



TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN CENTER**

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7 **1. Call meeting to order**
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9 Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and asked Town Clerk Yvonne
10 Braddock to take the roll call.
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12 **2. Roll call**
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14 PRESENT:

15 Mayor Gray Leonhard
16 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
17 Councilmember Jimmy Anderson
18 Councilmember Linnie Richardson
19 Councilmember Brandy Peterson
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21 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith was also in attendance.
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23 **3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
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25 Councilmember Linnie Richardson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge
26 of Allegiance.
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28 **4. NEW BUSINESS**
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30 a. Volusia Sheriff's Office contract discussion
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32 Mayor Gray Leonhard started off by saying we can't afford to pay a 3rd of our budget for
33 enhanced service. Council member Linnie Richardson stated it's not rational we have the
34 highest percentage at 29.9% with the sheriff's office. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated we need
35 to decide what to do we as a town cannot do 12-hour shifts every day and with residents
36 already paying 141,000 in taxes and what we pay is a total of \$490,000. Council member
37 Brandy Peterson stated that the County is having Sheriff contract issues. Deputy Clerk Ryan
38 Smith explains that unincorporated areas in Volusia County don't even cover the sheriff
39 contract they are going to raise property taxes. The 10% increase was 15 million last year.
40 Volusia County is trying to figure it out and they will be having meetings to discuss this.
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42 Council member Brandy Peterson stated since our first discussion with them they haven't
43 been present at any meetings. Deputy Ryan Smith stated it's a breach of Contract. Discussion
44 ensued. Council member Brandy Peterson stated they are leaving the bathrooms unlocked at
45 the parks and Vice Mayor Greenlund stated he saw two of them at the park talking.
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Council member Linnie Richardson explained the issue at the airport yesterday how prior owner of planes wife sent 2 people to take planes out of the airport. The sheriff office showed up and no report was taken. They sent a canine to check the plane, but the dog did not detect anything, but the dog is from team B. Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that the sheriff office still must respond if we don't do enhanced contract with them. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that Ms. Howell came to the office twice trying to only pay half of the bill and Ryan explained that she can buy the planes for what is owed but we will not take half of the payment. Ryan also explained that they removed the tarp from the plane and had an engine compartment open. Council member Linnie Richardson stated that public works barricaded the planes where the old kennels were with dump truck and tractor and post no trespassing signs. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated that if they show up again its grand theft.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated let's get back to the reason for the meeting and have we heard anything from the sheriff's office. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that he emailed Brian Henderson and Mau and they have not responded yet. Discussion ensued. Mayor Gray Leonhard said overall cost for 12 hours a day 7 days a week and they can call our deputy out at any time we should receive a refund for those instances. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that they have a clause in all their contracts that protect them. Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock stated that she has seen a lot of State Troopers and Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated they are doing DOT checks.

Mayor Gray Leonhard stated what if we try for the 8-hour shift, Council Member Linnie Richardson stated an 8-hour shift at \$60.00 an hour would shave off 100,000 dollars. Discussion ensued about the sheriff office not doing 8-hour shift because shifts are 12 hours. Vice Mayor Greenlund suggests that we try a 12-hour shift 2 or 3 times a week. Council member Linnie Richardson stated we want them here for the weekends. Discussion ensued. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated what if we tell them we can only afford 250,000 and what can we get for that. Town clerk Yvonne Braddock voiced her opinion of 250,000 in a few years we will be right where we are right now. Discussion ensued. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked council to look at spread sheet he created and explained if we increase the millage rate to max amount it is only an extra \$70,000 a year. Discussion ensued about telling them \$200,000 is all we can afford. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith also stated that we have borrowed from the reserves for the last budget and if we pay the sheriff's office full amount, we will have to borrow from the reserves again. Mayor Gray Leonhard stated if we keep borrowing from the reserves, we eventually won't have any reserves. Vice Mayor Greenlund agrees that we can't continue to borrow from reserves. Discussion ensued and they came to a mutual agreement that if they do not respond to Ryan's email, we will bring it back to a Council meeting to explain that we only have \$200,000 and what can we get for enhanced services. All agreed

5. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:29 P.M.

94 Minutes prepared by:

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Yvonne Braddock, Town Clerk

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Minutes approved by:

Gray Leonhard, Mayor