



45 Councilmember Linnie Richardson introduced Volusia County Chair Jeff Brower and said  
46 that she had invited him to speak at the meeting regarding some of the issues in Volusia  
47 County.

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49 Chair Jeff Brower thanked the Council for their work. Mr. Brower highlighted flooding  
50 around the county and explained that new developments are elevated by five to six feet of fill  
51 which causes flooding to neighboring properties. Chair Brower said he was bringing a Rural  
52 Boundary Amendment to the County Council on October 1, 2024. Mr. Brower said he was  
53 looking for support in disseminating the information to citizens. Mr. Brower explained that  
54 Seminole County passed this amendment; it was opposed by developers but found to be  
55 constitutional after going to court. Orange County is currently in the process of passing a  
56 similar amendment. Mr. Brower said the Volusia County amendment would not go on the  
57 ballot until 2026. Mr. Brower said the amendment would:

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- 59 • Require a super-majority vote from the County Council to approve rezoning or  
60 comprehensive plan amendments from low intensity or rural zoning to high intensity  
61 zoning.
- 62 • Require city annexations to go through the County Council so that citizens would have  
63 an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions regarding “hostile annexations.”

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65 Mr. Brower said he would provide information to be distributed. Mr. Brower said he would  
66 be willing to help anyone on the Council with issues such as ECHO, Volusia Forever, etc.

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68 b. Taylor Middle-High School ad for Homecoming – Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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70 Mayor Samuel Bennett discussed the Town’s support of the Taylor Middle-High School  
71 football team and Homecoming in the past. Mayor Bennett said he would like to purchase a  
72 full-page ad in the football program in the amount of \$200.00.

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74 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to purchase a full-page ad in the**  
75 **Taylor Middle-High School Homecoming football program in the amount of \$200.00;**  
76 **seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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78 c. Resolution 2024-06 Chipper Jones Park Phase II FRDAP Grant – Deputy Clerk  
79 Ryan Smith

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81 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith updated the Council regarding a FRDAP grant application. Mr.  
82 Smith stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission had approved the grant application and  
83 recommended to the Town Council that it revise the Capital Improvement element of its  
84 Comprehensive Plan to include the Chipper Jones Park renovations, if funded. Mr. Smith  
85 presented a draft Resolution for the Council’s consideration.

86

87 Councilmember Brandy Peterson stated that the grant was much needed due to the condition  
88 of the playground equipment and bathrooms at the park.

89

90 Mayor Bennett read the title of Resolution 2024-06.

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92 Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2024-06;  
93 seconded by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries on a roll call  
94 vote 5-0.

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96 d. PUBLIC HEARING

1st READING

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98 ORDINANCE 2024-16

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100 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PIERSON, FLORIDA ADDING A SECTION  
101 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING TRESPASS WARNINGS ON  
102 PUBLIC PROPERTY AND OTHER PROPERTY GENERALLY OPEN TO THE  
103 PUBLIC

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105 There was no public discussion regarding Ordinance 2024-16.

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107 Councilmember Linnie Richardson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-16 on  
108 its first reading; seconded by Councilmember Sergia Cardenas. All agreed; motion  
109 carries on a roll call vote 5-0.

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111 e. Town events in Pierson – Lester Pulley

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113 Resident Lester Pulley said he would like to see a section added at the Council Meetings to  
114 highlight upcoming events in Pierson. Mr. Pulley stated that there have been multiple events  
115 in town that he did not hear about because they were not advertised, including the rodeo, the  
116 Pierson Vendor Market, and the open house at the school. Councilmember Brandy Peterson  
117 said that most school-related schedules are posted on the school website. Council members  
118 noted that there were community Facebook pages as well as a physical bulletin board at the  
119 Town Center where events are often discussed or posted.

120  
121 Mr. Pulley gave the dates for various upcoming events around town. Mr. Pulley also noted  
122 that after-school events would be canceled on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 and school  
123 would be canceled on Thursday, September 26, 2024 due to Tropical Storm Helene.

124  
125 f. Fall Jamboree at Barberville Pioneer Settlement discussion and action – Linnie  
126 R. Richardson – Councilwoman

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128 Councilmember Linnie Richardson said she was contacted by a member of the Pioneer  
129 Settlement requesting permission to hang a banner for the Fall Jamboree event where the  
130 Lions Club Rodeo banner was located. Councilmember Richardson said she had since learned  
131 that this banner was on private property and the item did not need to be discussed.

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133 g. Updates by Mayor Samuel G.S. Bennett

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135 Mayor Bennett asked for an update on the traffic issues at Taylor Middle-High School.  
136 Councilmember Brandy Peterson stated that it had improved slightly but that vehicles were  
137 still parking on sidewalks which would eventually lead to damage and necessary repairs by  
138 the Town. Town Attorney Christian Waugh advised that the Town had received a reply from

139 the legal counsel for Volusia County Schools in regard to a letter that was sent by Mr. Waugh  
140 on behalf of the Town. The reply acknowledged that the School Board was aware of the issue  
141 and stated that a solution was being explored. Mayor Bennett said he had spoken to officials  
142 at the School Board and received a similar acknowledgement. Councilmember Linnie  
143 Richardson suggested that a sit-down meeting may be necessary with the School Board if the  
144 issue is not resolved.

145

146 Mayor Bennett noted that the fence and rolling gate at the Community Center had been  
147 completed.

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

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151 Town Attorney Christian Waugh had no updates.

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

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155 Mark Karet stated that recommended amendments to the Land Development Code from the  
156 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting would be coming to the Council at a future meeting.

