

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025

The regular meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL of Drakes Branch was held Monday, May 5, 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.

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

A motion by Thomas Pettus to accept the May 5, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

A motion by Eugene Wells to accept the Public Hearing Minutes, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

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

Water/Sewer	\$51,617.96
General Fund	\$88,862.77
Accts. Rec.	\$5,405.95

LGIP Account Balances were as follows:

LGIP	\$297,737.76
LGIP EM	\$198,412.61

After all bills and balances were reviewed, a motion made by Eugene Wells to accept as read, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous vote of all AYES.

## **CITIZEN SPEAKERS ON THE AGENDA:**

The following citizens addressed the Council to express their concerns over the excessive number of buzzards in the town and issues with problem dogs: Rebecca

May, Mary Lou & Ray Tombs, Rachel Toombs, Dottie & Brant Acree, Mary Diehr & family.

Town Sergeant Charlie Brinkley addressed their concerns. A copy of the Dog Ordinance was passed out to attendees and complaint forms were passed out to be completed and signed as a step in order for the Town to address the issues. Also, the Town is seeking to renew the USFWS Migratory Bird Permit Application to address the issue as well.

Nemiah Braxton spoke on the issue of a time frame for the demolition of the condemned buildings. The Interim Mayor and Town Attorney both addressed his questions.

Blair Trent addressed the Council and citizens to introduce herself as a candidate for Commonwealth Attorney of Charlotte County, giving a brief overview of both her qualifications and how she hoped to serve the citizens of Charlotte County.

**CLOSED SESSION:** A motion made by Thomas Pettus, seconded by Charles Errickson, to go into Closed Session for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to the town lake as allowed by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (8) passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

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

A motion made by Eugene Well, seconded by Charles Errickson, to adopt Exhibit A, Certification Resolution of Closed Session passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. Exhibit A attached at the end of the minutes.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance: Nothing new to report.

Water/Sewer: No issues reported.

Streets: Foster Street- clean of trash; 1<sup>st</sup> house on right before Apts. -not safe; Thomas will speak with Sean Stimpson about repairing the dip. Cary needs to speak with Chuck Dunn about the section in front of Butch Hamlett's house; Thomas stated that Council needs to push Board of Supervisors to lean on VDOT about sidewalk repair.

Museum: No change.

Building & Grounds: Eugene stated that he had spoken with Dollar General Corporate office and was assured that they would address the issues put forth in the letter from the Town.

Personnel: No real issues; employees are asking that the Town look into health insurance for them.

Grants: Deborah stated that the SLFRF yearly accountability report has been completed on time. She also stated that any future grant money should be put into an account to itself to avoid any issues on how money is spent.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Last month we nominated Elizabeth Davis and Phillip Flippen to fill the two vacant council positions and held a public hearing on April 24. Eugene Wells motioned, seconded by Charles Errickson, to appoint Elizabeth Davis to fill the vacancy left by Councilwoman Deborah Kennedy, motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. Charles Errickson motioned, seconded by Eugene Wells, to appoint Phillip Flippen to fill the vacancy left by Councilman James Gregory, motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

CPA's work on the 2024, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 941 and VEC reports are due to be completed in the next week.

A tentative date, July 12<sup>th</sup>, was scheduled for a reception for retired Councilman James Gregory to honor his service to the Town.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion made by Peery Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to accept the Resolution for James Gregory, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. This will be published in the Charlotte Gazette and a letter, along with the Resolution, will be sent to him.

Meeting Room Rental: A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to approve the meeting room rental by Stephanie Newcomb for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday party on May 10<sup>th</sup> passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

Pavillion Rental: A motion by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to accept the Pavilion rental by Darlene Walton for a fundraiser on May 17<sup>th</sup> passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. Eugene Wells also suggested that the rental form be updated to include the purpose of the rental.

Motion made by Eugene Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to have a Spring Cleanup Day, Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, on the regular pick-up day, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

Deborah stated that she had signed the Town up to be included in the yearly 100 Mile Yard Sale July 5<sup>th</sup>. She also reported on her and Peery's attendance to the County wide Town Mayor's Meeting held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the CRC building in Keysville. They learned that we were the only Town in the County not charging a business license, some of the towns were also charging a meals tax and were researching the cigarette tax. She also asked if the Town would pay for her to attend the VML Small Town Conference in Farmville, at Longwood University on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> since it was close by. Motion made by Eugene Wells, seconded by Charles Errickson, to pay the registration fee, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

There being no further business, motion made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Eugene Wells, to adjourn, motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

  
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Deborah Kennedy, Interim Mayor

  
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Vickie Cliborne, 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.