

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025 @ 7 P.M

The regular meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7 P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia. Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy called the meeting to order and Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk, recorded the minutes.

Members present were as follows: Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy, Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. James K. Gregory was absent.

Vice Mayor Peery Wells gave the Invocation. Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion by Charles Errickson to accept the April 14, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Thomas Pettus, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

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

Water/Sewer	\$17,453.32
General Fund	\$89,176.30
LGIP	\$298,737.76
Total	\$405,367.38

After all bills and balances were reviewed, a motion was made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to accept as read. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. It was also requested to include the second LGIP Acct. on future BALANCES lists.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Deborah Kennedy stated that she, Vice Mayor Peery Wells and Deputy Clerk Vickie Cliborne had been added to the LGIP account.

Water/Sewer: Peery Wells stated that the maintenance supervisor had informed him about sludge having to be pumped out again.
Streets: Charles Errickson stated that there had been no progress on the street lights. Eugene Wells stated that he had spoken with the cable installers and was informed that a separate contractor will return to repair any damage. He also stated that he will revisit the tree limb issue with VDOT.

Museum: No Change

Buildings and Grounds: A letter is being sent to Dollar General to address the issue of unsightly trash.

Personnel: Peery Wells spoke with Cary Brazil and Diane Haley. Cary said that there had been some slacking off with the community service workers.

Grants: Deborah Kennedy stated that grant money would be used to do a study into what is needed by the town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion made by Eugene Wells to accept Deborah Kennedy's letter of resignation from Town Council, seconded by Charles Errickson passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

NEW BUSINESS:

A letter was read to inform the Council of the resignation of Council member James K. Gregory due to health issues. Denise Pridgen and Mable Johnson both spoke on his behalf to inform the Council how much he enjoyed serving with them as a whole to serve the citizens of the town. A motion made by Eugene Wells to accept Mr. Gregory's resignation, seconded by Thomas Pettus, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

On the issue of the now two open Council seats, Eugene Wells made a motion to nominate Liz Davis to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Deborah Kennedy, with a second by Thomas Pettus. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. Charles Errickson

then made a motion to nominate Phillip Flippen (due to his experience on the Planning Commission) to fill the seat left vacant by Mr. Gregory's resignation, with a second by Eugene Wells. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. A Public Hearing was then scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 7 P.M. for public input on the nominees for the two vacant Council seats.

A resolution to honor Mayor Phil Jackson's service to the Town was read by Deputy Clerk Vickie Cliborne. A motion to approve the Resolution by Peery Wells, seconded by Thomas Pettus passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

On the issue of the Litter Grant, it was stated that this was used to purchase trash cans for use by town citizens. A list of users will be provided.

Deborah Kennedy stated that she has an upcoming meeting with Attorney Gary Elder and Lauren Pugh to discuss FEMA matters. The Town is still waiting to hear back from the CPA. Charles then stated that it may be best for the Town to look into hiring a different CPA firm in the future due to the fact that the current firm has been less than timely with Town matters.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Peery stated there have several complaints about buzzards. The Council will address this with Town Sargeant Brinkley as to whether a new permit will be needed from the state.

Interim Mayor Kennedy discussed copies of E-mails she has received. She also stated that the Town Budget needs to be addressed.

Eugene Wells asked who will repair the hole left in the wall after repairs to the heating/air system. It was stated that since Griffith Heating & Air had done the repairs, they should do the repairs.

A motion made by Charles Errickson to do something special for Mr. Gregory, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

A motion made by Perry Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to go into Closed Session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A) (1) passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

A motion made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to return to Open Session passed on unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

A motion made by Peery Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to adopt Exhibit A, was passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

A motion to adjourn made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

*Deborah Kennedy
Vickie Cliborne*

Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy
Deputy Clerk - Vickie Cliborne

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, this Drakes Branch Town Council convened a closed session 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.