157

158 Mr. Karet said he would be available at the Town Center on October 3, 2024 to meet with  
159 residents regarding their land use and zoning questions.

160

161 Mr. Karet attended a meeting with FDOT District 5 for the \$3.7 million dollar design of the  
162 US Highway 17 trail which would run from Highway 40 in Barberville north to the Putnam  
163 County line. Mr. Karet said it was a lengthy design process which was only 30% complete;  
164 FDOT expects the design to be 100% complete by spring 2026. The trail would range from  
165 eight to 12 feet wide.

166

167 Mr. Karet said the Town received several responses for its Water Treatment Operator RFP.  
168 Mr. Karet said he could form a staff committee to review the RFP and rank the proposals for  
169 presentation to the Council, or the Council could review the proposals themselves at a  
170 meeting. Mayor Bennett and Vice Mayor Greenlund agreed that a committee should review  
171 the proposals first and make a recommendation to the Council.

172

173 Mayor Bennett said he would like to add an agenda item regarding a state of emergency for  
174 Tropical Storm Helene. Mayor Bennett noted that Governor DeSantis had declared a state of  
175 emergency for multiple counties, including Volusia.

176

177 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to add an emergency item to the agenda**  
178 **regarding a state of emergency for Tropical Storm Helene; seconded by Councilmember**  
179 **Linnie Richardson. All agreed; motion carries.**

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181 The Council discussed a resolution to declare a state of emergency due to Tropical Storm  
182 Helene. Mayor Bennett said that Resolution 2024-13 would declare a state of emergency  
183 which would be in effect for seven days.

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185 **Vice Mayor Robert Greenlund made the motion to adopt Resolution 2024-13; seconded**  
186 **by Councilmember Brandy Peterson. All agreed; motion carries on a roll call vote 5-0.**  
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188 **6. OLD BUSINESS**  
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190 a. Glider at airport removal discussion and action (tabled 9/10/2024) – Linnie R.  
191 Richardson – Councilwoman  
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193 Councilmember Richardson said that the proper notice had been posted on the abandoned  
194 glider at the airport and asked what the Town should do to remove it. Attorney Christian  
195 Waugh said the Town could decide and suggested that it could be sold or scrapped.  
196

197 Councilmember Richardson suggested it could be listed on social media. Resident Paul Martel  
198 asked for the length of the glider and said he could load it on a trailer and scrap it.  
199 Councilmember Richardson said the glider was on a trailer and it was not street-worthy.  
200

201 Councilmember Richardson and Vice Mayor Greenlund agreed to advertise the glider for 30  
202 days on social media.  
203

204 b. Annual water rate increase for cost-of-living discussion and action (tabled  
205 9/10/2024) – Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith  
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207 Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith discussed a 2021 presentation by Florida Rural Water Association  
208 which was prepared for the Town regarding water rate studies. Mr. Smith stated that the  
209 presentation had made a recommendation of annual water increases to follow the Public  
210 Service Commission’s Price Index, but noted that the Town had not included this automatic  
211 annual increase in its ordinance to increase the water rate in 2021.  
212

213 Mr. Smith said the Council would need to discuss the item and prepare an ordinance if the  
214 Town chose to do automatic annual increases. Mr. Waugh said other towns followed this  
215 model. Councilmember Linnie Richardson stated that there had only been a single increase  
216 since the water system was put online.  
217

218 Town Planner Mark Karet said other municipalities have automatic annual increases so that  
219 they are built into the budget each year.  
220

221 Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Waugh if an ordinance would need to be prepared. Mr. Waugh  
222 confirmed that an ordinance would be the best method. Vice Mayor Greenlund stated that he  
223 thought the water rates should increase automatically each year. Councilmember Linnie  
224 Richardson said she did not want the Town to be restricted by an ordinance. Mr. Waugh said  
225 the ordinance was only a minimum and the Council could still consider special increases or  
226 assessments, if necessary.  
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228 Mayor Bennett said this would be added as an agenda item at the next meeting so that Attorney  
229 Christian Waugh could draft an ordinance.  
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231 **7. OTHER BUSINESS (Council and Staff Reports)**

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Councilmember Sergia Cardenas had two items:

- Councilmember Cardenas said there would be a citizen meeting in Spring 2025 for the FDOT trail project.
- Councilmember Cardenas spoke with AdventHealth regarding an urgent care center in Pierson and AdventHealth requested an Economic Development Plan for the Town.

Councilmember Linnie Richardson requested an employee workshop for October. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said he would verify available dates and report back.

Councilmember Brandy Peterson asked if the Town was ready for the impending storm. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith said the generators were serviced by Rusty Peterson in July 2024 and in good working order. Mr. Smith noted the water tower was operational and full.

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

Barberville Pioneer Settlement’s Events Coordinator, Christen Gandy, introduced herself to Council and personally invited Pierson residents to their Fall Jamboree. Ms. Gandy stated that the organization would be purchasing a banner from Big Dog Signs in Pierson. Mayor Bennett and Councilmember Linnie Richardson said the location of choice for the banner was on private property. Mayor Bennett said he would contact the property owner, Mr. Bittorf, to request permission for the Pioneer Settlement to hang the banner.

Resident Rick Davis asked for an update on the North Road culvert replacement. Deputy Clerk Ryan Smith stated that Volusia County Road & Bridge had given an estimate of mid-October but said it might be delayed due to weather.

### **9. ADJOURNED**

**Hearing no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.**

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Ryan Smith, Deputy Town Clerk

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Samuel G.S. Bennett, Mayor