

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

January 05, 2026

The Town of Drakes Branch held A Public Hearing on Monday, January 05th, 2026 at 6:45 P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Virginia.

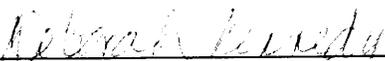
Mayor Deborah Kennedy called the meeting to order and Stephanie Clay, Clerk, recorded the minutes. Members present were as follows: Vice Mayor Peery Wells, Sr., Eugene Wells, Jr., Liz Davis, James Gregory and Thomas Pettus. Charles Errickson was absent. Peery Wells Sr. gave the Invocation and Mayor Deborah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

Constituents Present: Mike & Sherry Tharpe, Kerwin & Beverly Kunath, Casey Bennett, Mary Diehr, Colleen West, Jerris Wells and Janice Wells.

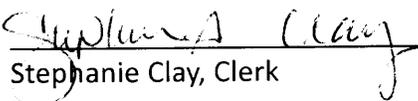
- Mayor Kennedy stated the purpose of the public hearing was to amend the Town Ordinance to reflect new verbiage (see attached) and opened comments up to the public.

SPEAKERS

- Mike Tharpe spoke on his attempts to revitalize properties in town and was concerned about any costs of water/sewer repairs being passed on to him. He was specifically concerned about the ongoing situation at this rental property at 270 White Street. He stated the broken concrete top could be the reason trash was getting in pump. He also stated the Town had to have undisputable proof that garbage was coming from his property prior to billing. Mayor Kennedy stated she would make sure the concrete top was replaced or repaired and area pumped out. Vice-Mayor Peery Wells agreed to meet Mike and Cary Brazil, P/W Supervisor at the location to further investigate issue.
- Beverly Kunath voiced her concerns and stated she did not agree with the costs of repairs being passed on to property owners.
- Mayor Kennedy stated the Council would take all comments under advisement and vote at next meeting
- The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.



Deborah Kennedy, Mayor



Stephanie Clay, Clerk

Current Ordinance language:

Sec. 10-13 All repairs or replacements of meters or meter boxes caused by carelessness, neglect or interference of consumers shall be made by the town at the expense of the person responsible for the water bill.

Proposed Ordinance language:

Vandalism: No persons shall maliciously, willfully or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or equipment which is a part of the Town treatment works. Any person who violates this section shall be responsible for all repairs, including labor and material and may be guilty of a misdemeanor in accordance with Virginia law.

Restricted discharges: No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged to any of the Town's sewer system any substances, materials, water, or wastes in such quantities or concentrations which do or likely to cause obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the operation of treatment facilities due to the accumulation of solid or viscous materials.

Costs of Damage: If the drainage or discharge from any establishment causes a deposit, obstruction, or damage to any of the Town's sanitary sewer system, the Town shall cause the deposit or obstruction to be promptly removed or cause the damage to be repaired. The cost for such work, including materials, labor, and supervision shall be borne by the person causing such deposit, obstruction or damage.

If the fees and charges charged for water service or the use and services of the sewage disposal system by or in connection with any real estate are not paid when due, a penalty and interest shall be owed, as provided for by general law, by the lessee or tenant. If such lessee or tenant does not pay the full amount of charges, penalty, and interest for water provided or cease such disposal within 30 days thereafter, the locality or authority supplying water or sewage disposal services for the use of such real estate shall notify such lessee or tenant of the delinquency. If such lessee or tenant does not pay the full amount of charges, penalty, and interest for water provided or cease such disposal within 60 days after the delinquent fees and charges charged for water or sewage disposal services are due, the locality or authority supplying water or sewage disposal services for the use of such real estate may cease supplying water and sewage disposal services thereto unless the health officers certify that shutting off the water will endanger the health of the occupants of the premises or the health of others. At least 10 business days prior to ceasing the supply of water or sewage disposal services, the locality or authority supplying such services shall provide the lessee or tenant with written notice of such cessation, with a copy to the property owner.

Section 10-13 Repair Or Replacement of Meters, Etc., Necessitated By Negligence, Etc.

All repairs or replacements of meters or meter boxes caused by carelessness, neglect or interference of consumers shall be made by the town at the expense of the person responsible for the water bill.

Section 10-14 Turning On Water.

It shall be unlawful for any person except an authorized agent of the town to turn on the water to any premises.

Section 10-15 Repairing Leaks.

All leaks in or upon all premises supplied with water must be promptly repaired by the owners or occupant and on failure to make such repairs with reasonable dispatch, the town may turn off the water from the premises until such necessary repairs are made and charge ten dollars for turning the same on again. (This ordinance was amended on May 2, 1988 omitting the ten dollar charge.)

Section 10-16 Discontinuance of Service.

The town reserves the right to discontinue its service without notice for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Repair:
- (b) Want of Supply;
- (c) Nonpayment of water bills when due:
- (d) Any fraudulent representation in relation to computation of service.
- (e) Violation of contract or any rules or regulations applying at any time to consumer's service.
- (f) Detriment to service in general in immediate locality caused by service to a particular consumer.
- (g) Riots, strikes, insurrection, or acts of God

The town shall not be liable for damages to any person for such cutting off of services:

Section 10-17 Waste of Water; Permitting Unauthorized Use of Water.

If the occupant of a lot or tenement on which has been erected or placed a hydrant, cock or other fixture to supply water, shall permit the water to run from hydrant, cock or fixture, without proper care to prevent waste, or shall