



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JULY 23, 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 a deputy from Volusia Sheriff's Office.

## **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Bennett gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- a. Regular Meeting July 9, 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 Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Trees on Short Street discussion and action – Linnie R. Richardson - Councilwoman

Councilmember Linnie Richardson spoke about a tree on Short Street that has lost multiple limbs. Councilmember Richardson said she believed that the tree was hollow and should be removed. Mayor Bennett agreed with the removal. Town Attorney Christian Waugh said

47 that if the tree was in the Town’s right-of-way, the Town had the option to remove it if  
48 needed. Mr. Waugh stated that if the tree was located on private property, it was not the  
49 Town’s responsibility to remove it. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said that the tree needed  
50 to be removed if it was in the right-of-way. Vice Mayor Greenlund added that there was a  
51 dead pine tree on Minshew Road that also needed to be removed. Resident Rick Davis said  
52 he was concerned that this would set a precedent, and everyone would expect the Town to  
53 remove trees in the right-of-way. Mayor Bennett clarified that because the trees were dead  
54 and hollow, they would need to be removed regardless. Councilmember Linnie Richardson  
55 offered to obtain quotes on the removal of both trees.

56

57 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to obtain quotes for the removal**  
58 **of dead trees on Short Street and Minshew Road and use her authority to select a**  
59 **quote for removal; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion**  
60 **carries.**

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62 b. Budget Update discussion and action – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

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64 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith presented a proposed budget amendment to the Council based on  
65 discussion from the prior budget workshop. Mr. Smith explained that the amendment was to  
66 reallocate funds that were being under-utilized during the current fiscal year to cover  
67 increased expenses in other areas. Mr. Smith said that the amendment only applied to the  
68 current fiscal year ending on September 30, 2024 and that the proposed numbers would not  
69 necessarily affect the upcoming 2025 budget.

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71 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the budget amendment as**  
72 **presented; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion**  
73 **carries.**

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75 c. Book Bag Drive for Town of Pierson discussion and action – Town Clerk  
76 Yvonne Braddock

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78 Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock was contacted by Lieutenant Roy Galarza from Volusia  
79 Sheriff’s Office regarding the VSO’s annual backpack giveaway. Lt. Galarza asked to partner  
80 with Town of Pierson for the event, as they have in previous years. The event would be held  
81 at Pierson Town Center. Ms. Braddock said the Sheriff’s Office wanted to schedule the event  
82 for a Friday afternoon. A printout of an Amazon listing was provided to the Council by Ms.  
83 Braddock, showing a set of 24 backpacks pre-filled with school supplies. Ms. Braddock  
84 suggested that the Town might purchase two sets of backpacks to increase the number being  
85 supplied by VSO. Mayor Bennett did not feel the Town needed to spend the money on extra  
86 backpacks and said that VSO should have plenty available. Ms. Braddock suggested that  
87 employees and Council members could attend the event to provide water, soft drinks, and  
88 snow cones.

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90 **Councilmember Brandy Peterson made the motion to host the annual backpack**  
91 **giveaway and schedule the event for Friday, August 9, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM;**  
92 **seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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94 d. Moving CD to Money Market Account – Linnie R. Richardson –  
95 Councilwoman

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97 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that the Town’s current CD at Surety Bank was  
98 earning 1.7% interest, but that Surety Bank was currently advertising a Money Market account  
99 with a rate of 4%. Councilmember Richardson suggested opening a new Money Market  
100 account and moving the CD funds. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said that Florida Credit  
101 Union in Deland was advertising a 7-month CD with a rate of 5.2%.

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103 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to explore moving the current**  
104 **Surety CD to a new account with a higher yield; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert**  
105 **Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

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107 e. Florida League of Cities Annual Conference – Sergia Cardenas -  
108 Councilwoman

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110 Councilmember Sergia Cardenas asked the Council for approval to attend the Florida League  
111 of Cities Annual Conference in Hollywood, Florida. Councilmember Cardenas noted that the  
112 Town had paid for the registration in previous years and that there was a budget item for  
113 conferences and meetings. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she appreciated  
114 Councilmember Cardenas’s attendance because the Town needed a representative.

115  
116 **Councilmember Brandy Peterson made the motion to approve Councilmember Sergia**  
117 **Cardenas’s request to register for and attend the Florida League of Cities Annual**  
118 **Conference, including a three-night stay at a hotel in Hollywood, Florida; seconded by**  
119 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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121 f. Updates by Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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123 Mayor Bennett said he visited the new water plant which is mostly complete except for water  
124 sampling.

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126 g. Updates on Town Projects from Town Attorney Christian Waugh

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128 Town Attorney Christian Waugh did not have any updates.

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130 j. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet

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132 Town Planner Mark Karet noted that a Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting was held on  
133 July 16, 2024 where the Commission voted to recommend a Comp Plan Amendment and  
134 Rezoning on Hagstrom Road to the Town Council.

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136 Mr. Karet met with residents on July 18, 2024 to answer planning questions. Mr. Karet will  
137 be at the Town Center on Thursday, August 1, 2024 to meet with residents.

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139 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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a. Letter from Farmworker Association discussion and action

Ernesto Ruiz of the Farmworker Association sent a letter via e-mail to Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock requesting permission to install brick pavers as a parking area in front of their building. Mr. Ruiz had previously addressed the Council for permission to install a parking area. The Council told Mr. Ruiz that they did not want a permanent parking area to be paved in front of the building in case the Town needed access to its utility easement. The Council asked Mr. Ruiz to submit a proposal for a temporary or removable parking solution.

Town Attorney Christian Waugh said the Farmworkers Association would be installing the pavers at their risk; the Town could remove them at their discretion at any time. Mayor Bennett noted that the brick pavers would be no cost to the Town.

**Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the Farmworkers Association’s request for permission to install a brick paver parking area; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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

Vice Mayor Greenlund said that he had spoken with Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith regarding a quote for the culvert replacement on North Road. Vice Mayor Greenlund shared that the quote from Built-Rite Construction was in the amount of \$105,000.00. Mayor Bennett asked to add North Road as an agenda item for the next meeting so that additional quotes could be obtained and a discussion could follow.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson said she would like to see the Community Center cleaned and fully stocked on toiletries for the upcoming elections in August. Councilmember Richardson said she would like the Public Works employees to clean and refinish the floor using the equipment purchased for that purpose.

Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked for an update regarding the ball fields at Chipper Jones Park before the start of Little League season. Mayor Bennett stated that Town Attorney Christian Waugh had obtained a proposed maintenance contract from Volusia County Parks & Recreation for review. Mayor Bennett said that Volusia County Parks & Recreation had been on-site at Chipper Jones Park earlier in the day to address the clay on one of the fields and tentatively planned to have the second field completed by August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock informed the Council that a special TRIM meeting needed to be scheduled so that the Council could decide on a preliminary millage rate. The Council agreed to schedule the meeting for Monday, July 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that he would have a meeting with Municode on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 2:00 PM to begin the process of publishing the Town’s Code of Ordinances and Land Development Regulations through Municode’s online hosting service. Mr. Smith said he would be joined in the meeting by Town Planner Mark Karet and Town Attorney Christian Waugh.

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

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190 Resident Gray Leonhard asked for an update regarding the drainage canal on Hagstrom Road.

191 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said that Efird Surveying had not yet completed the survey work.

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193 Mark Barnett of Ebenezer Lutheran Church asked for an update regarding the Town's sign

194 ordinance to allow for electronic messaging signs. Town Planner Mark Karet said the updated

195 ordinance was recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission and would

196 need to be put on an upcoming agenda for discussion by the Council.

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198 **9. ADJOURNED**

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200 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.**

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202 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

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Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor