



TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Gray Leonhard called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.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. Little League Baseball – Mayor Gray Leonhard

Lindsay Link of Northwest Volusia Little League spoke to Council regarding new infield sod being installed on Fields 1 and 2. Ms. Link said the old sod was currently being removed and gave a tentative date of December 5th or 6th for the new Bermuda sod installation.

Vice Mayor Greenlund asked if the sod had been donated. Ms. Link said that the sod was purchased from Johnston Brothers Sod in Bunnell using fundraiser proceeds and that the installation was donated by Superior Sod. Ms. Link said that new sod was only being installed in the infield and not the outfield.

Councilmember Jimmy Anderson noted that sandspurs were bad on the fields and felt that they were better controlled before Volusia County took over park maintenance. Councilmember Anderson said proper mowing and Weed & Feed is what the Town's Public Works department used in the past to keep the sandspurs in check.

46 Resident Stacy Jones said that adding dolomite to the soil might help with the sandspur issue.
47 Mayor Leonhard said Weed & Feed was good for St. Augustine grass but not for other types.
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49 Northwest Volusia Little League said the County had addressed the lip in the clay around the
50 field which was a problem.
51
52 Councilmembers Linnie Richardson and Brandy Peterson stressed that the Town was not in a
53 financial position to sign the interlocal agreement with Volusia County for approximately
54 \$44,000.00.
55
56 Mayor Leonhard said that the teams should be responsible for lining the fields.
57 Councilmember Peterson agreed and said that teams should be responsible for lining the fields
58 and general field upkeep.
59
60 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund asked if the Little League teams passed around donation
61 buckets at games as they had in the past. Ms. Link said that they had not done that in recent
62 years.
63
64 Ms. Link said to keep the dues low for families so that more children could play baseball, the
65 Northwest Volusia Little League had tried to rely on sponsorships. Ms. Link said that the
66 Little League provided players with jerseys but had considered also providing socks and belts
67 in the future.
68
69 Mayor Leonhard assured Ms. Link that the new sod would be watered in accordance with the
70 requirements of the sod company. Mayor Leonhard said that he wanted to determine what the
71 shared responsibility would be between the Town and Northwest Volusia Little League
72 regarding maintaining the fields. Mayor Leonhard said that the teams should line the fields
73 while the Town could continue to mow the grass and potentially rake the clay.
74
75 Resident Tom Peterson said the current Volusia County employee tasked with maintaining
76 the fields had been doing a good job. Vice Mayor Greenlund said he would try and speak with
77 the County employee regarding the current field maintenance.
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79 The Council discussed asking the Town Attorney to negotiate with the County, noting that a
80 portion of all residents' taxes were paid to the County and that many children from the
81 surrounding unincorporated areas of northwest Volusia County played ball and utilized
82 Chipper Jones Park.
83
84 Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked Ms. Link if it was possible for Northwest Volusia
85 Little League to find someone to drag the clay on the fields. Ms. Link said it would be unlikely
86 due to the members of the organization having full-time jobs.
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88 The Council discussed methods to rake the clay and agreed to get prices on machinery or
89 equipment to complete this work.
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91 Ms. Link said the Northwest Volusia Little League typically had 4 games a week, in addition
92 to practices. The teams are scheduled to start practicing for the spring season at the end of
93 January or beginning of February.

94

95 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith briefly spoke about Volusia ECHO grants and advised Ms. Link
96 that it could be a potential option, but that he was not sure if ECHO grants had been provided
97 to other Little League organizations before.

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99 The meeting concluded with Vice Mayor Greenlund saying that he would like to speak with
100 the current County maintenance worker at the ball fields, and Mayor Leonhard and
101 Councilmember Peterson added that the Town would look into pricing on equipment for
102 dragging the clay.

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104 **5. ADJOURNED**

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106 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.**

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108 Minutes prepared by:

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113 Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Gray Leonhard, Mayor