

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**January 3, 2023**

Due to the New Year's Holiday, the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, Drakes Branch, Virginia.

Our former council member and new Mayor, Phillip D. Jackson congratulated everyone on winning the election and welcomed our new member, Charles Errickson. Upon the Mayor's request, Mr. Errickson introduced himself to everyone in attendance and then the mayor introduced the other council members with the clerk introducing the two members of the public as well. The mayor then discussed the new agenda format, which no one expressed opposition to.

Mayor Phillip D. Jackson called the meeting to order and Mary Sands, Clerk recorded the minutes. Members present were as follows: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Errickson. Peery Wells Jr. delivered the invocation.

Mayor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The minutes to the last regular meeting were approved as read by the town council members.

Account Balances with The Bank of Charlotte County were as follows:

General Fund	\$623,179.97
Water/Sewer	184,273.75
Debt Service Reserve	41,904.71

**TOTAL                      \$849,358.43**

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to pay the bills, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance – No report.

Water/Sewer – Noah Davis said that Isaac Napier passed his water exam with a 94, only missing three questions out of 50. He discussed low water in the tank due to a sensor shorting out and that a new one has been ordered, that the town has applied for \$350,000 for sewer repairs, Jay Bradner will be taking on additional duties as "Safety Coordinator" for the employees, the flow meter totalizer failed at the wastewater plant and Mr. Jackson said a part has been ordered to fix that before the price goes up. Deborah Kennedy said the sewer manhole cover across from her house needs to be put back on right. Peery Wells Sr. asked about Jay's new duties and Mr. Jackson elaborated on what those duties would entail.

Streets – Peery Wells Sr. asked about the light pole across from the mayor’s house and Deborah said it was hit by a truck with Mayor Jackson saying it hasn’t been replaced yet, but they (Dominion Energy) are working on it.

Museum – Deborah Kennedy said she is working on having a special display in February, with a program for Black History month and for Valentine’s Day. She also said the water is still coming in the building and is doing damage to the inside. Mr. Jackson said that when Calvin comes to take the lights down the repair to the building will be made, since his truck will need to be used.

Buildings & Grounds – No report.

Personnel – Peery Wells Jr. said he met with the personnel and said that Town Sergeant Brinkley reported writing fewer tickets now due to people slowing down. He also said that Jay knows who is driving 4-wheelers at Well #7 and trying to get their names. Mr. Jackson explained that someone had kicked the door at the well house, so the town put up a game camera to see who is going over there, but they stole the camera. Peery also said he congratulated Isaac on passing his test. Mayor Jackson also explained that since he is the employee’s supervisor, instead of him also being on this committee like Denise had been, he put Charles on it saying it would be unfair for the employees for him to be in both positions.

Grant – No report other than what Noah already reported.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Concerning the new Municipal Building/Fire House, Noah Davis said they are still waiting on the partitions for the bathroom stalls so Freddie will have to order them again. He said the outside columns still need to be wrapped and a few other things. Mayor Jackson said we are working on holding the first reception in the new building for Denise. Deborah Kennedy is working on getting the food for this and we will coordinate with Denise as to who she wants attending it.

Eugene Wells Jr. asked when the Christmas lights will be taken down and Mr. Jackson said hopefully this weekend. It was said that some flags have come down so this will be looked into for next year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to appoint Mary Sands as Town Clerk & Gary Elder as Town Attorney, was passed on voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to appoint Charlie Brinkley Jr. as Town Sergeant, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Erickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Jackson said he would like for Eugene Wells Jr., to serve on the Charlotte County Planning Commission in his place, since he had been doing this for Denise. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to have Eugene continue to serve on this, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Noah Davis & Charles

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Errickson. Abstain: Peery Wells Sr. & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 2 Abstentions.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to open up the floor for nominations for Vice-Mayor was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. On a motion by James K. Gregory, seconded by Deborah Kennedy to appoint Peery Wells Jr. as Vice-Mayor, and to close the nominations as per Noah Davis, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Noah Davis & Charles Errickson. Abstain: Peery Wells Sr. & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 2 Abstentions. Peery was congratulated on being appointed Vice-Mayor.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to give the Grant Committee authorization to negotiate the purchase of participating properties due to Hurricane Michael for the FEMA/VDEM project, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

A letter from Tammie Hall requesting to use the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Zumba was discussed. It was stated that she understands that if any night conflicts with previously scheduled meetings, those meetings would have first priority. On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Eugene Wells Jr., to honor her request, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote. Council agreed the fee will be \$15.00 per night for them to use the building.

On a motion by Noah Davis seconded by Deborah Kennedy and passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

  
Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor

  
Mary Sands, Clerk