

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia.

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 Well Sr. delivered the invocation and Mayor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to approve the minutes to the last regular meeting, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

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

General Fund	\$653,149.95
Water/Sewer	175,785.93
Debt Service Reserve	42,920.21
TOTAL	\$871,856.09

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Eugene Wells Jr., 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.

SPEAKERS ON AGENDA:

The first speaker on the agenda was Terry Ramsey, member of the Charlotte Court House Town Council, who Mayor Jackson asked to address the Council investing the town's money in an account that is through the state and will pay more in interest on the town's money. It is called the Local Government Investment Pool Program and it is run by the State Treasurer. He said their town has earned thousands of dollars in interest per month, based on the amount of money they have in there, and the interest rate pays higher than a bank, with the rate currently at 4.91%. He said the town can get their funds out quickly if they need them and it's easy to set up. He said the county uses this program also. He answered the questions posed by the Council members and was thanked for coming and talking to the council. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to have the Finance Committee look over the proposal and get back with Council by the June 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.

The second speaker on the agenda was Town Sergeant Charlie Brinkley Jr. who said he is running for Sheriff of Charlotte County and he said he has a police officer that lives in Saxe that could come and work with him in Drakes to see how things are done and both of them could work half of the hours. He said it's up to the Council, this is just his suggestion in case he was to get the Sheriff's position someone would be familiar with what is needed to be done for the town. He reported that he put the camera in the room and will place cameras outside of the building. He said

he applied for an ARPA grant of \$10,000 with no match for a camera for the car, a thermo-vision scope to use at night, flashlights and a vest. Concerning hiring another police officer, on a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to let the Personnel Committee research it by talking to Charlie and the committee make sure its legal to do it that way (check with state requirements), 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. Charlie also said he has finished the temporary sign for the building parking lot and has to put it up. Charles Errickson questioned if the town has any guidelines on how long the camera footage is kept etc., and since we don't, the town will check with VRSA & our Town Attorney on this matter.

Fire Chief Kenny Tharpe will speak with Council next month on the Charlotte County Fire & EMS Study.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Mayor Jackson said the committee will look into the program Terry Ramsey spoke about and the bank is open.

Water/Sewer – Peery Wells Sr. said he talked to Carroll about the inspection that DEQ did and everything was good in the report. Mayor Jackson said DEQ is coming to meet with them soon about the permit renewal.

Streets – James K. Gregory asked about the town fixing the road near the Exxon where the water leak was, and Noah Davis stated that VDOT is going to repave the road so we won't have to do anything. James K. Gregory also said Proctor Street does not look good as far as the road and the sidewalks are unlevel in spots. This will be studied further.

Museum – Deborah Kennedy said she had the Museum open on Saturday when the Farmer's Market was open.

Buildings & Grounds – Eugene Wells Jr. said the Fire Chief mentioned running underground electricity to the generator for the building and also having it done the same time as the electricity is installed for the lighted sign. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Personnel – Peery Wells Sr. was unable to attend, so Charles Errickson reported that he met with the personnel and everything was good, with no problems reported. He asked if the town had any kind of incentives for the employees who are doing a good job and while some things were discussed, it seemed that this is something that the town needs to look into. Employee evaluations will be forthcoming also.

Grant – Mayor Jackson said he is working on a grant application for a catch basin grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to allow Tiffany Davis to use the building on April 8th for a birthday party, 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 and table rack for the closet for \$159 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 town will also give a key for the closet to the Fire Chief.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to let the Building & Grounds Committee look into possibly putting in a non-duplicating key system for the front door, 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 Peery Wells Sr., to appropriate \$300 for Denise Pridgen's reception on the 16th of this month, 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 let the Streets Committee bring back a recommendation on what to spend the litter funds of \$1,595 on, 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 James K. Gregory, to allow Noah Davis to purchase a tractor for the town up to \$15,000, 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.

After discussion of paying Jay Bradner as a contractor or employee for cleaning the floors in the building, it was agreed that the town will pay his as an employee, and he will be paid overtime since he came in on his normal day off.

The Request for Proposals (RFP'S) for the Water Meter Project are still being reviewed by Mayor Jackson who will talk to the Water/Sewer Committee, and bring this back for discussion at next month's meeting.

A sign for the new building was discussed and how this will be paid for with the remaining USDA grant funds of around \$4,000. On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to have the Buildings & Grounds Committee come back with an RFP for the sign to the 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 Eugene Wells Jr., that the pole be moved and service be reconnected correctly to Andre' Mosley at the expense of ½ the town and ½ the fire department 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.

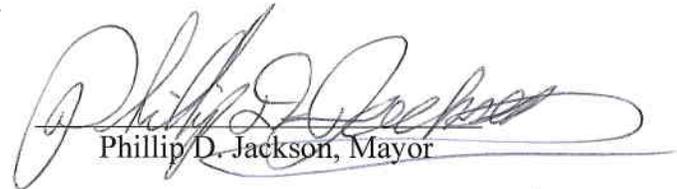
April 3, 2023

Page 4 of 4

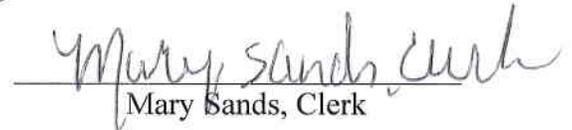
On a motion by Eugene Wells Jr., seconded by Noah Davis, that we find out from the Fire Department how much it will cost to run the wiring also because that will be included in that grant, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, 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 20th.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr. and passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor



Mary Sands, Clerk