

m. Applications for the Jimmy Sowell Scholarship discussion and action – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

Mayor Bennett asked the Council to review and submit two selections from the Taylor Middle-High School applicants for the James “Jimmy” Sowell Scholarship. Vice Mayor

234 Greenlund stated that half the applicants did not follow the instructions and sign their
235 applications, which he said should be disqualifying. Town Attorney Christian Waugh tallied
236 the votes; the 2024 James “Jimmy” Sowell Scholarship was awarded to student Jocelyn
237 Aguirre.

238

239 n. Town Center Plants & Landscaping discussion and action – Mayor Samuel G.S.
240 Bennett

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242 Mayor Bennett said he discussed opinions on landscaping with Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock
243 because residents were asking about the appearance of the Town Center. Councilmember
244 Linnie Richardson and Vice Mayor Greenlund agreed that it should be simple and easy to
245 maintain. Councilmember Richardson suggested putting landscaping rocks in front of the
246 building with large planters and topiaries at the entrance. Vice Mayor Greenlund asked if the
247 Pierson Garden Club was active and wanted to partner with us to landscape the building.
248 Mayor Bennett said they were willing to help financially. Councilmember Richardson asked
249 for a quote from Tri-Town Ace Hardware for small white rock.

250

251 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to obtain pricing on rock and**
252 **plants; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

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254 o. Updates by Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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256 Mayor Bennett had no updates at this time.

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258 p. Updates on Town Projects from Town Attorney Christian Waugh

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260 Mr. Waugh said he is continuing to work with the School Board on an agreement regarding
261 the sewer.

262

263 q. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet

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265 Mr. Karet stated that he is scheduled to meet with residents on May 16, 2024. There was a
266 brief discussion between Mr. Karet and the Council regarding residents’ complaints about the
267 new charges for meeting with the Town Planner.

268

269 Mr. Karet gave an update regarding the transmittal of the Angels’ Future Land Use
270 application, which was submitted on Monday, May 13, 2024.

271

272 Mr. Karet said that he was working with Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith to update the Land
273 Development Regulations which had a backlog of text amendments that needed to be
274 incorporated.

275

276 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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278 a. Estimate for Efirid Surveying to Survey Water Canal on Hagstrom Rd
279 discussion and action (tabled 4/23/2024) – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

280

281 Councilmember Linnie Richardson met with David Padgett and Louis Trivett of Volusia
282 County Road & Bridge. Road & Bridge agreed that the water needed to move away from the
283 road before repairs could be completed. Road & Bridge provided maps to the Town showing
284 the original flow of the water and the changes over the years which resulted in water flow
285 being blocked. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said those maps were scanned and sent to Efird
286 Surveying.

287

288 Mayor Bennett stated that Efird Surveying had provided a proposal. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith
289 said that no proposal had been received. Mayor Bennett said that the verbal proposal he
290 received was for \$3,000.00. Councilmember Brandy Peterson stated that she would like to see
291 the written proposal.

292

293 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until a written quote**
294 **is received; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

295

296 b. Easement Approval (tabled 4/23/2024) – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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298 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until a written quote**
299 **is received for the surveying in Item 6a; seconded by Councilmember Linnie**
300 **Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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

302 Councilmember Brandy Peterson had three items of discussion:

303 • Councilmember Peterson asked for the letterboard sign and Town Hall sign to be
304 removed from the old Town Hall property at 106 N. Center Street before it was sold
305 on Friday, May 17, 2024.

306

307 • Councilmember Peterson reiterated her request from the previous meeting regarding
308 the timely submission of agenda items to the Clerk’s Office so that Council Meeting
309 agendas could be sent as soon as possible the week before each meeting.

310

311 • Councilmember Peterson announced the upcoming meeting dates for Save Our
312 Boating Rights on behalf of Kristine Wake who could not be in attendance.

313 Councilmember Linnie Richardson noted that it was National Police Week and extended her
314 thanks to the deputies of Volusia Sheriff’s Office who were in attendance.

315 The Council agreed to schedule a workshop for employee discussion and 4th of July planning
316 on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

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

318

319 Resident Denise Colflesh said that she attended a ball game at Chipper Jones Park and one of
320 the electronic scoreboards was not working. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that the
321 Town would have Hough Electric evaluate the issue.

322

323 Resident Gray Leonhard asked about the ADA compliance requirements at Chipper Jones
324 Park and the Community Center. Mr. Leonhard strongly suggested that the Town pay
325 attention to the ADA requirements to prevent legal issues. Mayor Bennett asked the Town
326 Clerk to add this as an agenda item for the next Council Meeting.

327

328 Councilwoman Linnie Richardson asked Town Attorney Christian Waugh about the Public
329 Records Request resolution discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Waugh said he would have
330 something prepared at the next meeting.

331

332 Mayor Bennett extended his thanks to the Volusia Sheriff deputies in attendance in
333 recognition of National Police Week and wished all the mothers in the audience a belated
334 Happy Mother's Day.

335

336 **9. ADJOURNED**

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338 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.**

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340 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor