



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.  
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Town Clerk Carmen Spelorzi to call roll.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett  
Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund  
Councilmember Thomas R. Larrivee  
Councilmember Sergia Cardenas

Also present were Town Attorney Christian Waugh, Town Planner Mark Karet, Volusia County Sheriff's office representatives and Deputy Clerk Carrie Ward. Councilmember James Peterson was excused absent.

## **3. Invocation and pledge of allegiance**

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

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mayor Samuel Bennett**

### **a. Regular Meeting February 9, 2021**

Mayor Samuel Bennett entertained a motion for approval if there are no deletions or additions.

**Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02 (Renumbered from 2020-09) First Reading**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II - RULES OF INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS, SECTION 2.2 DEFINITIONS OF THE TOWN OF PIERSON UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.

Town Planner Mark Karet explained that a companion piece needs to be included and that it was just voted on by the P&Z at their last meeting. Mr. Karet recommends tabling this ordinance until the next regular Council meeting when all documents have been incorporated.

49 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table ordinance 2021-02 until the**  
50 **next regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Tom Larrivee. All agreed;**  
51 **motion carries.**

52

53 b. Contract with Mead & Hunt Inc for Engineering Services for the CDBG  
54 Potable Water System at Chipper Jones Park - Town Planner Mark Karet, Zev  
55 Cohen & Associates

56

57 Mayor Bennett read the title and asked Mr. Karet to elaborate. Mr. Karet spoke on the history  
58 of the project and that staff has been given authorization to procure professional services  
59 with Mead & Hunt as part of the CDBG process. Mr. Karet stated that the Town received  
60 \$650,000 and after all fees have been paid will have \$527,000 to spend on the project. The  
61 project has to be completed by January 2022, which is a tight deadline due to unforeseen  
62 delays.

63

64 Mr. Karet commented on the process after Mead & Hunt receives the signed contract.

65

66 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the contract with Mead &**  
67 **Hunt as submitted; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion**  
68 **carries.**

69

70 c. Renewal request from the Volusia League of Cities for the annual membership  
71 dues in the amount of \$700.00 for 2021

72

73 Mayor Bennett read the title and asked for a motion.

74

75 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the renewal request from**  
76 **the VLOC for the annual 2021 membership dues; seconded by Councilmember Tom**  
77 **Larrivee. All agreed; motion carries.**

78

79 d. Water & Sewer Availability on US HWY 17 (Tabled from 02/09/2021) -  
80 Deanna J Bennett

81

82 Mayor Bennett read the title and Mrs. Bennett, who was present in the audience, asked for  
83 this discussion item to be removed from the agenda until further notice.

84

85 e. Water Billing Adjustments: January- February 2021- Water Committee  
86 Chairman/ Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund

87

88 Mayor Bennett read the title and Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that one (1) adjustment was  
89 made and that the customer is set up on a payment plan.

90

91 f. Request from T. DeWitt Taylor Middle-High School for the school year 2021  
92 to be recipients of the Mayor Jimmy F. Sowell Memorial Scholarship - Mayor  
93 Samuel G.S. Bennett

94

95 Mayor Bennett spoke on the scholarship and recommended a \$250 - \$300 scholarship  
96 contribution. Discussion ensued.

97

98 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to select a scholarship in the amount of**  
99 **\$300; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

100

101 g. Resignation of Utility/ Deputy Clerk Carrie Ward - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

102

103 Mayor Bennett read the title and the entire Council thanked Ms. Ward for her service to the  
104 Town and wished her the best for her new endeavors.

105

106 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to accept Ms. Ward's resignation;**  
107 **seconded by Councilmember Tom Larrivee. All agreed; motion carries.**

108

109 h. Advertisement Approval for a Utility/ Deputy Clerk - Mayor Samuel G.S.  
110 Bennett

111

112 Discussion ensued to have a workshop to reevaluate the duties and responsibilities of the  
113 Utility/Deputy Clerk position prior to advertising for it. The Council decided to hold a  
114 workshop and the Town Clerk will set a date prior to the next regular Council meeting.

115

116 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to table the advertising at this time and**  
117 **to hold a workshop prior to the next Council meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert**  
118 **Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

119

120 i. State of Emergency Florida / Town of Pierson - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

121

122 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to extend the State of Emergency for**  
123 **the Town of Pierson for an additional seven (7) days; seconded by Councilmember Tom**  
124 **Larrivee. All agreed; motion carries.**

125 j. Updates by Mayor - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

126

127 Mayor Bennett reported on

- 128 • Proposal to relocate Public Library to new Town Center is moving ahead and VC
- 129 School Board should extend Town's request to keep building hooked up to sanitary
- 130 sewer; will present more info when available
- 131 • Heritage Heating and Air was paid for their work

132 k. Update of Town projects from Town Attorney – Town Attorney Christian  
133 Waugh

134

135 Mr. Waugh spoke on

- 136 • Two (2) amendments to the codes that will resolve issues with LDR
- 137 • Working on Bid proposal for sale of real property
- 138 • Utilities ordinance will come back before the Council after it's been advertised
- 139 • WCA rejected the proposed term for the revised contract but would
  - 140 • adjust the dollar amount they submitted if the Town wants a shorter term, as it
  - 141 was based on a five year fixed contract
  - 142 • Or extend the expiration of the current contract with its terms for one month
  - 143 while new pricing is being negotiated

144 Mr. Waugh recommended two options to the Council

- 145 1. Approve the five (5) year term with the rate proposed by WCA, but put a cap on the  
146 increase after two years, not to exceed 5% for example or  
147 2. Extend the current contract for one (1) month and approve the price WCA would  
148 quote if only a two (2) year term is guaranteed.

149 Discussion ensued that the quoted rates are very low and to keep the cap within 5% to 7%.

150 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve the five (5) year term**  
151 **contract and authorize the Town Attorney to negotiate a cap for the increase after two**  
152 **(2) years not to exceed 7%; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed;**  
153 **motion carries.**

- 154 1. Update of Town projects from Town Planner – Town Planner Mark Karet, Zev  
155 Cohen & Associates  
156

157 Mr. Karet spoke on

- 158 • Discussion points during the 2/16/21 P&Z meeting – Code enforcement amendments  
159 to LDR, language to allow for accessory dwellings,  
160 • Was onsite 2/18/21 and met with a client for a future business on Hwy 17  
161 • Onsite again March 4th  
162 • Business district signs - signage applications sent to FDOT, concerns raised by FDOT  
163 pertaining to adjacent residential zoning, directional signs may be allowed versus  
164 signs listing the names of businesses. Mr. Karet will report back once more info is  
165 received  
166

167 Mayor Bennett spoke on Mr. Scott O’Quinn’s business on Echo Street and doing a special  
168 exception for his non-conforming use business and two residents close to the business are not  
169 opposed to a special exception but do not want to see any rezoning. Mr. Karet spoke on what  
170 the process of doing a special exception entails. The Council is in consensus to have the Town  
171 Planner create criteria for the Council to either approve or deny special exceptions on a case  
172 by case basis.  
173

## 174 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

175 None

## 176 **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

177

178 Councilmember Sergia Cardenas, the Town Attorney and the Town Clerk as well as the  
179 Volusia County Sheriff’s office had no additional comments.  
180

181 Vice Mayor Greenlund asked if the VCSO could check on Chipper Jones park because the  
182 dugouts are being trashed with litter by High School kids during their lunch breaks.  
183 Councilmember Tom Larrivee recommended placing signs to place trash in cans and that this  
184 can help the VCSO enforce this matter. Discussion ensued to also alert the school and the  
185 Council directed the Town Clerk to send an email with pictures to the Principal and copy the  
186 Council.  
187

- 188 Mayor Bennett spoke on:
- 189 • Where to register for vaccine
  - 190 • Votran usage– Town Clerk to get info on meeting on 2/25 and also put up on Marquee
  - 191 • Handy Way- the reopening of the gas station / store
  - 192 • New Business “Frostbite”
  - 193 • Lots of growth – new homes
  - 194 • Thanked all for their participation

195

196 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (public participation)**

197

198 Mrs. Linnie Richardson, 270 Richardson Ln,

- 199 • addressed Councilmember Cardenas and asked her to define who her constituents are.
- 200 • Inquired why no funds have been collected from the Pierson Saddle Club. Discussion
- 201 ensued and Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that he would take care of it. Mr. Waugh
- 202 explained that the agreement has been completed and that staff is working on getting
- 203 it signed. Also, no insurance paperwork has been received. The Council agreed to have
- 204 the Vice Mayor speak with the Saddle’s Club representative and direct them to cease
- 205 and desist any further activity until proper insurance paperwork and payment have
- 206 been received.

207

208 Mr. Paul Martel, 506 N. Pine Street, inquired about

- 209 • the difference between the FLOC and VLOC
- 210 • clarification if the structure on Echo Street is a mobile or modular home; Mr. Karet
- 211 explained the difference; consensus to have P&Z come up with criteria to make those
- 212 structures look more like single family homes instead of single wide mobile homes.

213

214 Resident William McClain, Western Ave inquired about the status of the noise ordinance and

215 Mr. Karet as well as the VCSO advised. Mr. Waugh informed the Council that he is waiting

216 on the VC Attorney. Council consensus to have Mr. Waugh work with the VCSO Attorney

217 and create citations.

218 **9. ADJOURNED**

219 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

220 Minutes prepared by: Minutes approved by:

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226 \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Spelorzi, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett