

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, August 4, 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: Vice Mayor Perry Wells, Sr, Liz Davis, Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr., gave the Invocation and Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After a question on wording about "Fire Department "use only in the Unfinished Business Section of the July minutes, a motion to strike that sentence entirely made by Liz Davis, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., passed by unanimous voice vote of all Ayes. A motion by Charles Errickson to accept the July, 2025 meeting minutes, as corrected, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr. passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

ACCOUNT BALANCES- LGIP balances were not available for the meeting minutes.

General Fund	\$ 38,864.03
Water/Sewer	9,346.19
Payments Receivables	<u>7,408.07</u>
Total	\$ 55,618.29

After reviewing all bills paid and bills to be paid, a motion made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to pay all bills, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: No report.

WATER/SEWER: The grass at the Town Lake needs cutting.

STREETS: No report. Interim Mayor Kennedy stated that she gave a list of 18 lights to be reported to Eugene Wells, Jr., who then stated that he reported them to Dominion Energy. He received a work order for them. Interim Mayor Kennedy then stated that she will give the STREETS committee the reporting information Needed for future street light issues.

MUSEUM: No change.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Liz Davis stated that she found a fan at Home Depot that is very similar to the fans at the Pavilion. The cost is \$135.00 delivered to Home Depot in Lynchburg. Liz then made a motion, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr., to make Butch Hamlett aware of this so the Farmer's Market committee could order the fan, or one of their choosing, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes..

PERSONNEL: No issues.

GRANTS: Received word from our lawyer, that **FEMA** will not require the Town to purchase the old Municipal Building in order to receive reimbursement from FEMA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There has been no update on the Buzzard Permit.

The Council ok'd the request for a change of date for the Wild Game Dinner from Sept. 27th to Sept. 13th.

Peery Wells, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Charles Errickson, for the Town to purchase a toolbox for the new F-250 truck. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

Plans were finalized for the James Gregory Reception on August 9th at 7 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

As the first Monday in September is a Holiday, the September Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr., seconded by Liz Davis, to amend the Flood Plain Ordinance as presented, passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

A motion by Liz Davis, seconded by Phillip Flippen to schedule a Public Hearing on August 25th, 2025 for the purpose hearing comments on amending the Flood Plain Ordinance, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr., seconded by Charles Errickson, to adopt a Resolution allowing Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy to sign any documents, deeds, etc. related to conveyance of real property owned by the Town to the Town of Drakes Branch, passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr., seconded by Charles Errickson, to table a change in the Grass Cutting Ordinance relating to the amount of fees charged by the Town, in order for pricing research by the Building and Grounds Committee, passed on a voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr., seconded by Liz Davis, to purchase mats for the Municipal Building instead of paying rental from Cintas Corporation, passed on a voice vote of all Ayes.

Since the Room Rental application by Southside Soil & Water had already been approved on an earlier date, there was no further action needed.

Since Deborah Kennedy resigned from the Planning Commission, David West has agreed to serve in her place. A motion by Phillip Flippen, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to accept his appointment, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion made by Eugene Wells, Jr., to appoint Noah Davis to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Liz Davis, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion by Phillip Flippen, seconded by Charles Errickson, to go into CLOSED SESSION under Virginia Code 2.23711 A to discuss Personnel matters passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

A motion by Thomas Pettus, seconded by Phillip Flippen, to hire Jerris Wells on a temporary basis of twelve hours a week, passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

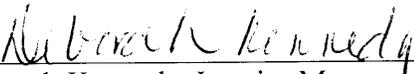
A motion by Peery Wells, Sr., seconded by Liz Davis, to return to Open Session, passed on a roll call vote as follows: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr., Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

Motion by Eugene Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to adopt the Resolution of Closed Session, attached Exhibit A passed on a roll call vote as follows: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Peery Wells, Sr. Phillip Flippen, and Liz Davis. Nays: None, by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Peery Wells stated that the Town needs to take further action as regards to the unsightly conditions at Dollar General. Charles suggested a letter be formulated for Regional Managers that would outline any penalties the Town may impose. Eugene also suggested that other properties located in the Town be addressed also. A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Peery Wells, to send Certified letters to property owners that are out of compliance with Town Ordinances, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion by Charles Errickson to adjourn, seconded by Phillip Flippen passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



Deborah Kennedy, Interim Mayor



Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk