



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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10 Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and asked Town Clerk
11 Carmen Spelorzi to call roll.

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2. ROLL CALL

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PRESENT:

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Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund

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Councilmember Thomas R. Larrivee

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Councilmember Sergia Cardenas

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Councilmember Gray Leonhard

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Also present were Town Attorney Christian Waugh, Town Planner Mark Karet and
23 representatives from the VCSO.

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3. Invocation and pledge of allegiance

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

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mayor Samuel Bennett

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a. Regular Meeting September 28, 2021

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Mayor Bennett entertained a motion for approval if there are no deletions or additions.

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**Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve the minutes as written;
36 seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agreed; motion carries.**

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5. NEW BUSINESS

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a. PROCLAMATION

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To designate the Town of Pierson as a Purple Heart City – Mayor Samuel G.S.
42 Bennett and Councilwoman Sergia Cardenas

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Mayor Bennett read the names of the special attendees that were present and Councilmember
45 Cardenas spoke on how she was made aware of this designation and thanked all for their
46 service.

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Mayor Bennett read the entire proclamation into record and a plaque was presented.

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b. RESOLUTION 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PIERSON, FLORIDA SETTING THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR A NOTICE OF VIOLATION PROCESS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND APPLICABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Bennett read the title and discussion ensued how this came about, and how the DRA should be designated. Mr. Waugh stressed that it is important to appoint the DRA.

Mr. Waugh reiterated again who can be appointed as a DRA and that this needs to be done by the Council. Mrs. Spelorzi stated that all of the work the DRA does, has been done by the Clerk's office to date. Mr. Karet explained the process of code enforcement.

Mayor Bennett suggested tabling the item to advertise the resolution and to make it an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Bennett made the motion to table the item to advertise the resolution and to make it an agenda item at the next Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Tom Larrivee. All agreed; motion carries.

c. RESOLUTION 2021-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PIERSON, BY MAYOR, VICE MAYOR AND THE PIERSON TOWN COUNCIL AND BY THE MAYOR REQUESTING THE STATE OF FLORIDA DOT- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FOUR LANE U S HIGHWAY 17 FROM BARBERVILLE NORTH TO THE END OF THE TOWN OF PIERSON LIMITS AND CONTINUE NORTH TO SEVILLE FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Bennett gave a bit of history on this resolution and read it into record. Mayor Bennett requested it be send to the State and to meet with the Governor.

Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-10; seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agreed; motion carries on roll-call vote 5-0.

Resident Jamie Davis understands the need to make this corridor safer but is concerned that it will amplify the already existing problem with speeding in this area.

a. 2 Pierson Saddle Club discussion regarding suggested fees for day events at the Arena – Kim Fleming, President

Mayor Bennett read the title and invited Summer Thomas, Treasurer and Kim Fleming Saddle Club President to speak.

Vice Mayor Greenlund elaborated on the events put on by the Saddle Club.

Ms. Summers and Ms. Thomas stated that they are concerned that the proposed increase in

98 rent and fees would make it impossible for the Saddle Club to operate.

99

100 Mr. Waugh clarified the fee schedule for the Saddle Club and the Lion's Club and stated that
101 he had drafted a license agreement for the Saddle Club that lists the dues as \$200 per month
102 for the season. Mr. Waugh asked the Saddle Club to list any other items of the agreement that
103 they have issues with so that it can all be addressed at the same time. Ms. Summers
104 commented on the negative impact of restricting cash prizes for participants, since they are a
105 not for profit organization.

106

107 Comments were made that the Saddle Club does a lot for the Community including the
108 Farmers and it was asked if the Little League is being assessed fees.

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110 Mayor Bennett summarized the discussion points and recommended making this an agenda
111 item at the next Council meeting, since this is advertised as discussion only on this current
112 agenda.

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114 Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that the Saddle Club should not be charged more than \$1,800
115 per year and Mayor Bennett noted that the Town Attorney will make the necessary changes
116 for an official vote at the next Council meeting.

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118 d. Discussion on grant offered by T-Mobile – Councilman Gray Leonhard

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120 Councilmember Gray Leonhard spoke on the matter and the requirements to apply for grants.
121 Mayor Bennett will contact Fred Fox to look into it.

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123 e. Request for Water Bill Late Fee Adjustment at 865 E Washington Avenue -
124 Tanesha Thompson

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126 Mayor Bennett read the title and invited the requestor to speak. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson spoke
127 on a lien that was placed on their house and that they just learned about it. Mr. Thompson
128 questioned the fact that he was never notified of the lien nor did he receive a water bill.

129

130 Discussion ensued about the history with previous owners. Mrs. Spelozzi spoke on all
131 balances due and asked that the Council consider waiving the late charges and reducing the
132 bill to just the water charges on this property. Vice Mayor Greenlund recommended reducing
133 the amount to \$1,574.53.

134

135 Mayor Bennett spoke on the requirements for all Pierson residents within City limits to hook
136 up to the water system as a condition of the water system loan.

137

138 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to release the lien on the property and**
139 **reduce the water bill to the total amount of \$1,574.53, seconded by Councilmember Tom**
140 **Larrivee. All agree, motion carries on roll call vote 5-0.**

141

142 f. Advertisement approval for a Utility/ Deputy Clerk – Mayor Samuel G.S.
143 Bennett

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145 Mayor read the title and spoke on the matter.

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147 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to authorize advertising for a**
148 **Utility/Deputy Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agree, motion**
149 **carries.**

150

151 g. Renewal request – Florida League of Cities 2021-2022 Annual Membership
152 Dues for \$546.00 - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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154 Mayor Bennett read the title and discussion ensued.

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156 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the renewal request;**
157 **seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agree, motion carries.**

158

159 h. Request council approval for the allocation of the Florida League of Cities
160 scholarship awarded to Mayor Bennett to be Councilwoman Sergia Cardenas
161 who was able to attend the Florida League of Cities conference held on August
162 15-17, 2021, in Orlando, FL in the amount of up to \$2,000.00- Mayor Samuel
163 G.S. Bennett

164

165 Mayor Bennett read the title and discussion ensued.

166

167 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to approve the re-allocation request;**
168 **seconded by Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agree, motion carries.**

169

170 i. Verizon Proposed Equipment Modification and review of current lease
171 agreement at 138 W Third St Water Tower – Karina Fournier, Tower
172 Engineering Professionals Inc (TABLED from 09/28/2021) - Mayor Samuel
173 G.S. Bennett

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175 Mayor Bennett read the title and Mr. Waugh stated that Verizon has not responded to his
176 messages. Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Waugh to draft a letter to Verizon that the Town won't
177 allow placement of any Verizon equipment until the contract can be reviewed in more detail.
178 All agreed.

179

180 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard made the motion to table this item until the next**
181 **regular Council meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund. All agreed;**
182 **motion carries.**

183

184 j. Renewal of Annual Scheduled Maintenance Agreement with Florida Detroit
185 Diesel for the two generators located at Town Hall and Well Pump (TABLED
186 from 09/28/2021) - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

187

188 Mayor Bennett read the title and asked to table the item so that additional quotes can be
189 obtained.

190

191 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to table the item, seconded by**
192 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee. All agree, motion carries.**

193

194 k. Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation Agreement for FY
195 2021/2022 (TABLED from 09/28/2021) - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

196 Mayor Bennett read the title and asked to table the item.

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198 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to table the item, seconded by Vice**
199 **Councilmember Gray Leonhard. All agree, motion carries.**

200

201 1. Updates by Mayor - Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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203 Mayor Bennett spoke on

204 • Participating in the High School parade with Councilmember Sergia Cardenas

205 Discussion ensued that Saturday is not a good day for this event.

206 Resident Brandy Peterson suggested working with the school and possibly combining other
207 festivities with the Homecoming parade.

208 Discussion ensued and all are in agreement to work with the School.

209 m. Update of Town projects from Town Attorney – Town Attorney Christian
210 Waugh

211

212 Mr. Waugh spoke on

213 • Town ordinances and putting into a proper code of ordinances, will present at the next
214 meeting for approval

215 n. Update of Town projects from Town Planner – Town Planner Mark Karet,
216 Zev Cohen & Associates

217

218 Mr. Karet spoke on

219 • Onsite 10/7/21

220 • Next availability 10/21/21

221 • Next P&Z meeting 10/19/21, VCSO to be present

222 • Staff responded to SRF questions and requests by DEO and SRF

223

224 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

225 None

226 **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

227

228 Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund alerted the Council that there are about ten (10) more water
229 bill issues that need to be resolved.

230

231 Councilmember Tom Larrivee had no additional comments and appreciated the Council's
232 indulgence with him having to wear a hat during the meeting for medical reasons.

233

234 Commissioner Gray Leonhard inquired about the lock change out. Mayor Bennett stated that
235 has not happened yet but would like to set a date for a tour of the New Town Center. All
236 agreed to meet Thursday, 10/14/21 at 2:00 pm. Discussion ensued about the logistics for the
237 offsite meeting and advertising.

238 Town Attorney Waugh stated that Margaret Thatcher's birthday is being celebrated in
239 Orlando.

240

241 Councilmember Sergia Cardenas informed the Council about the Hispanic Heritage festival
242 on 10/16/21.

243

244 Town Clerk Spelorzi had no additional comments.

245

246 Mayor asked Mrs. Spelorzi to email copies of the appraisal for the old Town Hall to the
247 Council Members and to make this an agenda item at the next meeting.

248

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

250

251 Katie Ruth thanked the Council for listening to the Saddle Club's concerns.

252

253 Robin Green commented on the Homeless population on Western and Mrs. Spelorzi spoke on
254 that matter and the Council will look into this situation some more.

255

256 **9. ADJOURNED**

257 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.**

258 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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261 _____
Carmen Spelorzi, Town Clerk

Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett