

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Municipal Building, located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia. This location will be held for all future meetings.

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, Vice-Mayor 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	\$630,328.27
Water/Sewer	170,602.37
Debt Service Reserve	41,910.04
TOTAL	\$842,840.68

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, 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.

The Speaker on the Agenda was Glenn Baker with the Electoral Board concerning his letter to have the polling location for the Drakes Branch district moved from the old location to the new building location. He explained that if approved, they would follow the procedure of taking it to the Board of Supervisors and after their process, if approved, it would have to go to the State Board of Elections for approval. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to move the polling location from 4800 to 4801 Drakes Main Street pending the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals and the State Board of Elections, 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 – No report.

Streets – Deborah Kennedy reported a streetlight between the Drakes Branch Baptist Church entrance and the former Blue Ridge Bank that keeps going off and on. The clerk will report this.

Museum – Deborah Kennedy said she is working on trying to get the museum ready to open back to regular hours. Mayor Jackson also stated that when The Charlotte Gazette cleaned out their building, they gave the town old bound newspapers that we can put in the museum.

Buildings & Grounds – Deborah Kennedy said she can use the existing fire safety sign near the road and modify it as temporary signage for our new building. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to have this done, 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. Eugene Wells Jr. said the rules for the new building would be discussed later under New Business.

Personnel – Peery Wells Jr. said they met with the personnel and no employee had anything that needed attention. Charles Errickson said he was pleased with the employee's motivation towards their job as well as their pride factor.

Grant – Mayor Jackson stated the town is still waiting on the appraisals for the grant project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Concerning the new Municipal Building/Fire House, Noah Davis said the biggest update is we are here now, and we will be officially moved by February 20th. He said the outside poles still need to be completed as was discussed last month. Mayor Jackson updated everyone on items ordered for the bathrooms. He said he and Eugene are going tomorrow to order the signage for the doors for ADA compliance, the contractor will soon be striping the concrete pad for the handicapped parking and we will put up our own sign. Noah Davis asked about the shelves for the bathrooms (closet area) and Mayor Jackson said our employees can work on that. There are still a few items that need to be fixed from the punch list that was made out.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to adopt the Resolution for Denise L. Pridgen, which the clerk read, 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. Mayor Jackson said we will get with Denise about the reception we will hold for her.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Eugene Wells Jr., to reappoint Elizabeth Davis to the Board of Zoning Appeals, 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.

On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Noah Davis, to reappoint Dorothea Knott to the Planning Commission, 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.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to purchase new uniforms for the town's public works department employees, at a cost of \$650-\$675, 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.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to allow Angie Lee to use the new building on March 18th, for a baby shower as per her written 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.

On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Noah Davis to get a contractor to look at the museum roof and give us the best way to alleviate the problem of the leak, whether to replace the whole section or just the part of what is required to eliminate our problem, 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.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to get a price on a new computer for the town office and bring it back to the council, 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.

Written rules for use of our new building were reviewed and discussed by the members of council. It was discussed that perhaps changes need to be made in the title, punctuation corrections as well as further review. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by James K. Gregory, that the Buildings & Grounds Committee consult with the mayor and come up with a hard copy for us to vote on at our next meeting, 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.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by James K. Gregory to purchase a chair cart as presented to us by Mr. Jackson, 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.

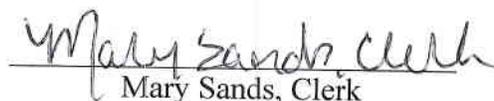
Deborah Kennedy reminded everyone of the Bloodmobile on the 16th.

Peery Wells Sr. asked if the rental fee for the building will change or if we will keep it as it is. It was stated that it would probably stay as it is.

James K. Gregory asked what happened with the company interested in the old mill property, and Mr. Jackson said Mr. Bailey hasn't told us anything further.

On a motion by Eugene Wells Jr., seconded by James K. Gregory, and passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor


Mary Sands, Clerk