

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2025

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7 P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Virginia.

Vice Mayor Peery Wells called the meeting to order and Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk, recorded the minutes. Council Members present were as follows: Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Deborah Kennedy, Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., and Thomas Pettus. James K. Gregory was absent.

Thomas Pettus gave the Invocation and Peery Wells led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy to accept the January 7th Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES, 1 absent.

ACCOUNT BALANCES with The Bank of Charlotte County were as follows:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$4,283.65
WATER/SEWER	\$30,441.14
GENERAL FUND	\$21,775.33
LGIP	\$292,177.31

After reviewing all ACCOUNT BALANCES, BILLS PAID and TO BE PAID, a motion by Eugene Wells to pay all bills, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, passed on a unanimous roll call vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS and 1 absent vote.

The following citizens addressed the Town Council: Rebecca May, Dan Witt, Lauren Pugh, Averett Jones and Noah Davis.

- (i) Mrs. Rebecca May addressed the Council with a concern over repairs to the street in front of her house located 5131 Drakes Main Street, after the installation of cables. The pavement is uneven and she is concerned heavy traffic vibrates the pipes under her house. Noah Davis stated he would talk to River Street, who use Complete Underground as their installers.
- (ii) Dan Witt addressed the Town Council on an issue brought to the County Board of Supervisors by Mr. Terry Ramsey of Charlotte Court House, on what he feels is an unfair representation of the County's Planning Commission. He explained that there are 7 Districts and 4 Towns in the County. Mr. Witt would like the Council to discuss the matter and get back to him with their input.
- (iii) Lauren Pugh discussed the Drakes Branch Building Acquisition and Comprehensive Plan. Demolition activities have started with asbestos abatement done on listed buildings. There will be additional testing prior to demolition. Thomas Pettus asked about a timeframe and Ms. Pugh replied she hoped it would be completed by October. Charles Errickson asked if there had been any reimbursements. Ms. Pugh stated buildings #4 & 9 have been reimbursed; we are in the process of trying to purchase buildings #5 & 6 and that building #8 is in a tax assessment sale process. She will get the Town her contact information on this. She also stated the Town needs to provide a new contact representative due to the death of Mayor Jackson. Deborah Kennedy stated the Planning Commission would handle this and Peery Wells stated it would probably be after March.

- (iv) Averett Jones stated he had been working with Mayor Jackson to get items out of the old Jackson building (with payment being in the form of a donation to the Drakes Branch Fire Dept.) and he would like to know his next step. Mr. Jones also stated he would be interested in purchasing the roll-up doors from the old fire house. Peery Wells and Deborah Kennedy asked for a written request to complete this matter. Mr. Jones agreed to submitted a written request.
- (v) Noah Davis stated he and Mayor Jackson had discussed the Town allocating \$65,000 towards the purchase of a new fire truck for the Drakes Branch Fire Department. A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Thomas Pettus, to allocate the funds from the LGIP account was passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Charles Errickson stated he had met with the CPA and that W2's should be finished shortly. All accounts are reconciled except one. At this time, only the back computer is to be used for Quick Books.

WATER/SEWER: No report.

STREETS: Same lights are still out. Deborah Kennedy stated any changed out, should be replaced with LED's. She also stated she had received a compliant from a Town Citizen that a dog pen had been placed across their property line.

MUSEUM: No change.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: No report.

PERSONNEL: Charles Errickson presented a list of items that Cary Brazil is requesting for the W/S plant. A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, to purchase the items passed on a unanimous roll call vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

GRANTS: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Room rentals were approved by unanimous voice vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to accept Kimberly Brinkley's resignation as Town Clerk was made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, passed on a unanimous roll call vote of 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

A motion to remove Mayor Jackson and Kimberly Brickley from any access to the Bank of Charlotte County accounts and add Deborah Kennedy was passed on a unanimous roll call vote of 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent and Deborah Kennedy abstaining.

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to appoint Deborah Kennedy as Interim Mayor to finish out Mayor Jackson's term; passed on a unanimous roll call vote of 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent, with Deborah Kennedy abstaining.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion by Deborah Kennedy to go into CLOSED SESSION under Virginia Code 2.23711 (A)(1) to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

A motion by Thomas Pettus to return to OPEN SESSION, seconded by Deborah Kennedy, passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Deborah Kennedy informed the Clerk that a copy of the for names added and/or deleted for Banking purposes would need to be signed by both Vice-Mayor and Deputy Clerk.

There was a discussion regarding who is the licensed W/S operator. James Napier assists the Town with this issue but he can only sign off through December 2025. Thomas Pettus will check on what needs to be done with this on licensing.

A motion made by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Eugene Wells, to take the amount dur for Mayor Jackson's W/S bill out of the \$600 cash found in hid desk drawer and give the remaining balance to his wife Nancy; passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 absent.

As there was no further business to discuss, Deborah Kennedy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charles Errickson All approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.



Peery Wells Sr., Vice Mayor



Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk