



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 – 6:30 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and asked Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock to take the roll call.

2. Roll call

PRESENT:

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett
Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
Councilmember Sergia Cardenas
Councilmember Linnie Richardson
Councilmember Brandy Peterson

Also present were Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith, Utility Clerk Marci Nichols, and Town Planner Mark Karet. Town Attorney Christian Waugh was absent.

3. Invocation and pledge of allegiance

Mayor Bennett invited Pastor Larry Miller from Church of God of Prophecy to give the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

- a. Regular Meeting February 27, 2024

Mayor Bennett read the title and asked if there were any additions and/or deletions, if not he would entertain a motion for approval.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 162 W. 2nd Ave Sidewalks – Jeremy Steadman

Business owner Jeremy Steadman spoke to Council regarding the cracked and damaged sidewalk in front of his business at 162 W. 2nd Ave. Mr. Steadman is concerned it could be a liability for the town. He asked if the sidewalk could be either repaired or removed entirely. Mayor Bennett said that

47 it keeps pedestrians out of the street. Councilwoman Sergia Cardenas stated that she had never seen
48 anyone using that sidewalk, but instead walking on the opposite side of the street. Councilwoman
49 Brandy Peterson noted that it is only a partial sidewalk on that property and that other neighboring
50 properties do not have sidewalks. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund suggested tabling the issue until all
51 Council members could see and assess the sidewalk.

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53 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table Item 5a until the Council assessed the**
54 **sidewalk damage; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

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56 b. Save Our Boating Rights – Kristine Wake

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58 Kristine Wake was unable to attend the meeting.

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60 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table Item 5b until Kristine Wake**
61 **could be in attendance; seconded by Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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63 c. Street signs and other signage – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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65 Mayor Bennett discussed the fact that there had been issues with people entering cemeteries
66 after hours. Pierson has ordinances in place regarding activities permitted or prohibited in
67 cemeteries but the signage at those locations is old and illegible. Mayor Bennett suggested
68 that the signage should be replaced. Councilwoman Sergia Cardenas noted that Volusia
69 Sheriff deputies cannot enforce trespassing orders without the proper signage posted.
70 Councilwoman Linnie Richardson said that while on the subject of signage, the “Autistic
71 Child” road sign should be removed on Palmetto Avenue because the family of the child has
72 moved. Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund stated that signs are relatively inexpensive and should
73 be replaced as needed. Councilwoman Brandy Peterson said that replacements should not
74 need approval as long as they are for existing signage and not new signage.

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76 d. Budget of \$10,000 for Renovations at New Town Center, Discussed at
77 Workshop – March 4, 2024

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79 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve the \$10,000 renovation**
80 **budget for the upcoming rental units at New Town Center which were discussed at the**
81 **Workshop on March 4, 2024; seconded by Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

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83 e. 4th of July Discussion and Action, Discussed at Workshop – March 4, 2024

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85 **Councilmember Brandy Peterson made the motion to rent the Patriotic Bounce House,**
86 **Excavator Combo, 60’ Obstacle Course, Double Tiki Curve, Rock Wall, and Electric**
87 **Train from Jumpin’ Beans Party Rentals, as well as the purchase of a snow cone**
88 **machine and a popcorn machine for the 4th of July event which were all discussed at the**
89 **Workshop on March 4, 2024; seconded by Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

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91 f. Improvements at Chipper Jones Park – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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93 Mayor Bennett discussed the potential need for railings on the high bleachers at the rodeo
94 grounds. The Mayor stated that he would get a quote from Travis Roach at Extreme Welding

95 Works in Pierson. Vice Mayor Greenlund suggested getting multiple quotes. Councilwoman
96 Brandy Peterson stated that the bathrooms at the ball park are in terrible shape and need to be
97 totally refurbished. The Councilwoman also voiced her concerns over some of the rusty and
98 aging playground equipment in the park. The Council discussed obtaining quotes for the
99 bathrooms. Vice Mayor Greenlund also discussed treating for the sandspurs in the ball fields.

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101 Resident Mary Kay Hansen asked if Hunter Pest Control had treated the fire ants at the ball
102 fields because she still observed ants over the past week. Town Clerk Yvonne Braddock
103 confirmed they had been treated.

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105 Residents Gray Leonhard and Kelly Green spoke about their concerns with making the parks
106 and buildings of the town ADA compliant. Mr. Leonhard reminded the Council that a list of
107 non-compliant items had been provided in previous years by Melissa Fox of Fred Fox
108 Enterprises. Mr. Leonhard offered to provide a copy of the list which he had kept if the
109 Council did not have one.

110

111 Mayor Bennett said he would contact the company who installed the Welcome to Pierson
112 signs on each end of town to inquire about cleaning and maintenance because the signs are
113 showing signs of wear and the need for cleaning. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

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115 g. Town Clerk Mentor – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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117 Town Planner Mark Karet and Mayor Bennett discussed a Mentor for the Town Clerk's office.
118 Mr. Karet spoke with Kohn Evans, the former administrator of Oak Hill, who is now a
119 consultant for Town Clerks. Mr. Karet suggested that Ms. Evans would be able to answer
120 specific questions related to Clerk duties. Councilwoman Linnie Richardson asked for a
121 proposal and stated that it would be a good idea if financially feasible. Mayor Bennett said he
122 would call Kohn Evans to discuss.

