



TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

1 **1. Call meeting to order**
2

3 Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne
4 Braddock to take the roll call.
5

6 **2. Roll call**
7

8 PRESENT:

9 Mayor Gray Leonhard
10 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
11 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
12 Councilmember Linnie Richardson
13 Councilmember Brandy Peterson
14
15

16 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith and the Volusia County Sheriff were also in attendance.
17

18 **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
19

20 Invocation and Pledge were done at workshop prior. Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the
21 invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
22

23 **4. NEW BUSINESS**
24

25 a. Lion's Club Contract for Rodeo Grounds- Mayor Gray Leonhard
26

27 Mayor Gray Leonhard started off by stating that we discussed this prior and this is a continuation
28 of the prior workshop. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that we ne to turn rodeo grounds over
29 to the Lion's club and charge them a dollar. With the Property tax reform bill going on the ballet,
30 we will be losing 150,000 of budget in 2027 and 250,000 of budget in 2028 and we have always
31 had a good relationship with the Lion's club, and we want to keep it that way. Mayor Gray
32 Leonhard agreed that we should turn it over to the Lion's club and they are responsible for the
33 maintenance and repair and a clause that allows Saddle Club to use it and Town if necessary.
34 Council Member Linnie Richardson stated that with 2020 contract and event permit cost of 250.00
35 a day. Section 5 of the contract and she read section. She stated that where it says may change to
36 shall. Council Member Linnie Richanrdson stated for 250.00 a night you should be doing the
37 repairs. Council member Linnie Richardson also stated that she is not comfortable with them being
38 able to rent it carte blanche. Mayor Gray Leonhard repeated what Council Member Linnie
39 Richardson stated, that we have always had a good response with the Saddle Club and we have
40 done the repairs and the propane tank keeping it full and paying for all the electricity. She asked

41 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith when we paid for electrical from Fred Hough and he stated 2025. Phillip
42 Hughs president of the Lions Club stated that what he is understanding is for a two-day event night
43 you want the Lion's club to do repairs all year long. Can we get an itemized list are we supposed
44 to mow it. Discussion ensued. Council member Linnie Richardson brought up that we should just
45 leave the aluminum bleachers up there and take out the other ones. Kathy Buttons from the Saddle
46 Club stated that they had to spend 1000.00 on sprinklers because they were hitting wood bleachers
47 and they had to redirect them not to hit the bleachers. They are only used during the rodeo and if
48 there are no bleachers people will bring chairs to sit on. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that we mow
49 up there, but we cannot continue to pay money to repair it. Council Member Brandy Peterson
50 stated that we can't continue doing 95% of it. Mayor Gray Leonhard was reading the contract out
51 loud about the lessee and lesser. Town Attorney Scott Simpson explained that there are two
52 different concepts, first particular time and date and gave example of you hiring someone in to cut
53 the timber. I believe what you are talking about is a lease. He used Lake Helen Saddle club as an
54 example that they lease. Discussion ensued about name of Saddle Club in city of Lake Helen.
55 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked if there an expectation for rental of property as is. Public works
56 go up there for weeks to do repairs. Town Attorney Scott Simpson states charge them enough or
57 transfer it to the Lion's club. Discussion ensued about contract and Council Member Brandy
58 Peterson stated that we are creating a hybrid contract a little of both. Lion's Club President Phyllip
59 Hughes states go up prior to event and take pictures as proof everything is working. Council
60 Member Brady Peterson and Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated we plan on doing that. Discussion
61 ensued about lightning strike. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated you can not control an act of
62 God. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated we will be documenting the condition of the rodeo ground
63 a few days prior to the event. Phillip Hughes explains when they rent the lion's club for an event
64 that's what they do. Resident Lamar Dixon and member of Lion's club stated that there are two
65 different issues going on. Rodeo grounds need maintenance all year, and lights have to be replaced,
66 Fred Hough told us that last year when he fixed them. Council Member brandy Peterson stated we
67 are not blaming anyone. Resident Lamar Dixon stated that we may not want to hear it but there
68 was a verbal agreement with Sammie Bennett that town will fix and do repairs. Discussion ensued.
69 Lamar Dixon stated that they had a circus up there to raise money. It can be rented for other events.
70 President of Lion's Club Phillip Hughes stated without extra income we can't fix it. Kathy Buttons
71 of the Saddle Club stated they do want to pay the lions club for use of the rodeo ground. Council
72 Member Brandy Peterson stated you want it for free and resident Jackie North stated we don't
73 want it for free. Discussion ensued. Kathy Buttons of the Saddle Club stated we rent it as is and
74 repair anything that needs to be fixed, we pressure wash we spray the weeds etc. That's how we
75 rent it and that's always been the agreement. Phillip Hughes states he is okay with a set rental fee.
76 Lamar Dixon stated this is a pissing match like before about money, we did what we needed to do
77 we are residents of this town, and I have been a member of the Lion's club a long time. I can't see
78 how, if we are in charge, you have any control of who we rent it to. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
79 stated we will have a contract for the saddle club and one for the lion's club. Lamar Dixon asked
80 who was going to maintain it. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated we cannot maintain it for the money
81 you are paying. Lamar Dixon stated it's all about the money and we have got to figure this out.
82 Discussion ensued. Council Member Brandy Peterson stated that either you fix it or we remove it.
83 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that we need to charge Lion's club one dollar, and they are
84 responsible for repairs and maintenance. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated since he handles the
85 budget that the town has borrowed from reserves in the past and now, we barely have any reserves.
86 We can no longer count on grants since the property tax reform has gone into play because they

87 may no longer be available, I have already been contacted by Echo grant. We cannot keep throwing
88 money at things with us losing 160,000 of our budgets other than cut employees which we only
89 have 6 its going to be a health insurance change or agreement or I don't know what else. That's all
90 I have to say. Phillip Hughes of Lion's Club stated they don't want to get in that situation either.
91 It's going to be \$ 14,000 to replace the lights, which I don't think is a lot of money. Council
92 Member Linnie Richardson stated why do you take it back to your club members. Deputy Clerk
93 Ryan Smith suggests that they present an option and Town attorney Scott Simpson states to make
94 a proposal to the town. Mayor Gray Leonhard states that it is a good idea and they should bring a
95 proposal to the next meeting. Council member Jimmy Anderson started explaining how it used to
96 be and that they don't want the rodeo to go away. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated meeting adjourned
97 council meeting is starting in two minutes.

98
99

100 Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM

101
102
103
104
105
106
107

108 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

109
110
111

112 _____
Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

Gray Leonhard, Mayor