



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 – 6:37 P.M.  
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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**1. Call meeting to order**

Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M. and asked Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith 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

Also present were Utility Clerk Marci Nichols, Town Planner Mark Karet, and Town Attorney Christian Waugh.

**3. Oath of Office**

- a. Mayor David Gray Leonhard took the oath of office and was sworn in by Circuit Judge Kathryn Weston.
- b. Councilman Jimmy Anderson took the oath of office and was sworn in by his daughter, Connie Parrish.

**4. Nomination of Vice Mayor – Mayor Gray Leonhard**

**Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to retain Robert Greenlund as Vice Mayor; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

**5. Set Time of Regular Council Meeting – Mayor Gray Leonhard**

**Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to continue with meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

**6. Re-appointment of Council Committees**

Mayor Gray Leonhard asked for nominations for the various Council Committees.

47 Town Attorney Christian Waugh suggested that the Council could first discuss the full list of  
48 individual Council Committees, then vote to approve all nominations at once.

49  
50 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that he was fine with his current committee assignments  
51 if there were no objections from the rest of the Council.

52  
53 Discussion ensued about the various Council Committees and which members of Council  
54 would be suited to each.

55  
56 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked if the Police, Fire, and Civil Defense committee was  
57 necessary given that the County is responsible for police and fire services. Town Attorney  
58 Christian Waugh suggested that it would be useful to have a contact person with a relationship  
59 to those agencies. Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that he felt the Mayor should be that contact  
60 person.

61  
62 Discussion about a Public Works Director ensued. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said that  
63 a Public Works schedule should be created and set every two weeks by the Council, with  
64 emergencies being an exception. Councilman Jimmy Anderson said that the Public Works  
65 employees did not need a “babysitter” and that they should be able to work without constant  
66 supervision.

67  
68 The Deputy Clerk noted that the employee handbook referenced the Public Works Director  
69 as a decision-making entity and asked the Town Attorney how that would be implemented if  
70 the Council as a collective was in charge of Public Works. Town Attorney Christian Waugh  
71 said he was worried that there would be conflicts if each Council Member had individual  
72 authority to instruct Public Works employees. Mayor Leonhard said he personally felt a Public  
73 Works Director was needed.

74  
75 The Council discussed assigning Councilman Jimmy Anderson as Public Works Director.  
76 Councilwoman Linnie Richardson asked if there would be any issues arising from anti-  
77 nepotism laws due to Councilman Jimmy Anderson having family members working for the  
78 Town and Public Works. Mr. Waugh stated that Councilman Anderson would not be able to  
79 vote on items to benefit employees such as raises or bonuses, but that Councilman Anderson  
80 would not be prohibited from dealing with matters related to Public Works.

81  
82 Town Attorney Christian Waugh clarified that all Council Committees were informational  
83 only and that they were not decision-making committees. The committees would gather  
84 information and bring that information back to the full Town Council for any decision-  
85 making.

86  
87 The Council agreed on the final Council Committee assignments as follows:

88  
89 *Airport* Mayor Gray Leonhard – Chairman  
90 Councilmember Linnie Richardson  
91 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund  
92  
93 *Parks & Recreation* Councilmember Brandy Peterson – Chairwoman

94		Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
95		Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
96		
97	<i>Water</i>	Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund – Chairman
98		Councilmember Linnie Richardson
99		Mayor Gray Leonhard
100		
101	<i>Finance</i>	Councilmember Linnie Richardson – Chairwoman
102		Councilmember Brandy Peterson
103		Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
104		
105	<i>Streets</i>	Councilmember Brandy Peterson – Chairwoman
106		Mayor Gray Leonhard
107		Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
108		
109	<i>Police, Fire, Civil Defense</i>	Mayor Gray Leonhard
110		
111	<i>Public Works Director</i>	Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
112		Councilmember Brandy Peterson
113		Mayor Gray Leonhard
114		
115	<i>Natural Resources</i>	Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund – Chairman
116		Councilmember Brandy Peterson
117		Councilmember Linnie Richardson

118  
119 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the newly assigned Council**  
120 **Committee members; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed;**  
121 **motion carries.**

122  
123 **7. Re-appointment of TPO, TPO CAC, and Volusia League of Cities**  
124

125 The Council discussed prior members of the TPO and League of Cities boards. Mayor Gray  
126 Leonhard said he would volunteer for Volusia League of Cities. Mayor Leonhard said he had  
127 spoken to resident Karen Pittman who volunteered to continue serving on the TPO CAC.  
128 Town Planner Mark Karet explained that there were three committees at Transportation  
129 Planning Organization: a Citizens Advisory Committee, a Technical Coordinating Committee  
130 which Mr. Karet sits on, and the TPO Board which is comprised of elected officials. Mr. Karet  
131 said that due to its population, the Pierson seat is rotated with other small cities such as Oak  
132 Hill and Lake Helen. Mayor Leonhard said he would represent Pierson on the TPO Board.

133  
134 **Councilmember Brandy Peterson made the motion to approve the appointments of**  
135 **Mayor Gray Leonhard for the TPO Board and Volusia League of Cities, and Karen**  
136 **Pittman for the TPO CAC; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed;**  
137 **motion carries.**

138  
139 **8. NEW BUSINESS**  
140

141 a. Records Room air conditioner – Brandy Peterson – Councilwoman

142

143 Councilmember Peterson received a single quote on the air conditioner for the records room;  
144 the existing unit stopped working earlier in the year. Councilmember Peterson explained that  
145 a quote was obtained for a mini-split which was recommended to replace the traditional full-  
146 size units in the various rooms. Councilmember Peterson asked to table the item until  
147 additional quotes could be received.

148

149 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item; seconded by**  
150 **Councilman Jimmy Anderson. All agreed; motion carries.**

151

152 b. Moving burn pile – Linnie R. Richardson – Councilwoman

153

154 Councilmember Richardson said the burn pile had been an ongoing necessity for burning  
155 storm debris from the recent hurricane. Councilmember Richardson stated that it had been  
156 difficult to obtain burn permits due to the close proximity of the current burn pit to the high  
157 school, airport, and US Highway 17. Councilmember Richardson suggested moving the  
158 burn site to the Town property on County Road 3 where the dumpster is currently located.

159

160 Public Works foreman Louis Longo said it would be necessary to clear more of the  
161 proposed site and suggested speaking with a land clearing service.

162

163 Mayor Leonhard asked if there would be complaints from nearby residents. Vice Mayor  
164 Greenlund said the prevailing wind is usually out of the east and felt it would be a perfect  
165 location.

166

167 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund moved to table this item until the next meeting so that**  
168 **quotes for land clearing on the new site could be obtained; seconded by**  
169 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

170

171 c. New tires for Kubota mower – Brandy Peterson – Councilwoman

172

173 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said Public Works needed back tires on two mowers.  
174 Councilmember Peterson presented a quote for \$179.00 each, or \$719.18 for four tires. Vice  
175 Mayor Greenlund asked who provided the quote; Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock said the  
176 prices were from Amazon. Public Works foreman Louis Longo said tires are typically  
177 mounted by a local company such as Limitless Repair or Hot Wheelz.

178

179 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to purchase four tires in the amount of**  
180 **\$719.18; seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Anderson. All agreed; motion carries.**

181

182 d. Extended warranty for John Deere tractor – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith

183

184 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith received an extended warranty quote for the new John Deere 5060E  
185 tractor from Ag-Pro. Mr. Smith stated that the warranty would extend the coverage from 2  
186 years or 2,000 hours to 5 years or 5,000 hours. Mr. Smith said the amount of the quote was  
187 \$4,254.00. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said this would only add \$70.00 per month over the

188 60-month term of the loan. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund expressed his concerns with the  
189 quality of new vehicles and equipment, and felt it would be best to purchase the extended  
190 warranty.

191

192 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to purchase the extended warranty for**  
193 **5 years or 5,000 hours in the amount of \$4,254.00; seconded by Councilmember Brandy**  
194 **Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

195

196 e. Updates by Mayor Gray Leonhard

197

198 Mayor Leonhard asked if there was an update on Resolution 2021-11 regarding ADA  
199 compliance. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said that certain ADA compliance measures had been  
200 installed at the Town Center, a FRDAP grant application had been made to assist with  
201 bringing the playground at Chipper Jones Park into compliance, and that a renovation of the  
202 Community Center had been discussed in the past but tabled.

203

204 f. Updates on Town Projects from Town Attorney Christian Waugh

205

206 Mr. Waugh said he did not have updates but congratulated the new Council Members and  
207 thanked former Mayor Samuel Bennett for his years of service to the Town of Pierson.

208

209 g. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet

210

211 Mr. Karet said he was continuing to negotiate a service contract with CWS for water  
212 operations. Mr. Karet said there were no items for the November Planning & Zoning  
213 Commission and that it would be cancelled. Mr. Karet said he would be at the Town Center  
214 on November 21, 2024 to discuss their planning questions.

215

## 216 **9. OLD BUSINESS**

217

218 a. Trees on Short Street (tabled 10/08/2024) – Linnie R. Richardson -  
219 Councilwoman

220

221 Councilmember Richardson discussed trees on Short Street that she felt needed to be  
222 addressed. Councilmember Richardson noted that there was potentially another tropical storm  
223 forming and said the discussion could be reserved for a later date.

224

225 The Council discussed the location of the trees and whether they were on Town property.  
226 Mayor Leonhard asked if anyone knew for sure whether the trees were in the Town's right-  
227 of-way. Councilman Jimmy Anderson said the right-of-way was 60 feet – 30 feet on either  
228 side of the road from the center line – meaning the trees were in Town right-of-way.

229

230 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until after the**  
231 **potential tropical storm; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed;**  
232 **motion carries.**

233

## 234 **10. OTHER BUSINESS (Council and Staff Reports)**

235

236 Vice Mayor Greenlund said he would like to present former Mayor Bennett with a Resolution  
237 at the next regular meeting in honor of his 37 years of service to the Town of Pierson. Town  
238 Attorney Christian Waugh said he would author the Resolution.

239

240 Councilmember Linnie Richardson praised former Mayor Bennett for all he had done for the  
241 Town.

242

243 Councilmember Brandy Peterson had two items:

244

245 • Councilmember Peterson asked if any update had been received from DOT regarding  
246 the culvert wash-out on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Vice Mayor Greenlund asked the Clerk's office  
247 to contact Charlie Suber with DOT for an update.

248

249 • Councilmember Peterson welcomed the new Council Members and thanked former  
250 Mayor Bennett for his service and support.

251

252 Mayor Leonhard expressed his thanks to former Mayor Bennett. Former Mayor Bennett  
253 thanked the Council for their kind words and said he wished the Council success for the  
254 community.

255

256 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said he had included a copy of the Employee Rules and Regulations  
257 in each Council Member's agenda packet. Mr. Smith asked that the Council review the manual  
258 and make notes of any items they would like to discuss at an upcoming employee workshop.

259

## 260 **11. GOOD AND WELFARE (Public Participation)**

261

262 Resident Lester Pulley said he would like to add an item to the Pierson events. Mr. Pulley said  
263 the ladies of the Methodist Church would be hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday,  
264 December 7, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

265

266 Resident Mary Kay Hansen asked the Council for updates on the culvert at North Road.  
267 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said the County had hoped to address the culvert by the  
268 end of October, but the date had been pushed back due to the amount of storm damage from  
269 Hurricane Milton.

270

## 271 **12. PIERSON EVENTS**

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273 • Pierson Vendor Market – Saturday, November 16, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

274

275 • Seville Tree Lighting – Saturday, November 30, 2024 @ 3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

276

277 • A Florida Christmas Remembered – Barberville Pioneer Settlement – Saturday,  
278 December 14, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

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280 • Pierson Community Association Christmas Festival – Friday, December 6, 2024 @  
281 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

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Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked about the scarecrow contest winners. Utility Clerk Marci Nichols said that she won the individual category and Kids Kampus won the business category.

**13. ADJOURNED**

**Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.**

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gray Leonhard, Mayor