



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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

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| a. <u>Regular Meeting</u> | <u>September 16, 2025</u> |
| b. <u>Proposed TRIM Budget</u> | <u>September 8, 2025</u> |
| c. <u>Final TRIM Budget</u> | <u>September 22, 2025</u> |

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 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. ORDINANCE 2025-06 Annexation 765 N US Highway 17 2nd Reading

Town Attorney Scott Simpson read the ordinance and Mayor Gray Leonhard asked Town Planner if he had anything to add and Mark Karet stated it's a 2nd read, and other ordinances passed.

47 Mayor Gray Leonhard asked the audience if they had anything that they wanted to say. Mayor
48 Gray Leonhard said he would entertain a motion.
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50 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-06 at its 2nd**
51 **reading as written; seconded by Council Member Jimmy Anderson. All agreed, roll call**
52 **vote taken, motion carries.**
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54 b. Volusia County Council Running at large Mike Poniatowski
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56 Mike Poniatowski introduced himself and started by stating he has worked for Volusia
57 County for 47 years and stated that Pierson is what Volusia County used to look like, and
58 development is rampant in Volusia County and SB180 is taking owners rights away. He
59 understands that Pierson is struggling with money and if he gets elected, he will try his best
60 to help Pierson out. He will fight for affordable sales tax and fight SB180. I am not a
61 politician, but I have 47 years' experience in working in Volusia County and I will work
62 hard to help Pierson out. He thanked Council member Linnie Richardson for inviting him to
63 come speak to council and the residents of Pierson.
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65 c. Temporary Banners for Healthy kids running series – Alison Nast
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68 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that she was not present and just wanted to post some
69 temporary banners at Chipper Jones Park and schools to get kids involved. They will be
70 doing it on the 12th, 19th and 26th of October and the 9th and 16th of November. Council all
71 agreed to let her hang the temporary banners.
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74 d. Traffic Safety Meeting Lester Pulley
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77 Lester Pulley started with the growing concern of parents showing up at schools early to
78 pick up and cause traffic issues at the schools. State law mandates when they can open the
79 gate for parents because of security reasons. Discussion ensued with council. Lester Pulley
80 stated he had to vent a little that his son Charlie was left at school and when his wife called,
81 they stated he is within walking distance of the school where we live on Pine Street and
82 that's a long walk on a busy Us Highway 17. Council members Linnie Richardson and
83 Brandy Peterson stated that the council was told that any child can ride the bus even if they
84 live across the street from the school. Discussion ensued. Resident Sue Elliot stated
85 sidewalks are covered with debris doesn't the state have to take care of them. Mayor Gray
86 Leonhard stated the school board needs to do something about this and why they couldn't
87 use the bus loop for parents to pick up. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that they can only
88 open one gate and have a resource officer at that gate. Lester Pulley continued with the
89 traffic update and that the county is reconstructing and now has available funds for ADA
90 accessibility. They are still resurfacing here but they are doing it at night. The Council
91 thanked Lester Pulley for his update.
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e. Volusia County Sheriff and County of Volusia – Town Attorney Scott Simpson

Scott Simpson, started with that we had a zoom meeting with the Sheriff office and Volusia County, in your packets is the original contract and a copy with my notes on it, he started with page 2 of the contract and that we did not reconsider anything. Sherriff has not seen my edits because staff wanted you to review them prior to being sent to Volusia Sherriff office. Scott continued with next comment, which was 84 hours and that it would be better per week I also think Town should know the schedule when deputies are in the town limits. I also think the contract should be for the fiscal year. Discussion ensued and they determined they would like a schedule of when deputies are in the area and have hours changed to weekly. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked Lieutenant Huffman scheduling, and he stated every 14 days. Council member Linnie Richardson stated we just need a little more clarification on that. Town attorney also stated that a set schedule would let criminals know exact day that deputies are not in the town and would prefer a shuffled schedule. Discussion ensued and council agreed they want a monthly report, better explanation of hours and getting a schedule and possibly being involved in schedule to be sent to sheriff office. Town attorney Scott Simpson explained that unincorporated pay in their taxes a MSDU fee that is for law enforcement and what Town of Pierson pay into is a fund that's used for multiple things such as court system, helicopter etc. Council member Brandy Peterson stated that this is just for a year, and we are right back to what we had before, and Town attorney Scott Simpson said we will have negotiations. Town Attorney Scott Simpson said one way to look at it is you pay 160,000 in taxes and this is an additional cost to have a deputy in the Town of Pierson. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated in a year we will not have an increase in revenue. Town attorney reminded the council that we didn't reach out to the sheriff they reached out to them. Town Attorney also stated we need to find a long-term solution.

f. Homecoming Parade – Mayor Gray Leonhard

Mayor Gray Leonhard started off with the date of the Homecoming parade being October 17, 2025, at 1:30 PM, We just need the newest vehicle to drive us in the parade, Council member Linnie Richardson suggested her husband Paul George has a new truck. Paul George laughed and said he can do it.

g. Growing Homeless Issue in Pierson – Council Member Linnie Richardson

Council Member Linnie Richardson thanked the mayor and stated that we have no ordinance for homeless or vagrants. On 2 occasions we had homeless people show up. The first one was on Burnsed road, and he was out of his mind and then he threatened a business owner The law moved him out. The next one was sleeping at the community center, and the law moved him out. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked is he the one in the wheelchair?" Town attorney Scott Simpson started with this is a tough situation. Discussion ensued amongst the council.

Town attorney Scott Simpson said he will send the ordinance to staff. Lieutenant Huffman came to podium and stated a few facts and that this is a problem everywhere and the difference between public and private property. The sidewalk is public property, and the community center is private town property, and we moved the person along. We have done some research and found no homeless camp in Pierson. Resident Sue Elliott said to check with Rev because at the old building they had a camp of homeless by the railroad tracks. Deputy Ryan clerk asked if we must have no trespassing signs. Resident Phillip Hughes stated he dealt with a lot of homeless and you need to address it right away to the council.

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

Mayor Gray Leonhard said he doesn't have much but he did see the scarecrow contest is under way. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that after the rodeo he was contacted by public works that sidewalk was busted up, I contacted Billy Schmidt about repairing sidewalk. Council member Jimmy Anderson Louis's truck needs fixed, and these trucks are over 20 years old, and we need to investigate leasing new vehicles for public works department. Town Attorney Scott Simpson stated that leasing that might be more difficult, but we could piggyback the county. Town Planner Mark Karet mentioned piggyback the state. Council member Linnie Richardson mentioned trees on 17 and if we heard anything. The sidewalks in Pierson are covered up, and people have stopped using them. FDOT needs to start maintaining the trees and cleaning up sidewalks. Brandy stated that we need to get a contract with them for us to do it. Town Attorney Scott Simpson said they in fact do those types of contracts. Council member Brandy Peterson stated that she had public works pull up a speed bump on third Ave that someone put in our road. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked Town attorney if we have the authority to do that and he said yes, it's a town street. Council member Linnie Richardson also stated that the cell phone tower lights out by her home are not working and its 360 feet high. Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if he could get an address, he would contact the FAA. Council member Brandy Peterson stated that lime needs to be thrown down by the playground at Chipper Jones Park because the sand spurs are thick.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said we need to go back to the work truck, and it needs to be fixed. Mayor Gray Leonhard agreed.

Council member Brandy Peterson made a motion to approve repair of Louis's truck at a cost of \$1,188.70: seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed, motion carries.

Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock explains situation going on between Dominos and Pierson Family restaurant and the plated road 4th avenue in between both properties. Discussion amongst council continued and they decided it's a civil matter and to let them fight it out. Town attorney states that if town gets involved neither party will be happy.

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked if audience had anything and Resident Paul Martel stood up and started talking loudly about strip mall and they are over 25% of window coverage. You all have a DRA now and this needs to be fixed, it looks awful.

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Resident Philip Hughes stood up and stated the schools really need to fix the issues with the parents picking up children and something so that you can take your child to school earlier, most parents work and can't sit there and wait to drop their child off at school. Lions club did good at the rodeo, and they had an issue with the sprinklers working but didn't know anything about the sidewalks.

Mayor Gray Leonhard read off the next meeting and the events happening in the Pierson area.

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor