



# TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.  
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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**1. Call meeting to order**

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 was also in attendance.

**3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Water rates

Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith provided the Council with water rate comparisons to other Volusia County municipalities and discussed how different cities and towns bill for water usage. Mr. Smith said that water rate increases are often based on the Public Service Commission's Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is released each year. The Council discussed the percentages of the CPI for past years and whether the upcoming increase needed to be higher than the current 2.23%.

The Council discussed a one-time 10% increase to cover the cost of the new well maintenance and increased operator fees. Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked if the rate increase needed to be advertised. Mr. Smith said the Council would have to instruct staff to prepare an Ordinance which would be noticed on water bills and advertised to the public.

Vice Mayor Greenlund said he felt the increase needed to be implemented as soon as possible. Mr. Smith said the one-time 10% increase could cover the remainder of 2025 and

47 all of 2026, with annual CPI increases starting in January 2027.

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49 Mr. Smith said he would prepare a rate sheet showing several different options for increases  
50 to present to Council at an upcoming meeting.

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52 b. 4<sup>th</sup> of July

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54 The Council reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July income and expenses for 2024. There was discussion  
55 about allowing food trucks to register and sell food. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said  
56 Little League had food trucks at their opening day ceremony and it was a big hit.  
57 Councilmember Peterson said she thought the trucks donated a portion of their proceeds back  
58 to Little League.

59

60 Resident Sue Elliott said she felt the food trucks would be a big draw because of the variety.

61

62 Vice Mayor Greenlund said he didn't mind food trucks participating as long as the Town got  
63 a percentage of the sales.

64

65 Councilmember Brandy Peterson noted that most food trucks were probably committed to  
66 other events for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

67

68 The Council discussed other expenditures such as inflatables, water slides, face-painting, and  
69 off-duty deputies.

70

71 Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked about the donation letter that is distributed. Deputy  
72 Clerk Ryan Smith said the event needed to be promoted better this year. Councilmember  
73 Peterson said a letter needed to be sent to every business who receives a Business Tax Receipt  
74 from the Town. There was discussion about printing and laminating flyers to distribute around  
75 Pierson and neighboring unincorporated towns.

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77 Vice Mayor Greenlund agreed that the Town should be more aggressive in pursuing sponsors.  
78 The Council discussed various businesses in the area.

79

80 Resident Sue Elliott asked about music at the event. Councilmember Peterson noted that a  
81 phone can be connected to the speaker system at the rodeo grounds for music.

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83 c. Airport status

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85 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith noted that there was an upcoming DOT inspection in August, and  
86 two outstanding items from the previous inspection needed to be addressed. One item includes  
87 a 75-foot-wide airport circle marker which is paved in sections. Mr. Smith said it would  
88 probably be best to hire a company who is familiar with the marker to ensure it is installed  
89 correctly.

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91 Mr. Smith said the airport liability insurance was due for renewal in May, but a quote had not  
92 yet been received.

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94 The Council discussed the wages for Public Works to mow and maintain the airport.  
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96 Mr. Smith said there were three airport tenants. Discussion ensued about the abandoned glider  
97 owned by Eagle Sport Aviation.  
98  
99 Mayor Leonhard asked the Council if he should meet with Roy Sieger of Flagler Airport to  
100 discuss leasing the airport. Councilmember Linnie Richardson said she wanted to speak with  
101 the Town Attorney about it first. Councilmember Richardson said she was concerned about  
102 the increased risk of liability with increased activity at the airport.  
103  
104 Vice Mayor Greenlund said he felt that Mayor Leonhard should speak with Mr. Sieger  
105 because he did not want to see the airport close.  
106  
107 Mayor Leonhard closed the airport agenda item and asked the Council if they had any other  
108 discussion.  
109  
110 Councilmember Linnie Richardson discussed the current dry conditions and said she had  
111 spoken to the fire marshal regarding the Town implementing its own local burn ban.  
112 Councilmember Richardson said she had placed a call to the Town Attorney but had not heard  
113 back.  
114  
115 The Council briefly discussed the Sheriff's Office response to an incident in Town where  
116 teenagers were mudding on the side of Hagstrom Road. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said the  
117 Sheriff's Office would be meeting with staff on April 15, 2025 to discuss the upcoming  
118 contract renewal. Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked if the shift hours could be  
119 reduced.  
120  
121 The Council discussed Little League and an issue with gate closures at Chipper Jones Park.  
122 Mayor Leonhard said he did not think Little League was authorized to close gates to the park.  
123 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said Little League had more of an issue with the Mayor's  
124 tone. Councilmember Peterson said she felt the Council needed to remember to speak to the  
125 public in a professional way. Discussion ensued about access to the park if the gates were  
126 closed. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said the Council had agreed that the gate could be closed  
127 on opening day but not for subsequent games. Mr. Smith said the decision might not have  
128 been relayed to Little League. Mr. Smith stated that the Town needed a contract with Little  
129 League to cut down on confusion between the Town and the League.  
130  
131 Vice Mayor Greenlund and Councilmember Jimmy Anderson discussed irrigation on the rear  
132 ball fields at Chipper Jones Park. Vice Mayor Greenlund said the pump pumps too much  
133 water and needs a regulator. Councilmember Anderson said the fields were set up as different  
134 zones. The Council discussed reconfiguring the zones and installing a regulator to water the  
135 fields properly.  
136  
137 Mayor Leonhard showed pictures to the Council of trash at the ball fields. Mayor Leonhard  
138 said he would like to see people clean up after themselves. The Council discussed the Saddle  
139 Club's use of the rodeo grounds, maintenance, and upkeep.  
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141 The Council discussed putting the ball field lighting on a token system as it was in the past.

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143 **5. ADJOURNED**

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145 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.**

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147 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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

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Gray Leonhard, Mayor

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