



**TOWN OF PIERSON
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 – 5:00 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Greenlund called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM and asked Town Clerk Carmen Spelorzi to take the roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

- Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
- Councilmember Sergia Cardenas
- Councilmember Gray Leonhard

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett and Councilmember Thomas Larrivee were excused absent.

Vice Mayor Greenlund gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review of background checks done for the 3 candidates selected:
 - i. Evangelista Braddock
 - ii. Tina Rokicki
 - iii. Brandy Peterson

Mrs. Spelorzi stated that Ms. Brandy Peterson withdrew and discussion ensued that nothing negative was found in the remaining background checks.

- b. Final recommendation and hiring of a new Utility/ Deputy Clerk
 - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett
 - i. Set hire date
 - ii. Set rate of pay

Vice Mayor Greenlund opened the discussion about the final candidates, rate of pay and start date and that a drug test will still need to be done when approved in the future. All in consensus to offer the position to Evangelista Braddock.

Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the recommendation to appoint Evangelista

46 **Braddock to the position of Utility/Deputy Clerk and to finalize the action at the next**
47 **regular Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed.**
48 **Motion carries on roll call 3-0.**

49

50 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the recommendation to set the start date a**
51 **4/18/22; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed. Motion carries on**
52 **roll call 3-0.**

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54 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the recommendation to set the rate of pay at**
55 **\$14.00; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed. Motion carries on**
56 **roll call 3-0.**

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58 **4. ADJOURNED**

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60 **Hearing no further business, special meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.**

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62 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Carmen Spelorzi, Town Clerk

Vice-Mayor Greenlund



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and asked Town Clerk Carmen Spelorzi to take the roll call.

2. Roll call

PRESENT:

- Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett
- Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund
- Councilmember Sergia Cardenas
- Councilmember Gray Leonhard

Also present were; Town Planner Mark Karet and representatives from the VCSO. Town Attorney Christian Waugh was excused 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 Bennett

- a. Regular Council meeting March 8, 2022
- b. Workshop meeting March 24, 2022

Mayor Bennett asked if there were any additions and deletions if not he would entertain a motion.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the above listed minutes as written; seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agreed; motion carries.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pierson Elementary’s Day in May Program Off-Site Parking request – Kim Hutcherson, Principal

Mayor Bennett read the title and Mrs. Spelorzi stated that the Town has approved this request previously. Mrs. Hutcherson was not able to be present.

Discussion ensued.

44 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the motion to allow Pierson Elementary to use**
45 **overflow parking at any of the parks for their May Day program; seconded by**
46 **Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

47 b. Farmworker Association’s Day of the Children Festival Sponsorship Request
48 – Maria Valdivia, Area Coordinator

49 Mayor Bennett read the title and introduced Maria Elena Valdivia, with the Farmworkers
50 Association, 111 Fountain Drive, who spoke on their Day of the Children Festival to be held
51 on April 30, 2022 and asked the Council to become a sponsor. Discussion ensued about the
52 Farmworkers association holding this event, the program and who will be the participants.

53 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the motion to sponsor the program in the amount**
54 **of \$200.00; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed; motion carries.**

55 c. Speeding on North Volusia Avenue (C R 3) – Eric Mondragon, Resident 581
56 N Volusia Avenue

57 Mayor Bennett noted that the requestor was not present. Mrs. Spelorzi spoke on the intent of
58 this request and that there are speeding issues from Palmetto to Washington. Discussion
59 ensued that the VSO has been actively writing tickets and it appears to be making a difference.
60 Mrs. Spelorzi recommended to the concerned citizen to get tags and that she would forward
61 it.

62 Resident Melanie Sowell spoke on the issue and Captain Yisrael explained what the VSO has
63 been doing. He asked for Community Assistance with information on repeat offenders.

64 d. Biometric Utility Consultants Estimate for replacement of the check valve at
65 the Water Treatment plant – Vice Mayor/ Water Superintendent Robert
66 Greenlund

67 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund spoke on the need and recommends purchasing the check
68 valve. Discussion ensued.

69 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the motion to accept the estimate from Biometric**
70 **Utility Consultants for the installation and replacement of the check valve at the Water**
71 **Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,675.08; seconded by Councilmember Sergia**
72 **Cardenas. All agreed; motion carries.**

73 e. Surety Bank Renewal of Lease for additional two-years - Mayor Samuel G.S.
74 Bennett

75 Mayor Bennett spoke on the topic and discussion ensued. Mrs. Spelorzi explained that Mr.
76 Waugh has reviewed the revised contract which is included in the agenda packet.

77 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the renewal of the Surety**
78 **Bank Lease for an additional two years; seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard.**
79 **All agreed; motion carries.**

80

81 f. Approval of Boom Lift Rental for New Town Center Exterior Pressure
82 Washing & Painting- Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

83 Mayor Bennett read the title and spoke on how Public Works has done a great job pressure
84 washing and painting the New Town Center and that this work necessitated the rental of a
85 boom lift. The total cost exceeded the amount that the Mayor feels comfortable approving on
86 his own and that is why he placed it on the agenda. Discussion ensued that the invoice has
87 already been paid and this was just for transparency.

88 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the additional \$500 to the**
89 **boom lift rental vendor; seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agreed;**
90 **motion carries.**

91
92 g. Updates by Mayor - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

93 Mayor Bennett asked Mrs. Spelorzi to get the carpenter to come and finish up some extra
94 items.

95 Councilmember Gray Leonhard asked if quotes can be obtained for cleaning seats in the
96 auditorium. Mayor Bennett is in favor of hiring a company to do a thorough cleaning right
97 before the building is ready to be moved into.

98 Discussion ensued about the hanging electrical wires/cables.

99 h. Update of Town projects from Town Attorney – Town Attorney Christian
100 Waugh

101 Mr. Waugh was not present.

102 i. Update of Town projects from Town Planner – Town Planner Mark Karet,
103 Zev Cohen & Associates

104 Mr. Karet spoke on

- 105 • Being onsite 4/7/22 and having met with several individuals about zoning issues
- 106 • Next availability 4/21/22 and 4/19/22 for P&Z meeting
- 107 • Water project – staff is still waiting on the release from DEO of the procurement
108 contract,
- 109 • Sewer project – staff is still waiting on the release of the funds for the engineering
110 contract, staff provided everything that was asked.
- 111 • Having reached out to Mr. O’Quinn to find out status of the letter and was told that it
112 is the hands of Mr. O’Quinn’s attorney. The attorney confirmed that the Town
113 assertions about Mr. O’Quinn’s improper use of the property are correct. Mr. O’Quinn
114 asked the Town for more time and the Town Attorney required Mr. O’Quinn to put
115 everything in writing, signed by the property owner and to provide a copy of the actual
116 lease.
117

118 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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120 None

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122 **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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124 a. Council and staff reports

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126 No additional comments from the VSO.

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128 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund spoke on the Saddle Club being concerned that there is
129 possibly a homeless person staying in the arena area and asked the VSO to patrol the area
130 sometime after midnight.

131

132 Councilmember Sergia Cardenas

- 133 • was at the State of the Region and commented on some Mayors speaking on their
- 134 projects and how they use the ARPA monies.
- 135 • Informed about a free food distribution at the Mission on Wednesdays.

136

137 Councilmember Gray Leonhard

- 138 • Asked if there is a set budget for the expenses to move into the New Town Center.
- 139 Discussion ensued
- 140 • Noted that Duke energy bill is more than the bill for Town Hall
- 141 • Interest expressed by Mr. Cannon to assist with the Airport upkeep,
- 142 • Trees on east of runway need to be cut down, need to remove the concrete that is
- 143 piled up, Club house is a liability and hazard. Discussion ensued and Mayor
- 144 Bennett asked to make this an agenda item for the 4/26/22 Council meeting.
- 145 • Asked about possible grants available to upgrade the Airport
- 146 • Asked about policy to get a break in the water bill for filling pools, discussion
- 147 ensued that some Towns give a credit on the sewer portion.
- 148 • Noted that PW is doing Fire Hydrant flushing and that they took initiative to fix a
- 149 leading hydrant. Great job.

150

151 Mrs. Spelorzi spoke on

- 152 • Handed out Flyer for celebration of life for Thomas Larrivee on April 23, 2022
- 153 • Showed thank you card from Taylor High 10th grade student council.

154

155 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (public participation)**

156

157 Resident Robin Green, 570 N. Pine Street

- 158 • asked if the backhoe has been repaired. Discussion ensued that some repairs were done
- 159 but some more need to be done.

160

161 Resident Sue Elliott, 525 Minshew Rd

- 162 • Drainage is not working and getting overgrown from Hwy 17 to High School. Mayor
- 163 will have PW looking into repair

164 Resident Paul Martel, N. Pine Street

165 • Asked what has been done about assigning a DRA so that the signage issue can be
166 taken care of. He feels that all that signage is an atrocity. Asked the town planner to
167 explain.

168 ○ Mr. Karet stated that the DRA has a lot of functions under the LDR, and one
169 of those is to perform investigations or to initiate others to perform
170 investigations into complaints. The LDR does not have a Code Enforcement
171 officer that's where the DRA comes in. The Town Council still has to appoint
172 the DRA to perform functions identified in the LDR.

173

174 **9. ADJOURNED**

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176 Mayor Bennett read upcoming meeting dates/times and thanked all in attendance.

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178 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.**

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180 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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187 _____
Carmen Spelorzi, Town Clerk

Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor