

## PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

**June 5, 2023**

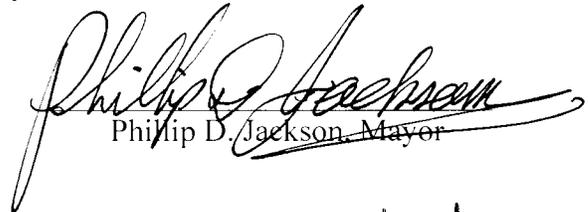
The Drakes Branch Town Council held a public hearing on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia to hear comments on the FY 2023-2024 Budget.

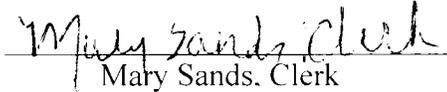
Mayor Phillip D. Jackson called the hearing to order and Mary Sands, Clerk, recorded the minutes.

Council members present were as follows: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Vice-Mayor Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Absent: Charles Errickson.

No comments were made by the public.

Mayor Jackson closed the hearing at 7:00 p.m.

  
Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor

  
Mary Sands, Clerk

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**June 5, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, June 5, 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. Absent: Charles Errickson. Peery Well Sr. delivered the invocation and Mayor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

On a motion by Eugene Wells Jr., seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to approve the minutes to the last regular meeting, was passed on a voice vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

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

General Fund	\$649,848.37
Water/Sewer	128,549.20
Debt Service Reserve	42,930.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$821,328.46</b>

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. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

**SPEAKER ON AGENDA:** The speaker on the agenda was not present.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance – Mayor Jackson said they are still looking into the LGIP Program and investing the town’s money.

Water/Sewer – Mayor Jackson reported that the town had received our new wastewater permit.

Streets – No report.

Museum – A Request for Bids was reviewed for repairs to the Museum. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to approve this but change the 30 days to 60 days, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote. Deborah reported that some of the Cambodians came on Saturday and were taking pictures and were very impressed with the Museum.

Buildings & Grounds – On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to approve the Request for Bids on the electrical work for the sign, but to change the time to 30 days, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote. Deborah Kennedy also said that the Planning Commission has been working on ideas of how to get people to maintain their property.

Personnel – Mayor Jackson reported on this since Charles Errickson met with them and Peery Wells Sr. was unable to attend that meeting. He said no complaints were received but there had been discussion of larger raises and a retirement plan and health insurance for employees.

Grant – Mayor Jackson said the lawyer is still working on title searches for the FEMA/VDEM grant so the town can make offers on the buildings. The clerk reported that the water meter project will begin after the town and Fortiline sign a contract. Mr. Jackson also reported that the paperwork on the litter grant was sent to the county today.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Building & Grounds Committee is still looking into a non-duplicating key system for the front door. James K. Gregory said he has a man coming to look at it this week. It will be discussed next month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

On a motion by Eugene Wells Jr., seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to send James Webb to the VA Tech wastewater school on Aug. 6-11 and pay \$1,300 for the class and an additional \$47 to take the level 3 test for certification, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Jackson discussed the town purchasing patriotic streamers/decorations for the pavilion and our new building etc. for future use. On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Deborah Kennedy to authorize \$300 to try and get decorations, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Eugene Wells Jr., to accept the Request for Bids for the repair to the Ladies Club Building, but to change the 30 days to 60, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., that the Drakes Branch Town Council convene in closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

**RETURN TO OPEN MEETING:**

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to Return to Open Session, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to adopt (Exhibit A), was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

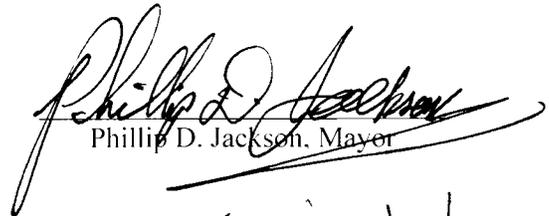
The Bloodmobile, an event at Drakes Branch Baptist Church as well as the 100-mile yard sale coming up were brought up as reminders to everyone.

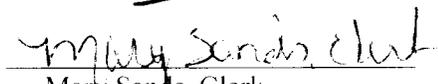
Deborah Kennedy said the Planning Commission has been going through the Zoning Ordinance and as of 2021 until now, they have recommended changes that need to be presented to the Council for

consideration of proposed amendments to the ordinance to bring it up-to-date, and it should be done now to help with enforcement issues for the Zoning Administrator. She also provided handouts on items they are also looking at concerning vehicles that are inoperable and exterior property maintenance ideas. After discussion on what may happen with the buildings being torn down due to the FEMA/VDEM grant and how it will affect the town and zoning, the council decided for the Planning Commission to go ahead and present the proposed changes to them now for review. Once they can agree on the proposed changes, they will be given to our lawyer for legal review so the town can continue working on amending and updating the ordinance and map now instead of waiting.

Deborah Kennedy also discussed the condemned building on the corner and issues that need to be fixed. Mayor Jackson will get with the employees on this.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, and passed on a voice vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

  
Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor

  
Mary Sands, Clerk

**EXHIBIT A**

**Certification Resolution of Closed Session**

WHEREAS, this Drakes Branch Town Council convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Drakes Branch Town Council after such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Drakes Branch Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

# TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**June 22, 2023**

The Town Council of Drakes Branch held a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia. The meeting was scheduled to start at 2:31 p.m., but was delayed while waiting for a quorum.

Mayor, Phillip D. Jackson called the meeting to order and Mary Sands, Clerk, recorded the minutes.

Council Members present were as follows: Deborah Kennedy, Vice-Mayor Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. (Eugene participated remotely). Absent: James K. Gregory & Charles Errickson.

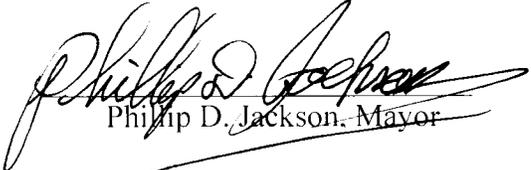
## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to adopt the FY 2023-2024 Budget, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0, by a unanimous vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to adopt the Budget Resolution, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Eugene Wells Jr. Nays: None. Motion carried 4-0, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Deborah Kennedy and passed on a voice vote of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

  
Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor

  
Mary Sands, Clerk