



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 6:38 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, Town Planner Mark Karet, and a deputy from Volusia Sheriff's Office. Town Attorney Christian Waugh was absent.

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bennett gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- a. Regular Meeting August 13, 2024
- b. Special Meeting September 5, 2024

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

Councilmember Linnie Richardson asked for clarification regarding the total dollar amount of the annual insurance package renewal. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith confirmed the amount written in the minutes was correct.

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. Rotary Club of Flagler Beach to use Chipper Jones Park discussion and action

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Rotarian Laura Biddle gave the Council a brief history of Rotary Club of Flagler Beach’s activities in Pierson, including monthly food distribution for the past 15 years and providing Christmas toys for children for the past 25 years. Ms. Biddle said that the Community Center was originally used for food distribution but moved to San Jose Church on Emporia Road when the event outgrew the Community Center. The club holds its food distribution once a month on the second Wednesday. Families are given a ticket which assigns a set time to return for food. Due to the number of families arriving early to receive tickets, there is a dangerous backup of traffic on Emporia Road. Volusia Sheriff’s Office and Florida Highway Patrol suggested distributing the tickets at Chipper Jones Park to better accommodate the number of vehicles. Food distribution will still be done at San Jose Church.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson said that the Town Attorney would like a little more clarification or a contract with the Town. Councilmember Richardson said she would have the Attorney reach out to the Rotary Club regarding the issue.

Councilmember Sergia Cardenas asked if the Rotary Club had a map of the proposed traffic route. Ms. Biddle provided a map. Councilmember Sergia Cardenas and Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund expressed concerns about the amount of morning traffic due to school. Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she was concerned that some vehicles would park and wait after receiving a ticket.

Town Planner Mark Karet asked if an event could be created for ticket distribution over a phone app or service such as Eventbrite. Ms. Biddle stated that it was not a cost they were prepared to incur, and said that Rotary Club could not ask for personal information per their guidelines from Second Harvest who provides the food.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to table this item until the Town Attorney could review the proposal; seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.

b. 4th of July – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

Mayor Bennett said that several residents had spoken with him about the fireworks display on the 4th of July and inquired if fireworks could be red, white, and blue. Mayor Bennett spoke with the company who is contracted for the fireworks display and they stated this could be done. Mayor Bennett asked if the Council and public would entertain the idea of making half of the fireworks red, white, and blue.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to incorporate patriotic red, white, and blue colors for 50% of the fireworks at the next 4th of July event; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.

c. Glider at airport removal discussion and action – Linnie R. Richardson – Councilwoman

94 Councilmember Linnie Richardson discussed the abandoned aircraft at the east end of the
95 airport. Councilmember Richardson said the protocol for noticing the owner had been
96 followed per the Attorney’s instruction and the 30-day window had passed, allowing the Town
97 to take ownership and sell, scrap, or otherwise dispose of the aircraft. Mayor Bennett asked if
98 it should be tabled until the Town Attorney is present.

99

100 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson moved to table this item until the Town Attorney**
101 **could be present; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed; motion**
102 **carries.**

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104 d. 2024 three-year renewal Volusia Sheriff’s Office discussion and action –
105 Sheriff Mike Chitwood

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107 Sheriff Mike Chitwood gave brief remarks regarding the Town’s contract with the Volusia
108 Sheriff’s Office and stated that the operating costs had increased 4%, leading to a 4% increase
109 in the Town’s contract.

110

111 Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked for clarification on the number of deputies outlined
112 in the contract. The Sheriff’s Office stated that the contract is the same as previous years with
113 two units for a 12-hour shift from 12:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Sheriff Chitwood reiterated that
114 the contract includes the full service of the Sheriff’s Office, if needed.

115

116 Sheriff Chitwood said if anyone had problems with responses from the non-emergency
117 number, they could e-mail him personally so that he is aware and can address the issue.

118

119 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the 3-year contract with**
120 **Volusia Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$319,650.00; seconded by Councilmember**
121 **Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

122

123 e. Annual water rate increase for cost-of-living discussion and action – Deputy
124 Clerk Ryan Smith

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126 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith asked for this item to be tabled until legal counsel could be present.

127

128 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table this item until the Town**
129 **Attorney could be present; seconded by Councilmember Linnie Richardson. All agreed;**
130 **motion carries.**

131

132 f. Updates by Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

133

134 Mayor Bennett said that the Town is still waiting on the test results for the new water plant.

135

136 Mayor Bennett noted that the water tower renovations including painting and new valves had
137 been completed, but that the mixer was not yet operational.

138

139 Mayor Bennett asked Mark Karet to discuss the walk-through at the new water treatment
140 plant. Mark Karet stated that on Monday, September 9, 2024 there was a pre-bid meeting and

141 tour of the water system for the potential responders to a water operator RFP. Mr. Karet said
142 that final questions were due by close of business on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 so that an
143 addendum could be provided, and bids would be due by close of business on Monday,
144 September 16, 2024.

145

146 Mayor Bennett said the chlorinator at the original well was not functioning properly and a
147 new one had been ordered.

148

149 g. Updates on Town Projects from Town Attorney Christian Waugh

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151 Town Attorney Christian Waugh was absent.

152

153 h. Updates on Town Projects from Town Planner Mark Karet

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155 Mark Karet met with residents on September 5, 2024 and will be available at the Town Center
156 on September 19, 2024 to meet with residents regarding their land use and zoning questions.

157

158 Mr. Karet said that a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday,
159 September 17, 2024.

160

161 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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163 There was none at this time.

164

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

166

167 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund said that Public Works had filled multiple potholes around
168 Town and that it was a work in progress. Vice Mayor Greenlund asked the Clerk's office to
169 follow up with Duke Energy regarding the installation of separate power meters on each
170 individual building at the Town Center.

171

172 Councilmember Sergia Cardenas had two items:

173

174 • Councilmember Cardenas attended her second board meeting with River to Sea
175 Transportation Planning Organization and said the organization's name would be
176 changing to Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization. Councilmember
177 Cardenas highlighted some of the items discussed including FDOT's planned
178 implementation of AI technology at pedestrian crossings and stoplights.

179

180 • Councilmember Cardenas said she made a mistake when she stated that Halifax Health
181 was interested in opening an urgent care in Pierson, and said she had actually spoken
182 to the CEO of AdventHealth. Councilmember Cardenas expressed that an urgent care
183 clinic in Pierson would be a benefit to the surrounding unincorporated communities
184 as well as the Town.

185

186 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made a motion to discuss the parking and traffic**
187 **flow situation at Taylor Middle-High School as an emergency agenda item, per the**

188 **advice of legal counsel; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed;**
189 **motion carries.**

190

191 Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated that the community was having multiple issues with
192 traffic flow on Washington Avenue, as well as residents parking on sidewalks and in front of
193 residents' homes. Councilmember Richardson said the attorney wanted the Council to discuss
194 the matter and instruct him on how to proceed. Councilmember Brandy Peterson noted that
195 this was addressed at the previous meeting and asked why the agreed-upon resolution of
196 communicating with the School Board had not occurred.

197

198 Resident Mary Kay Hansen asked if documentation in the form of photographs had been
199 made. The Council confirmed that it was in possession of pictures and videos.

200

201 Resident Rick Davis noted that this issue was not declared an emergency at the previous
202 meeting and thought this emergency declaration may give the attorney more leverage to
203 address the issue with the School Board.

204

205 Vice Mayor Greenlund said a solution would be for the school to utilize the parking lot and
206 loop near the gymnasium which would hold more cars than the loop currently being used.

207

208 Resident Denise Colflesh asked if a Volusia Sheriff's Deputy could prevent people from
209 stopping on Washington Avenue during peak times. Deputy Carvajal said this was a
210 countywide issue and Volusia Sheriff's Office would not address parking on the street or
211 sidewalk. Deputy Carvajal said he would rather see parents blocking the sidewalk versus the
212 roadway.

213

214 **Councilmember Linnie Richardson made a motion to deem the parking issue on**
215 **Washington Avenue an emergency and instruct Town Attorney Christian Waugh to**
216 **notice Volusia County School Board and the principal of Taylor Middle-High School**
217 **regarding the issue immediately; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All**
218 **agreed; motion carries.**

219

220 Councilmember Linnie Richardson had two additional items:

221

222 • Councilmember Richardson would like to install laminated "Keep Off Fence" signs
223 to prevent rodeo attendees from gathering and climbing on the arena fence. Resident
224 Deanna Bennett said that Pierson Lions Club had discussed this issue as well and
225 planned to install this signage.

226

227 • Councilmember Richardson asked the Clerk to order signs with flashing beacons to
228 notify travelers on Hagstrom Road of water over the road.

229

230 Councilmember Brandy Peterson said she was concerned with the condition of Chipper Jones
231 Park due to the amount of rain in recent weeks and said the parking for the rodeo would turn
232 into a "mud pit" due to the wet conditions.

233

234 Resident Rick Davis asked if it would be possible to dig a shallow swale to alleviate the water

235 issues. Vice Mayor Greenlund and Councilmember Richardson said that there didn't appear
236 to be standing water, and that the problem was mostly due to the heavily saturated ground.

237

238 Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated that she called airport manager Olin Cannon and
239 instructed him to close the airport. Mr. Cannon notified FAA. Councilmember Richardson
240 said she would like for Public Works to put out the "X" signs on the airstrip to designate it
241 closed. Volusia Sheriff's Deputy Carvajal said he drove to the airport and observed
242 approximately three to four inches of standing water on approximately eighty percent of the
243 airstrip.

244

245 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said there would be a public meeting on Monday, September 16,
246 2024 at 4:30 PM regarding an application for a FRDAP grant. Mr. Smith said the grant would
247 also be discussed at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 17,
248 2024.

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

251

252 Resident Gray Leonhard said there were several areas in town where vegetation was causing
253 visibility issues with traffic. Mr. Leonhard said areas included the intersection of US Highway
254 17 and 2nd Avenue, and County Road 3 and 3rd Avenue Mr. Leonhard also noted that there
255 was a large patch of asphalt that needed to be repaired at Blake Street and Washington
256 Avenue.

257

258 Resident Deanna Bennett said she was pleasantly surprised when she traveled down Church
259 Street and did not have to drive over potholes. Mayor Bennett stated that Public Works had
260 fixed multiple potholes on Turner Road, Roberts Road, and Short Street.

261

262 Mayor Bennett thanked the public for attending the Council meeting. Mayor Bennett asked
263 for an update on the surveying at Hagstrom Road. The Clerk's office has not received any
264 updates. Councilmember Linnie Richardson said Efird Surveing had not gone into the wooded
265 area yet, and suggested the weather might be hindering it.

266

267 Vice Mayor Greenlund asked for a correction on the upcoming Council Meeting dates which
268 were incorrect on the printed agenda. Mayor Bennett said the next regular meeting should be
269 on October 8, 2024.

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271 **9. ADJOURNED**

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273 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.**

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275 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor