



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
PIERSON TOWN HALL**

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## **1. Call meeting to order**

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9 Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Town Clerk  
10 Carmen Spelorzi to take the roll call.

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## **2. Roll call**

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### **PRESENT:**

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Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett

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Vice Chairman James Peterson

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Councilmember Herbert Bennett

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Councilmember Robert Greenlund - absent

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Councilmember Thomas R. Larrivee

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Mayor James Sowell- absent

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Also present were Town Attorney Wade Vose and representatives from the Volusia County  
23 Sheriff's office.

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## **3. Invocation and pledge of allegiance**

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Vice Chair Peterson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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## **4. Approval of Minutes – Chairman Samuel Bennett**

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### **a. Council Meeting July 14, 2015**

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Chair Bennett read the date for the Minutes and asked if there are any changes/additions or  
34 deletions and hearing none he entertained a motion for approval of the minutes listed above.

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36

**Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve the minutes listed above;  
37 seconded by Vice Chairman James Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

40

### **a. Presentation of the Economic Strategic Plan Grant received by Mr. Andrew 41 Landis of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council – Chairman 42 Samuel G.S. Bennett**

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44

Chair Bennett introduced Mr. Andrew Landis of the East Central Florida Regional Planning  
45 Council who handed out a draft of the Economic Strategic Plan Grant for the Council's  
46 review.

47 Mr. Landis stated that the plan includes deliverables such as

48

49 • the existing economic condition analysis

50 • Fern industry discussion

51 • Market assessment of other industries within surrounding areas

52 • Community outreach

53 • Matrix highlighting changes suggested by the public

54 • Narrative section of recommendations and strategies for implementation of Economic  
55 Development plan (preferred areas of Council's focus)

56 Mr. Landis recommended that the Council review the draft for discussion at the next regular  
57 Council meeting as Mr. Jim Smith, Town Planner would be in attendance. Mr. Landis  
58 informed the Council about possible left-over funds that Pierson may be able to tap into  
59 through the Florida competitive grant.

60 Mr. Landis felt it would be beneficial to have the public and the Planning Commission present  
61 during discussions of the draft plan at either a workshop or a regular council meeting.  
62 Discussion ensued and the Council agreed on having a workshop on a night separate from the  
63 regular Council meeting around the beginning of September.

64 Mr. Landis gave an example of having farmers expand their agricultural crops into medicinal  
65 type herbs for skin care as one way to diversify.

66

67 Chair Bennett thanked Mr. Landis for his diligent work and that the Council is looking  
68 forward to seeing him again for the workshop in September.

69

70 b. Presentation updating the new elementary school by Saralee Morrissey,  
71 Director of Planning from the Volusia County School District– Chairman  
72 Samuel G.S. Bennett

73 Chair Bennett read the item and introduced Saralee Morrissey, Director of Planning from the  
74 Volusia County School District.

75 Ms. Morrissey gave an update of the status of the new elementary school and that they are in  
76 the process of advertising for an architect. Their capital budget was presented to the School  
77 board and their fiscal year closed on June 30, 2015. Ms. Morrissey continued that their 1<sup>st</sup>  
78 public budget hearing was held and that it included design dollars for the new school. Ms.  
79 Morrissey anticipates the selection of architects by end of summer and hopes to be under  
80 contract by November. Ms. Morrissey intends to:

81 • Hold regular meetings with School;

82 • anticipates 6 – 9 months of design,

83 • construction funding included in next FY budget

84 • construction schedule of 10 -12 months, ambitious completion date of August 2017 or  
85 more realistically by August 2018

86

87 Ms. Morrissey informed the Council that the School Board is comprised of all new members.

88 Ms. Morrissey thanked the Council for their support of the half cent tax extension and that it  
89 has made a difference to the School. Ms. Morrissey stated that a site plan would be  
90 forthcoming and that she would keep the Council updated.

91

92 Ms. Morrissey reminded the council of a conversation some time back regarding the Town  
93 taking over the old school as a new Town Hall. She urged the Council to give some more  
94 thought to the concept of turning the current school into the Town Hall and make the  
95 auditorium a Town Center and that she welcomes a partnership between the Town of Pierson  
96 and the School.

97

98 Chair Bennett is glad to hear about the plans for construction of the new school.

99

100 Ms. Sue Elliot spoke on other possible candidates for use of the current school being the  
101 library, Boys and Girls clubs or teen programs.

102

103 Discussion ensued that the school building has historical value and to maybe hold a meeting  
104 to brainstorm on ideas for the best use.

105

106 Chair Bennett thanked Ms. Morrissey for her report.

107

108 c. Renewal request for Member Assessment contribution FY 15/16 Funding  
109 Agreement to the River to Sea TPO for \$169 – Chairman Samuel G.S.  
110 Bennett

111 Chair Bennett read the item and entertained a motion.

112 **Councilmember Herbert Bennett made the motion to pay the member assessment**  
113 **contribution to the River to Sea TPO; seconded by Councilmember Tom Larrivee. All**  
114 **agreed; motion carries.**

115

116 d. Request to propose an extension of the current B B & T lease term until  
117 1/31/2019 – Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett

118 Chair Bennett read the item and asked for it to be tabled to the first meeting in August so  
119 that a copy of the original lease agreement can be obtained.

120 **Councilmember Herbert Bennett made the motion to table the item to the first meeting**  
121 **in August; seconded by Vice Chair James Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

122

123 e. Renewal request for contribution as a Heron sponsor for \$500 to the River of  
124 Lakes organization for the promoting of the corridor –Mayor James Sowell

125 Chair Bennett summarized the item and entertained a motion.

126 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve Heron sponsorship in the**  
127 **amount of \$500 to the ROL organization; seconded by Vice Chair James Peterson. All**  
128 **agreed; motion carries.**

129

130 f. Request from Taylor High School Wildcat Gridiron Club 2014 Football  
131 Program Sponsorship - Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett

132 Chair Bennett summarized the item and entertained a motion.

133 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve sponsorship in the amount**  
134 **of \$250; seconded by Vice Chair James Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

135

136 g. Review and discuss any requests received for appointment to the Planning  
137 Committee - Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett

138 Chair Bennett read the item and asked for it to be tabled to the first meeting in August since  
139 not all Council members were present.

140 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to table the item to the first meeting in**  
141 **August; seconded by Councilmember Herbert Bennett. All agreed; motion carries.**

142

143 h. Request approval to purchase scoreboard covers from Murray's Upholstery  
144 in the amount of \$1,212.00 – Councilmember Tom Larrivee

145 Chair Bennett read the item and turned it over to Councilmember Tom Larrivee, who  
146 explained the need to cover and protect the scoreboards during off-season.

147 **Councilmember Tom Larrivee made the motion to approve purchasing the covers at a**  
148 **cost of \$1,212.00; seconded by Councilmember Herbert Bennett. All agreed; motion**  
149 **carries.**

150

## 151 6. OLD BUSINESS

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153 a. Follow up on Sanitation fees being charged to all residents versus those that  
154 are not paying currently to the waste company - James Peterson, Vice  
155 Chairman

156 Chair Bennett read the item and turned it over to Vice Chair James Peterson who commented  
157 on current billing numbers and franchise fees. Vice Chair James Peterson stated that the Town  
158 lost money by people not paying garbage fees and is suggesting implementing a sanitation fee  
159 that ties into the water bill.

160 Ms. Spelorzi elaborated on the revenue numbers and that these are based on the audit from  
161 the Waste Company. Ms. Spelorzi suggested discussing the implementation of a sanitation  
162 fee during the next budget workshop and presented the Council with three (3) scenarios that  
163 she would like to present to the Waste Company for a price quote.

164 Discussion ensued about putting the fee on the tax roll versus the property tax roll, but further  
165 consideration needed to be given to this idea.

166 Discussion turned to Item #9 on the agenda and Chair Bennett read all the dates and the  
167 corresponding meetings. Chair Bennett thanked Ms. Spelorzi for her excellent work in getting  
168 those meetings scheduled.

169 **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

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171 a. Council and staff reports

172  
173 Town Attorney Wade Vose updated the Council that, per his research based on an agenda  
174 item from a previous meeting, there is no distinction in the State Statutes between being your  
175 own contractor for work on your roof versus any other part of your house; however, it is  
176 highly discouraged for anybody without true knowledge to do roofing work. The stipulations  
177 are that it has to be the person's own house and they have to physically supervise anybody  
178 else doing the work.

179  
180 Mr. Vose stated that he will be at the first Charter review meeting and that he generally gets  
181 guidance from the Council about the direction the Charter should take. He asked the Council  
182 to provide him with suggestions on the general overview. Discussion ensued about the current  
183 Charter.

184  
185 Ms. Spelorzi elaborated that the first Charter meeting is meant as an introductory meeting to  
186 establish the direction that the Charter review committee should take. Discussion ensued  
187 about the members of the Charter Review Board and that the Council should receive updates  
188 after each Charter review meeting. Ms. Spelorzi stated that minutes will be taken of each  
189 meeting.

190  
191 Mr. Vose spoke on experiences he has had with other Cities similar to the Town of Pierson  
192 during their Charter reviews and that Towns can review their Charters at will.

193  
194 Vice Chair James Peterson had no comments.

195  
196 Councilmember Herbert Bennett was in favor of acquiring the existing elementary school and  
197 cautioned that showing too much enthusiasm may increase the asking price. Discussion  
198 ensued about being more subdued in future negotiations. Mr. Vose suggested sending out a  
199 press release informing the public about this exciting development of getting a new  
200 elementary school.

201  
202 Councilmember Tom Larrivee asked when Chipper Jones is going to be inducted into the  
203 Baseball Hall of Fame and to address memorializing the event when his is eligible to be on  
204 the inductee ballot. Mr. Vose stated that he is eligible in 2018.

205  
206 Councilmember Tom Larrivee commented on the need of enforcing the ordinance on heavy  
207 trucks using the town's streets as a short cut. Chair Bennett asked Mr. Vose to review the  
208 ordinance and do some research on the enforcement options for discussion at a future regular  
209 Council meeting. Ms. Spelorzi will forward a copy of the ordinance to Mr. Vose.

210  
211 Ms. Spelorzi advised on the date for the Ethics workshop on September 19, 2015.

212  
213 Ms. Spelorzi stated that Jumping Beans, the amusement vendor during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
214 celebration, sent a Thank you note to the Town and that they are looking forward to offering  
215 their services again for future events. Ms. Spelorzi will get a quote for cost of staffing the

216 inflatables and all rentals for supervision to reduce the Town’s liability from possible  
217 accidents. Discussion ensued about organizing event parking.

218

219 Volusia County Sheriff’s office representative stated that there are no incidents to report and  
220 commented on a “Police night out” event on 8/4/15 in DeLand. Discussion ensued that an  
221 event like this would be nice for the Town of Pierson.

222

223 Discussion ensued about the Florida League of Cities conference in Orlando and anybody  
224 interested in attending should contact Ms. Spelorzi.

225

226 Chair Bennett spoke on a scoping meeting held 7/28 with TPO representative Stephen Harris  
227 and various other attendees regarding grant applications for a sidewalk/bike path on CR 3.  
228 Ms. Elliott commented on sidewalks currently being under construction.

229

230 Councilmember Tom Larrivee informed the Council that Ms. Spelorzi is moving to Pierson.

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## 232 **8. GOOD AND WELFARE (public participation)**

233

234 Ms. Roxanne McTeague stated that the round-about at the playground on Washington Avenue  
235 is broken and should be roped off. Chair Bennett stated the Town is in process of getting this  
236 repaired, but they will ask the Town Foreman to check into securing it.

237

## 238 **9. ADJOURNED**

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240 a. Chairman Samuel G.S. Bennett – Please be aware of the following meeting  
241 schedules:

242

243 i. Next Regular Council Meeting schedule -

244

1. Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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2. Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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247 ii. Planning Commission Meeting schedule -

248

1. Tuesday August 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

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250 iii. Charter Review Committee meeting schedule -

251

1. Tuesday August 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (immediately after  
252 Planning)

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2. Tuesday August 25, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (Tentative)

254

3. Additional at next meeting

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256 iv. Budget Special Meetings/ Workshops/ Hearings schedule -

257

1. Budget Workshop - Thursday July 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

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2. Budget Special Meeting - Thursday July 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.  
259 – (immediately following the workshop)

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3. Budget Workshop- Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

261

4. Additional at next meeting

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263 **Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM**

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266 Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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276 \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Spelorzi, Town Clerk

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Samuel G.S. Bennett, Chairman

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