

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025 @ 7

The regular meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL of Drakes Branch was held on Monday, March 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.

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

Vice Mayor Peery Wells gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy to accept the February 3, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Thomas Pettus.

NAYS: None. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy to accept the February 14, 2025 Public Hearing Minutes, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr. Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

After all bills and balances were reviewed, a motion was made by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Charles Errickson to accept as read. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The following citizens addressed the Council: Rebecca May, Rob Propes and Noah Davis.

I. Mrs. May addressed the Council over her continuing concern over repairs to the street in front of her house.

II. Mr. Rob Propes spoke on the proposed Urban Grid project which would begin in 2030 if approved by the County.

III. Mr. Noah Davis spoke on the benefits of Charlotte County procuring a Data Center. He would like for the Town of Drakes Branch to Look into this matter as he feels it would be a good fit for the town.

Committee Reports: Finance: Deborah Kennedy stated they are still in talks with the CPA, and that they will get with the Auditor as soon as the fourth quarter work is finished.

Water/Sewer: The problem at the plant has been fixed.

Streets: There are still some street lights out. Cary will get with someone on reimbursement for things the town repaired that were not due to damage by the town itself.

Museum: No change.

Buildings and Grounds: No report.

Personnel: No unresolvable issues.

Grants: Deborah Kennedy is checking to see if the town has previously received the DEQ grant. Also, Charles Errickson stated that the cameras installed near the Pavilion are not speed recording cameras, but are used by law enforcement for the purpose of locating stolen vehicles, etc.

Unfinished Business: A motion made by Eugene Wells to nominate Deborah Kennedy to serve as Interim Mayor, seconded by Charles Errickson passed on a roll call vote as follows Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus with Ms. Kennedy abstaining.

A reply was sent to Dan Witt stating the town's desire to continue to have adequate representation on the Planning Commission.

On the issue of Averett Jones requesting to be allowed to continue to salvage items out of the old buildings, Deborah Kennedy stated that it is a code violation. Charles Errickson made a motion to send a rejection letter, seconded by Thomas Pettus. Motion was passed on a

unanimous roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE.

The Council agreed to table the issue of the DMV Stop until other issues are resolved.

New Business: A motion by Charles Errickson to table the room rental by Nika Daniel until more information is received, seconded by Eugene Wells passed on a roll call vote of 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy to approve the Pavilion rental by Ivan Gilmore, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr. Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Charles also made a motion to digitize the application on the town website., seconded by Deborah Kennedy. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

A motion by Eugene Wells, seconded by Deborah Kennedy to re-appoint Derek Smith to Zoning Appeals passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Perry Wells Sr., Charles Errickson and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to re-appoint Deborah Kennedy to the Planning Commission passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus, with Ms. Kennedy abstaining. Motion carried 5 AYES, 0 NAYS by a unanimous vote.

Eugene Wells introduced Liz Davis as a candidate for Town Council.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Charles Errickson, to go into Closed Session under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Charles Errickson, to return to Open Session passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES:

Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus.

NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Charles Errickson to adopt Exhibit A was passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Peery Wells Sr., Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion made by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Thomas Pettus, to contact Carroll Anderson to get a copy of his updated license and a bill for services using his signature to sign off on statements, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to contact the Town Sargeant, Charlie Brinkley to get reports from him passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Deborah Kennedy, Vice Mayor Perry Wells, Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells and Thomas Pettus. NAYS: NONE. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion by Deborah Kennedy, seconded by Eugene Wells, to adjourn the meeting passed on a voice vote of 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

 Vice Mayor
 Deputy Clerk

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.