



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 – 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 September 2, 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.

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. Taylor High School Homecoming Parade – Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell started with it is that time of the year and we will be running a different traffic pattern this year, we will turn right and go up to the elementary school and turn around in their parking lot and come back to the high school. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked her for the date and Jessica Bell said October 17, 2025, at 1:30 PM.

b. 4th Avenue Flanico Estates – Jeremy Steadman

Jeremy Steadman came up to the podium and stated he wanted either the town, or he would remove it, he just needs the town to give him permission. He also wants to clear the road to his properties back in Flanico Estates. He was told two options that the town can abandon the street or give him permission to clear the road. Discussion ensued and Town Attorney Scott Simpson stated that we have laws we need to follow, Town Planner Mark Karet stated that the cheapest way for town is to vacate the road, and it would become part of the property owner's property. Town Planner Mark Karet said then Jeremy can open it and make it a dirt road. I Can cover the cost to clear the road and remove the trailer. Well, we will tag the trailer and let you know Jeremy.

c. Hagstrom Road – Paul George

Paul started if that the council had talked about several times and right now its under water and no lights on the barricades. The mayor asked staff to order new lights. Town Planner Mark Karet stated the recent effort to clean up the canal, the former mayor stated there was a ditch that ran east to west and an environmental team was sent out and the water ran north to south. Resident Paul George stated Town needs to lift up the road and add culverts. Town Planner Mark Karet stated if you raise the road to elevation 43 it will be very expensive about 1 million dollars. Swales need to be cleaned out, they have never been maintained and that would help. Mayor Gray Leonhard said we must do something. Deputy clerk Ryan Smith stated we could sub it out and Steven Corley said maybe we can piggyback the County contract. Town Planner Mark Karet said, "Well you can take a bond out. Council member Brandy Petrson said we can clean the ditches and put a culvert in. Town Planner Mark Karet said it will help. Council member Linnie Richardson asked if he could set up an appointment with County and she would meet with them.

d. Iglesia Misionera Special Permit – Letter

Mayor Gray Leonhard started with the will be having a revival and it's for 2 weeks and needs a place for the traveling minister. Discussion ensued and it was stated it has been done before.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked the audience if they had anything that they wanted to say. Mayor Gray Leonhard said he would entertain a motion.

Council Member Linnie Richardson made a motion to approve the RV to be used at Iglesia Misionera for 2 weeks as written; seconded by Council Member Jimmy Anderson. All agreed, motion carries.

e. Volusia County Sheriff and County of Volusia – Town Attorney Scott Simpson

Town Attorney Scott Simpson started off we are heading into uncharted waters we are a municipality, and the \$140,000 residents pay is for county wide services Courthouse, helicopter etc. The MSD fund charged to unincorporated residents cannot be used for Town

of Pierson. So, he stated what services the town residents will have so I can take it back to our council, he could never give me a list. I made other suggestions like an al cart service. So, if you look at the email in your packets, they have offered us a deal for half the price and are working on a negotiation for a longer contract. Town Planner Marek Karet stated like we asked 3 months ago. I was trying to find a way to resolve this, and one suggestion was a sheriff station he on campus that would serve all Northwest Volusia County. I was thinking this would help with the cost. Discussion ensued and a council member asked can we get a draft of the contract and Town Attorney Scott Simpson said we should let staff contact the Sheriff office for a draft of contract with what was written in the email. Town Attorney stated the have a union contract that they must work with the union. Staff were advised to contact the Chief Deputy to get a draft contract.

f. Traffic Safety Meeting – Lester Pulley

They are repaving 17 causing lane closures where they are working. We discussed micro mobility devices (scooters, motorbikes). Town may want to adopt an ordinance about micro mobility devices. Town attorney explained what some other cities are doing. They discussed traffic calming devices, and this did this on A1A with traffic shifts. Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated she found out from another city that speed bumps are like \$4,000 dollars apiece, Town planner Mark Karet stated it's very expensive. Lester Pulley continued Weight limits on bridges are being enforced and it's a hefty fine. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked where they are doing this and it's where they have bridges.

g. Volusia League of Cities 2026 Dinner Pierson -Mayor Gray Leonhard

The mayor started off with we have been asked to host the 2026 dinner here in Pierson from the Volusia League of cities. It was also mentioned that they liked the BBQ. Councilmember Brandy Petrson replied with we can use the cafeteria and Mayor Gray Leonhard said or the Lions Club. Council member Brandy Peterson volunteered to work on the cafeteria. Resident Heather Woods said that it's a great idea and she should ask for volunteers from the school so they can fill their volunteer hours. Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock explained we have tried different events, and no one ever signs up to help. Heather stated she has people ask her where they can get volunteer hours all the time.

