

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, September 2, 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: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus, and Phillip Flippen. Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr. was absent. Thoms Pettus gave the Invocation and Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion by Charles Errickson to accept the August 4th Regular Meeting Minutes, with the addition of comments from Kenny Tharpe on the use of the Municipal Building by the DBVFD, seconded by Phillip Flippen, passed on a unanimous voice vote. A motion by Phillip Flippen to accept the August 25 Public Hearing meeting minutes, seconded by Thomas Pettus, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

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

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$7,408.07
WATER/SEWER	\$13,870.92
GENERAL FUND	\$125,169.07
LGIP	\$302,151.13
LGIP-EM	\$201,161.67
TOTAL	\$649,760.86

After reviewing all ACCOUNT BALANCES, BILLS PAID and TO BE PAID, a motion by Charles Errickson to pay all bills, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy stated that the Virginia Tax Reports are done.

WATER/SEWER: No report.

STREETS: Committee members are waiting on the Dominion Energy map.

MUSEUM: No change.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Butch Hamlett will take care of the fan at the Pavilion.

PERSONNEL: No report.

GRANTS: Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy stated that the town will not have to buy back the old Municipal Building/Fire Dept. before the FEMA reimbursement. The town also needs to seek bids for the demolition of the Robinson building and the old Canada store. She will check with Gary to see where we stand on the old Municipal/Fire Dept. buildings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

On the issue of the final vote to amend the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance, Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy stated that FEMA made some additional minor changes in wording in the Ordinance, since our Public Hearing and it is too late to have another public hearing since we were running out of time to submit the amendment. A motion by Charles Errickson to amend the Floodplain Ordinance as presented, seconded by Thomas Pettus,

passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Peery Wells, Sr., passed by unanimous vote.

As there was no commitment on the grass cutting fees for cutting the grass violations, as Thomas was asked to research prices, it was decided the Ordinance needs to be updated with the fees being charged on a case-by-case basis.

As per the issue with Cintas having a five- year contract with the town, signed by former Mayor Phil Jackson, Charles stated that it was an unlawful purchase. He will contact them concerning this matter.

Butch Hamlett has received the paperwork with the price of the fan for the Pavilion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 has been designated as the Fall Clean-up Day. The notice will be posted on the bulletin board and at the Post Office.

The VFW will be in charge of the Veteran's Parade on November 8.

A motion by Thomas Pettus to add Columbus Day and President's Day to the list of employee's paid holidays, seconded by Liz Davis, passed on a unanimous voice vote.

On the issue of unpaid Tax/ Water bills with no forwarding addresses, a motion by Charles Errickson to abate them after all efforts at contact have been attempted, seconded by Phillip Flippen, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Peery Wells, Sr., passed by unanimous vote.

A motion by Eugene Wells, Jr. to delete "with interest" from the water/sewer information sheet pertaining to deposits, seconded by Liz Davis, passed on a unanimous roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None, by unanimous vote.

Council Members' **FOIA and COIA** training must be completed by November 30, 2025.

Before asking for a motion to go into CLOSED SESSION, Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy spoke on the issue of the grass being uncut at the Town Lake. She also stated that the lease has expired and may need to be renewed. A motion by Charles Errickson to table this discussion until the October Council meeting, seconded by Eugene Wells, passed on a unanimous voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION:

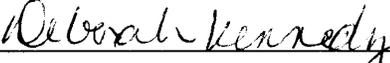
A motion by Thomas Pettus to go into CLOSED SESSION under Virginia Code 2.23711 (A)(1) to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a unanimous roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Erickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Peery Wells, Sr., passed by unanimous vote.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

A motion by Thomas Pettus to return to OPEN SESSION, seconded by Charles Errickson, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. A motion by Thomas Pettus to adopt the Resolution of Closed Session, attached Exhibit A passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Charles Errickson, Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, Thomas Pettus and Phillip Flippen. NAYS: None, by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: Interim Mayor Deborah Kennedy read a letter from the Solar Company releasing the town from any contracts. She also spoke about the uncut grass at the Town Lake. She then stated that the current lease has expired and needs to be redone. A motion by Charles Errickson to table the discussion until the October Council Meeting, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr., passed on a unanimous voice vote.

As there was no further business to discuss, Charles Errickson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eugene Wells, Jr. All approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.



Deborah Kennedy, Interim Mayor



Vickie Cliborne, Deputy Clerk