

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, October 2, 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 Wells Sr. delivered the invocation and Mayor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, 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	\$308,537.53
Water/Sewer	112,074.68
Debt Service Reserve	42,952.59
Account Balance with State's LGIP Program:	415,898.90
TOTAL	\$879,463.70

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Mayor Jackson said since the town deposited funds into the LGIP Program, it is doing good as far as earning interest.

Water/Sewer – Mayor Jackson said Fortiline has two more meters to put in.

Streets – James K. Gregory addressed the overnight parking at the pavilion and it was stated that this will be discussed under the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Deborah Kennedy reported some streetlights that are out and will get the information to the clerk to report.

Museum – Deborah Kennedy said the museum is still leaking and Mayor Jackson said he will talk to Nehemiah about when he will start.

Buildings & Grounds – Eugene Wells Jr. reviewed the facilities and rental agreements that they came up with for renting the Municipal Building and the Pavilion. On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to accept the rental agreements as presented, 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. As stated last month, all the changes will be effective Jan. 1st of next year. It was also suggested to get Charlie to run the tag on the vehicle parked at the pavilion overnight.

On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to install a camera at the back of our building, 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.

Personnel – This will be discussed in Closed Session.

Grant – Mayor Jackson said we are waiting on the sign and then we can close that project out. He said the town closed on the purchase of The Charlotte Gazette building and we will start working on getting it ready for the town to use. He also said the CRC is working on the Bid Proposal for tearing the buildings down and we are hoping to start the demolition around January 15th. Eugene Wells Jr. said that Joe Giles is working on the finalizing the sign design so it can be made and installed. He said it will have the town's and fire department's names, logos, three rows for putting lettering to announce events, etc.

Mayor Jackson said the Air Conditioning units in the Fire House will be worked on tomorrow.

James K. Gregory discussed a property owner's grass not being cut and Noah Davis said he had talked to the owner about this.

Mayor Jackson said the town will be acquiring the monument property which will be given to us, as requested by the VFW.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Planning Commission's proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance was reviewed by Council, with recommended changes discussed again. This will be revisited by the Commission and brought back to council next month.

The water/sewer billing software was tabled until the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Noah Davis, to adopt the Fire Prevention Resolution, 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 Peery Wells Sr. to allow Denise Pridgen to use the Municipal Building, as per her letter for a family gathering, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to allow Dominique Jennings to use the Municipal Building, as per her letter for a Thanksgiving dinner, was passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Mayor Jackson discussed having those that participate in trash pick-up, to be required to have a trash can, to help eliminate some problems that occur. After discussion of issues that were brought up, on a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, this was referred to the Streets Committee to go over the idea of the cans and review the rules, 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. Their recommendation will be brought back next month for review.

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., that the Drakes Branch Town Council convene in closed session under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) to discuss personnel concerning hiring and wages, 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.

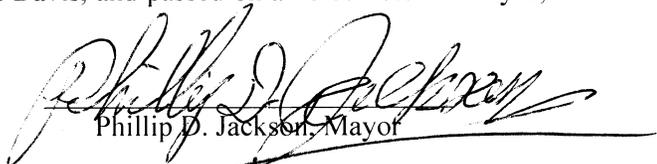
RETURN TO OPEN MEETING:

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. & 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 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. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, that the town advertise for a supervisor of public works starting at \$18.00 an hour, if they have a water license or sewer license, add \$1.00 more per hour per license, and advertise for a W/S trainee/maintenance worker starting at \$17.00 an hour, and also give a raise to the Town Clerk of \$1.00 per hour at her discretion of adding it to her wages or add it to her retirement, 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, and passed on a voice vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 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.