h. Event committee in Pierson – Denise Colflesh

I am looking to start a committee like Kelly and Robin did. Town attorney Scott Simpson you can have a committee but if the town creates its sunshine law comes into effect, you will have to follow sunshine law and take minutes etc. Denise asked ha can we do this and just come together. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund told Denise I like your concept. Resident Sue Elliott came to podium and stated they followed the rules we got our own insurance. Only 8 people were involved and lots of people stated they would help, but it was just us 8 always. Robin Green stood up, we tried this for 2 years and we used \$10,000 dollars of our money. The community just wasn't that involved. Robin Green walked away, and audience clapped, and council thanked them for their work.

i. Volusia County Ditch spraying – Council member Brandy Peterson

Council Member Brandy Peterson discussed a proposal she received from Volusia County for cleaning the ditches. They will spray the ditches and then they will come in with the slope mower. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated he agreed that this needs to be done. Town attorney Scott Simpson asked so they will clean the ditches and haul away the debris. Council Member Jimmy Anderson stated that this needs to be done. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said he can't remember the last time the ditches were cleaned out. Council Member Brandy Peterson said it's just to get the done and then Public Works can maintain them after that.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked the audience if they had anything they wanted to say. Mayor Gray Leonhard said he would entertain a motion.

Council Member Jimmy Anderson made a motion to approve the above listed quote as written; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.

j. Ordinance 2025-08 2nd reading

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the ordinance; Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith explained it removes article three which is a duplicate. Water rates will be determined by ordinance. The resolution of 2021 never got updated.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked the audience if they had anything they wanted to say. Mayor Gray Leonhard said he would entertain a motion.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-08 at is 2nd reading as written; seconded by Council Member Brandy Peterson. All agreed, roll call vote taken, motion carries.

k. Resolution 2025-08

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the Resolution. Resident Mr. Cleveland stood up and stated that his property taxes are up and now his water bills, he is not happy and water the Council to know. Council Member Linnie Richardson stated we have two new wells, spending a lot of money on water tower and new water company CWS. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund told Mr. Cleveland we wouldn't increase it if we didn't have to. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that it's a 17% increase. We have added a mixer to the water tower for better water quality. We have the construction cost of the new wells, and the town must pay \$ 230,000 for it. We also replaced the altitude valve, gate valves and a flow meter on the old wells and operating cost have tripled. Clorine has increased with Hawkins, Duke Energy new meter cost and energy to run it.

l. Ordinance 2025-09 2nd reading

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the Ordinance, Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if the council has any questions. Town Planner Mark Karet stated this is for flood management and we have no choice in the matter. This is a state of Florida mandate so essentially, we have no choice. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said we are also updating the verbiage to minimum standards.

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189 Mayor Gray Leonhard asked the audience if they had anything to say, he also asked council.
190 Mayor Gray Leonhard said he would entertain a motion.
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192 **Council Member Linni Richardson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-09 at is**
193 **2nd reading as written; seconded by Council Member Brandy Peterson. All agreed, roll**
194 **call vote taken, motion carries.**
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196 **6. OTHER BUSINESS** (Mayor, Council and Staff Reports)
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198 Mayor Gray Leonhard started with he had nothing else right now, Vice Mayor had nothing,
199 Council Member Anderson had nothing. Council Member Linnie Richardson asked that all
200 council members go and please look the property up for a 2nd read, that's all I am going to
201 say. Council Member Peterson had nothing.
202

203 Town Planner Mark Karet said he will be here Thursday to meet with residents about their
204 zoning questions. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked about trees at 287 South Center Street, Mark
205 Karet replied that he received the arborist report and did approve 4 water oaks in the report to
206 be removed. Council Member Linnie Richardson stated that they have a machine with a wire
207 hooked up to the live oak tree over there and that there is a lot of activity over there. Town
208 Planner stated he hasn't received a site plan yet, but the surveyors are going to be there any
209 day now.
210

211 Town Attorney Scott Simpson updated the council on the open carry gun law that just passed
212 and isn't being appealed. He mentioned a person walking around with an AK 47 strapped to
213 his back. Also, the part about government buildings and courthouses are having a hard time
214 with this right now. It needs to be overturned but I don't think he wants it overturned. Times
215 are changing.
216

217 Resident Lester Pully brought up that events were not listed and Town clerk explained she
218 did not have time to look up the events. Mayor read off next meetings.
219

220 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.**
221

222 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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225

226 Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor

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