123

124 h. Resolution 2024-02 – Form 6 – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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126 Mayor Bennett reads *Resolution 2024-02: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF*
127 *THE TOWN OF PIERSON, FLORIDA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, IN OPPOSITION*
128 *TO THE RECENTLY ENACTED STATUTORY AMENDMENTS MADE BY SB 774 (2023)*
129 *WHICH REQUIRE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS TO COMPLETE "FORM 6" DISCLOSURES*

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131 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-02;**
132 **seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. Motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.**

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134 i. Water Tower Communication Link – Change Order by SGS Contracting –
135 Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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137 Mayor Bennett stated that SGS Contracting wanted to discuss a change order for the Chipper
138 Jones Wells project to add a communication link between the new well site and the water
139 tower, however they were not available for the presentation and would like to table it for a
140 later date.

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142 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table Item 5i; seconded by**
143 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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j. Trees at Town Center – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

147 Mayor Bennett addressed the need to remove multiple trees that are dead or hazardous at
148 Pierson Town Center. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith obtained a quote from Charles Gay of M&B
149 Tree Service to remove the dead tree in front of the Town Center, multiple trees in the
150 courtyard behind Building 3, and three trees in front of Building 5. The total quote was
151 \$4,100.00 which included stump grinding and hauling off the debris.

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**Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve the quote of \$4,100.00
from M&B Tree Service to remove multiple trees; seconded by Councilmember Brandy
Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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k. Hagstrom Road Updates and Action – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

159 Mayor Bennett stated that he spoke with a few residents who own property along the sections
160 of Hagstrom Road where there is severe water encroachment. There was originally a canal to
161 the lake which helped with drainage but it has been overgrown and in need of maintenance
162 for many years. Mayor Bennett has discussed drafting an agreement with the property owners
163 via the Town Attorney which would allow the Town to clean and maintain the canal. The
164 Mayor would like to proceed with discussions between the property owners and the Attorney
165 to put an agreement in writing. Councilwoman Brandy Peterson stated that she wanted to see
166 quotes to have the canal professionally cleaned. Mayor Bennett also discussed checking the
167 existing culverts to see if they are clogged and could be cleaned. Vice Mayor Greenlund said
168 that the land is potentially too low for the water to flow out.

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**Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to draft an agreement for a
permanent easement and canal on Hagstrom Road; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert
Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

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l. Old Signage at old Town Hall – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

176 Mayor Bennett stated that the old signage at the former Town Hall building is still in place.
177 He would like to remove it. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said he had searched for information
178 on the company who installed the previous sign but could not find it. It was suggested by the
179 Deputy Clerk and resident Jeremy Steadman that Surety Bank might be interested in updating
180 the sign and could remove the Town Hall portion of the sign in the process. Mayor Samuel
181 G.S. Bennett said that quotes could be obtained from other sign companies. Councilwoman
182 Linnie Richardson stated her strong opposition to using Big Dog Signs of Pierson due to the
183 owner’s mischaracterizations of the Town and specifically Town Planner Mark Karet.

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m. Updates by Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

187 Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett said he had no further updates at this time.

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189 n. Updates of Town Projects from Town Attorney Christian Waugh
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191 Christian Waugh was absent from the meeting.

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193 j. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet

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195 Mr. Karet said a positive resolution had been reached with Family Dollar/Dollar Tree
196 regarding the ongoing permitting and fire code issues at their new location at 103 N. Center
197 Street. Mr. Karet said that the necessary changes are being made by the company and
198 anticipated they will be stocking shelves in a few weeks. The Mayor also called the owner of
199 the property, Twin Rivers Capital, and offered words of encouragement.

200
201 Mr. Karet was available at Pierson Town Center to meet with residents on March 7, 2024 and
202 will have more scheduled meetings on March 21, 2024. There are no items on the agenda for
203 the Planning and Zoning meeting scheduled on March 19, 2024 and it will likely be cancelled.

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205 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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207 a. Resurface Parking Lot at Town Center – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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209 Mayor Bennett would like to get pricing on resurfacing the parking lot. He asked the Council
210 for their thoughts. Vice Mayor Greenlund said it never hurts to get pricing. Mayor Bennett
211 stated that he would work on getting quotes.

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213 **7. OTHER BUSINESS (Council and Staff Reports)**

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215 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund has noticed many potholes in various places around town
216 which need to be filled. He would like our Public Works employees to fill them with millings
217 or concrete. He stated that he would provide a list of locations in need of attention.

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219 Councilmembers Sergia Cardenas, Linnie Richardson, and Brandy Peterson had no other
220 business.

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222 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (Public Participation)**

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224 Resident Jeremy Steadman said that he would donate the use of his snow cone machine as
225 well as the cups and syrup for the 4th of July event, as he has done in the past.

226
227 Resident Paul Martel inquired about the low spot in front of Taylor High School at 100 E.
228 Washington Avenue where Spectrum damaged a water line and the road was repaired by
229 Halifax Paving. Mr. Martel wanted to know if this was being addressed or fixed by Spectrum.
230 He also asked for updates on fixing the lighting in the auditorium and Pierson's need for a
231 DRA to address ordinance and code violations.

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233 Resident Gray Leonhard asked for street lights to be checked because many are partially or
234 fully inoperable.

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9. ADJOURNED

Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor