

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, May 1, 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	\$656,009.25
Water/Sewer	131,095.18
Debt Service Reserve	42,925.95

TOTAL \$830,030.38

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.

SPEAKER ON AGENDA:

The speaker on the agenda was Charlie Pence, representative with Fortiline, to discuss their proposal for the town's water replacement project. He explained how his company would address the town's Request for Proposals and how the equipment would work to replace our existing meters with the AMI meters and how the town could monitor usage. He also said this system is very accurate and will help monitor water loss and has the leak detection in the system as well. He went on to detail other advantages to the system, such as the 20-year accuracy, 15-year workmanship guarantee, battery life should be 18-24 years and the system will pay for itself in 4-5 years. He said they will send the information to the company we choose to do the billing. After questions were answered, he was thanked for attending our meeting. This issue will be discussed under Unfinished Business also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – No report.

Water/Sewer – No report.

Streets – Charles Errickson said Main Street is smooth since VDOT paved it. Spending the litter money on items as presented to the council, was approved by a motion made by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by James K. Gregory and 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.

Museum – It was stated that a report on the findings to repair the building will be presented next month. Deborah Kennedy asked if the vines could be removed, it will prevent causing further damage.

Buildings & Grounds – On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to table the RFP on the sign since all needed information has not yet been received, was passed on a 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.

Personnel – Charles Errickson was unable to attend, so Peery Wells Sr. reported that he met with the personnel and everything was good, with no problems reported. Concerning hiring another police officer, Mayor Jackson recommended to wait until the election results in November.

Grant – Mayor Jackson detailed the grant pre-application for a catch basin grant that he had applied for, on behalf of the town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to reschedule Denise Pridgen's reception to the 21st of this month, (she was sick last 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.

The Building & Grounds Committee is still looking into a non-duplicating key system for the front door, so this matter was tabled for now.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to award the contract for the Water Metering Project to Fortiline, 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by James K. Gregory, to allow Hannah Francis to use the building on May 28th for a birthday party, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

On a motion by Peery Wells Jr., seconded by James K. Gregory, to allow Jaikale Vaughters to use the building on May 20th for a baby shower, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

On a motion by Eugene Wells Jr., seconded by Noah Davis, to get David Shores to bushhog the town lake property, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

After reviewing the budget, on a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by James K. Gregory, to adopt the FY2023-2024 Budget, schedule the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. before the June 5th, meeting, and have a Special Meeting on June 22, 2023 for the 2nd passing, was passed on a

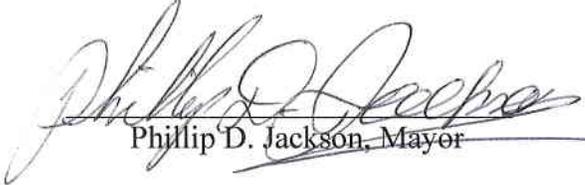
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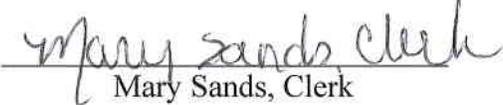
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roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis, Eugene Wells Jr. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Jackson said we should have a new pump the 25th of May for the Saxkey Pump Station. He also said that Rodney Watts should be here this month to do machine work on different water projects. He concluded by saying that the former Mary's Department Store and Childress' building have been purchased.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, and passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.


Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor


Mary Sands, Clerk