

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, December 4, 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, & Charles Errickson. Absent: Eugene Wells Jr. Peery Wells 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 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

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

General Fund	\$128,544.25
Water/Sewer	112,492.47
Debt Service Reserve	CLOSED-money put in fund below
Account Balance with State's LGIP Program:	461,212.21

TOTAL \$702,248.93

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Mayor Jackson said he is pleased with the interest we are receiving in the LGIP Program.

Water/Sewer – Mayor Jackson said the town fixed a water leak on Main Street at Fred Black's house and they closed a valve too quick, which resulted in pressure that burned out some homeowner's hot water elements on Marshall Street. He said these residents should be compensated by the town for this and no council member opposed this. We know of three residents that this affected. Peery Wells Sr. said if residents would turn the breaker off to their hot water heater when the water is turned off, it will remedy this problem. Deborah Kennedy stated that when Mr. Black had the leak, he didn't know who to call with the town since it was after hours. She said he looked on our web-site and saw no emergency number to call, so the clerk will add that information to our web-site. James K. Gregory said there is air in his water and Mr. Jackson said the town had been opening hydrants to clear it out. James Webb will also provide training to the town's workers on how to properly open and shut valves.

Streets – Since the committee did not yet have a report on the issue of whether to require trash cans for trash pick-up, the clerk will print out the information she emailed them and put it in their boxes for them to review again. Deborah Kennedy brought up the streetlights again, and the clerk said she is waiting to get all the pole numbers so she can report them at one time.

Museum – Mr. Jackson said he forgot to call Mr. Braxton, but he will call him since the work at the museum needs to be done soon. Noah Davis said the Museum being open needs to be advertised and it was also suggested to put it on our sign. Mr. Jackson said the town has ordered more letters and numbers for the sign because we don't have enough.

Buildings & Grounds – James K. Gregory said the fence at Dollar General is still down and it was determined this is the gate. After discussion, Mayor Jackson will get the contact information from Noah for the maintenance company and send them an email. Mr. Jackson updated everyone on the air conditioning issues and also said that we got a quote from Griffith's and sent it to our insurance company

Personnel – Peery Wells Sr. said we met with the personnel and he said there are issues reported in regards with citizens in the town. He also said he thinks that the Mayor & Clerk can solve the problem but if not, the town may have to take further action on it.

Grant – Mayor Jackson updated everyone on the FEMA/VDEM grant demolition project. He said we will have the buildings checked for lead and asbestos and then have the abatement done before they are demolished. He said one owner signed a commitment document today to have her building torn down and we are still working on the others.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

On the property repurpose issue concerning the town trading land with a property owner near our new building, Deborah Kennedy said she is still working on that.

NEW BUSINESS:

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by James K. Gregory, to allow Diane Hazelwood to use the Municipal Building, 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 & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by Noah Davis, to accept the price of \$1,409.00 from Southern Corrosion to inspect the water tank, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by James K. Gregory, to accept the quote of \$7,100 from the auditor to audit the town's books for year 2022-2023, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by Peery Wells, to have Hurt & Proffitt perform the engineering to test for lead & asbestos in the buildings to be demolished, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Noah Davis, seconded by James K. Gregory, to give a Christmas bonus of \$100 to each employee & Lisa Traynham, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr., Noah Davis & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Jackson said the next order of business is to accept Noah Davis's resignation saying he had enjoyed working with him and he appreciates everything he has done and he hopes he does as good of a job on the Board of Supervisors as he has done for the town. Noah discussed how Roscoe Eubanks Sr. had asked him to run in 2013 for the term beginning in 2014 and he went to his house and sit and talked with him and agreed to do it. He said he only missed one meeting when he was sick. He said he really enjoyed working with everyone and he wants to be transparent with the town and help all he can.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr., to accept Noah Davis's resignation effective December 31st, of this year, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Deborah Kennedy, James K. Gregory, Peery Wells Sr. & Charles Errickson. Nays: None. Abstain: Noah Davis. Motion carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 1 Abstention.

December 4, 2023

Page 3 of 3

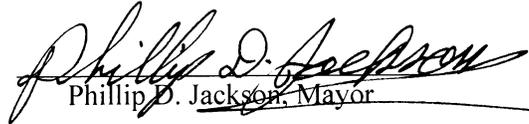
Items G. & H. were removed from the agenda without discussion since this cannot be done legally until January. This is due to Noah Davis's resignation and filling his seat on the council.

The Open House on Sunday was discussed with Deborah Kennedy filling everyone in on the menu.

A reminder of the Bloodmobile on October 21st was stated.

Mayor Jackson said he might have a good potential applicant for one of the jobs that was advertised and he will get with the Personnel Committee on this.

On a motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Peery Wells Sr, and passed on a voice vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.


Phillip D. Jackson, Mayor


Mary Sands, Clerk