

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 05, 2026

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, January 05<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7 P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Virginia.

Mayor Deborah Kennedy called the meeting to order and Stephanie Clay, Clerk, recorded the minutes. Members present were as follows: Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr., Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, James Gregory and Thomas Pettus. Charles Errickson was absent. Peery Wells Sr. gave the Invocation and Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- A motion by Eugene Wells Jr. to accept the December Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by James Gregory., passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.

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

SECURITY DEPOIT ESCROW	\$7,412.11
WATER/SEWER	\$9,749.95
GENERAL FUND	\$81,473.00

#### LGIP ACCOUNT BALANCES

LGIP	\$306,487.13
LGIP- EM	\$204,382.37

- After reviewing all ACCOUNT BALANCES, BILLS PAID and TO BE PAID, a motion by Eugene Wells Jr. to accept, seconded by Thomas Pettus, passed on a unanimous roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells Jr., and Peery Wells Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Charles Errickson.

#### SPEAKERS

- Casey Bennet, a Town resident, proposed holding a workshop or a series of workshops called "Ready Together" to educate citizens on emergency preparedness. Ms. Mayor asked Ms. Bennett to email us the material she was proposing to use in workshops so the Council could review further.
- Ms. Bennett also voiced her concern on the FLOCK cameras being used throughout town, stated she thought they were an infringement on our 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights. James Gregory spoke about the pros and cons of these cameras based on his knowledge with the VSP
- Ms. Dyer, another Town citizen stated she needed to speak with Councilman Eugene Wells regarding a camper parked in her yard, but asked the conversation be held privately and not in Town Council meeting.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Nothing to report.

**Streets:** Discussion to contact the contractor to take down Christmas decorations was had. Clerk, S. Clay told Council woman L. Davis that if street light outages were reported to her office, she would see they get reported to Dominion repair.

**Museum:** Nothing to report.

**Water/Sewer:** NY Ave. incident has been resolved.

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Grants:** Nothing to report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- On the issue of the phone/internet for Clerks office was postponed until next meeting.
- On the issue of the Shepherd building, the Town received a written statement from property owner stating he was willing to sell and asking price. CRC will work on additional grant monies to purchase.
- On the issue of the Town Lake Lease, Council agreed the lessee should be sent a certified letter asking for proof of insurance. If not received by next meeting, can re-examine the issue.
- On the issue on organizing an events committee, it was agreed that James Gregory and Stephanie Clay would oversee this committee.
- Mayor asked all council members to provide Town Clerk with copy of FOIA training certificate. All have been received except for C. Errickson.

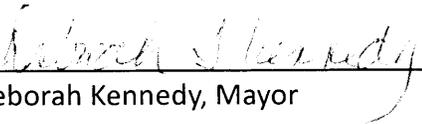
**CLOSED SESSION: No closed session was held.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion by Peery Wells Sr., seconded by James Gregory, to approve the room rental application by O. Clark. This was passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells Jr., and Peery Wells Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. ABSENT: C. Errickson
- James Gregory made a motion, seconded by Eugene Wells Jr. to enter into the new janitorial contract with Lisa Traynham. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells Jr., and Peery Wells Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. ABSENT: C. Errickson.
- A motion by Perry Wells, Sr. was made and seconded by Liz Davis, to enter into the agreement with Hurt & Proffitt for the annual dam certification. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus, Eugene Wells Jr., and Peery Wells Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. ABSENT: C. Errickson

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Colleen West, a town constituent, asked that water bills be mailed out regardless of balance, Mayor agreed.
- James Gregory suggested the Town Sergeant job opening be more descriptive. S. Clay stated she would do so.
- S. Clay, Clerk, read a letter of thanks from the Central High Museum for allowing them to use Town building for play practice.
- Eugene Wells asked about the status of the former gas station on the corner of Drakes Main St. and Gethsemane Church Rd., S. Clay reported the lessee had turned off water services and stated he had vacated just that day.
- Eugene Wells Jr. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liz Davis. All Agreed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

  
Deborah Kennedy, Mayor

  
Stephanie Clay, Clerk

12/4/2025  
I, Norman Shepherd will except  
the amount of 12,000<sup>00</sup> (Twelve thousand  
dollars) from the Town of Duke  
Vaughn for the land and building  
at 4470 and 4768 and the building  
in said building beyond creek

I will also remove what parts of  
items within buildings within 30 days  
belonging to me & Thank You,

Norman Shepherd  
Phonier 434-736-6055

No repairs or expense to buildings by me