

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## JULY 7, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, July 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch, Va.

Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy called the meeting to order and Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk, recorded the minutes. Members present were as follows: Charles Errickson, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells, Jr., Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr. and Phillip Flippen. Liz Davis entered at 7:05 p.m. Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr. gave the Invocation and Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion by Charles Errickson to accept the minutes of all the meetings in June: June 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> Called meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> Public hearing, 30<sup>th</sup> Special meeting, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr., passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

**ACCOUNT BALANCES** with the Bank of Charlotte County were as follows:

WATER/SEWER	\$14,189.58
GENERAL FUND	\$36,388.90
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 7,406.56
LGIP	\$299,940.55
LGIP-EM	<u>\$199,669.67</u>
TOTAL	\$557,595.26

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** No report

**WATER/SEWER:** No report

**STREETS:** Ditch line on Isabella St. still needs attention by VDOT; Interim Mayor Kennedy stated she is still waiting on the map from Dominion for reporting faulty street lights

**MUSEUM:** No change

**BUILDINGS & GOUNDS:** No report

**PERSONNEL:** No issues

**GRANTS:** No report

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Reception for James Gregory rescheduled to August 9, 2025 and 7 p.m.; we will check with Denise Pridgen on number of invitees.

The Building Use Policy will be updated to state Official Fire Dept., Use only.

No update on the Buzzard Permit.

Jim Spence has been refunded his unused water/sewer connection fee.

Beth Hall's Complaint of unkept property next door, a letter was sent to the Homeowner. Any future letters will be sent via Certified Mail and will state infraction and desired remedy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Phillip Flippen gave a list of damages at the Pavilion. Butch Hamlett informed the Town that the Farmer's Market will pay for the fan repair. A motion by Liz Davis to find a matching replacement fan, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Liz Davis to correct an incorrect date, in the body of the Resolution to Appropriate Funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, seconded by Peery Wells, Jr., passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes. A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr to accept the Resolution with corrections, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

The room rental agreement by James Webb needs to be updated to include the sponsoring, local church pastor's name. Making it an intown request. Since they will only be using the bathrooms in the Municipal side of the building, we will only be charging a \$25.00 nonrefundable fee for this event that is being held in the Fire Department. A motion to approve with corrections by Peery Wells, Sr., seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr., seconded by Charles Errickson to approve the room rental application by Roscoe Eubanks, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Peery Wells, Jr., to table the question of sales of water for filling pools, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

On advice by Thomas Pettus, a motion was made by Charles Errickson to charge VDOT \$0.25 per gallon of water they get from the Town for spraying the highway rights-of-way, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr., passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to send a letter, in reply to their request to use the old Gazette building, to the Christmas Parents stating that use of the building is not feasible at this time due to mold issues, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion by Liz Davis, seconded by Phillip Flippen, to go into CLOSED SESSION under Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) 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.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to return to OPEN SESSION, 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 Peery Wells, Sr., seconded by Charles Errickson, to adopt the Resolution of Closed Session,

attached Exhibit A, 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 HELP WANTED AD for a Full-time Clerk and a Part-time Police Sergeant will be in the July 16<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Gazette and on the Town's web page, and the sign out front at the entrance. A motion made by Thomas Pettus, seconded by Phillip Flippen, to accept Charlie Brinkley's letter of resignation, with no end date, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all Ayes.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Interim Mayor Kennedy stated she is waiting on answers from CRC on how to proceed with the FEMA project if the deadline for completion, on the demolition of the buildings, cannot be extended. She also discussed a conversation she had with someone possibly interested in the condemned building on the corner of Proctor and Main St.

There being no further business to discuss, Liz Davis made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Phillip Flippen, passed on a voice vote of all Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

  
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Deborah Kennedy, Interim Mayor

  
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Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk