

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 06, 2026

The Regular meeting of the Town Council of Drakes Branch was held Monday, April 6th, 2026 at 7 P.M. in the Municipal Building located at 4801 Drakes Main Street, Drakes Branch 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., Liz Davis, Charles Errickson, James Gregory and Thomas Pettus. Council member Eugene Wells, Jr., was absent. Peery Wells, Sr., gave the Invocation and Mayor Deborah Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- A motion by Charles Errickson to accept the March Council Meeting Minutes was seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., passed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.

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

SECURITY DEPOSIT ESCROW	\$4,128.42
WATER/SEWER	\$16,028.37
GENERAL FUND	\$161,824.80

LGIP ACCOUNT BALANCES

LGIP	\$309,403.72
LGIP- EM	\$206,569.39

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

SPEAKERS

- David West addressed the Council and asked that bills be mailed separately if the accounts are in two different names. For instance, he and his spouse have separate tax bills but they were mailed in the same envelope. Clerk assured Mr. West that this would be corrected going forward.
- Mr. West also brought to the Towns attention some broken links on the Towns website. Clerk fixed the issues before the end of the Town Council meeting.
- Lastly, Mr. West wanted to know the Towns policy on how long a customer had to fix a leak before Town disconnected service. Clerk stated she would check on the ordinance and let him know. Mr. West asked to be on the following months agenda as a speaker to share some other concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Working on budget- will have ready for review by April council meeting.

Streets: Clerk provided update on lights that have been reported. Councilman Gregory asked about a subscription for the FLOCK camera. No one on the Council nor the Clerk was aware of an annual subscription.

Museum: None.

Buildings & Grounds: None.

Water/Sewer: None.

Personnel: To be discussed in closed session.

— **Grants:** 599 Grant to renew soon. Clerk stated she would check on it.

Events: Clerk Clay presented the idea of Food Truck Fridays, to bring a different food truck to Town each Friday to generate traffic. Charles Erickson made a motion to allow Clerk to proceed with planning the event and Peery Wells, Sr., seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous voice votes of all AYES. Eugene Wells, Jr., ABSENT

OLD BUSINESS:

- Downtown Demo- on hold due to Government shut-down.
- Roof Rails- Council tabled the discussion until Clerk could obtain more information on how rails are fastened.
- VFW's request to place shed on property was tabled until Fire Chief Kenny Tharpe had a follow up discussion with Garland Hamlett about their storage needs.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Peery Wells, Sr., and seconded by Charles Erickson to approve the room rental for Jaikela Williams. The motion passed on a voice vote as follows AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Erickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- A motion was made by Charles Erickson and seconded by Liz Davis to approve the Pavilion request by Michael Haskins, to host a benefit for Organ Hill Baptist Church pastor. Mayor Kennedy requested the Clerk let Mr. Haskins know use had to be approved in future prior to advertising events. The motion passed on a voice vote as follows AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Erickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- Discussion was had about an updated Pavilion Rental form and the Clerk stated she would have one ready for next Town Council Meeting.
- A motion was made by Liz Davis and seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to proceed with plans for Spring clean-up day, with notices going out April 21st, returned to Clerk's office by May 20th and clean-up day to take place June 18th (date was originally 17th but changed by request of Public Works staff). The motion passed on a voice vote as follows AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Erickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- Liz Davis made a motion to re-appoint Jerris Wells and Phillip Flippen to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by James Gregory. The motion passed on a voice vote as follows AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Erickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- Fred Black chose not to remain on the Planning Commission after this current term, therefore Liz Davis made a motion to appoint Mary Lou Toombs to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Thomas Pettus. The motion passed on a voice vote as follows AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Erickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- Discussion was had about the sale of the tractor and Chevrolet pick-up truck owned by the Town; neither are currently being used by staff. Liz Davis made a motion to sell the Chevrolet pick-up truck by public auction on Govdeals.com, this was seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., and passed on a roll call vote of all AYES, NAYS: none, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.
- Charles Erickson made a motion, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., to allow Thomas Pettus assess the tractor to see if it could be repaired and made usable. The motion passed on a roll call vote of all AYES, NAYS: none, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Council asked Clerk to confirm amount of annual donation to Christmas Parents to present at next council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion made by Charles Errickson, seconded by Thomas Pettus, that the Council convene in CLOSED SESSION under Virginia Code 2.23711 (A)(1), to discuss personnel matters concerning employee's salary and schedules, passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Errickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus, and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote.

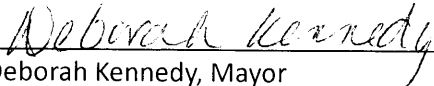
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

A motion by Liz Davis, seconded by Charles Errickson to return to Open Session, was passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Errickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.

A motion was made Peery Wells, Sr., and seconded by Liz Davis, Sr. to adopt Exhibit A, the Certificate of Closed Session, and topics as discussed regarding Clerks office employee schedule, review of personnel handbook- corrections still pending, promote Ralph Simpson to public works supervisor with wage increase, accepting the resignation of Cary Brazil, The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: AYES: Liz Davis, Charles Errickson, James Gregory, Thomas Pettus and Peery Wells, Sr., NAYS: None, by unanimous vote. ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.

Liz Davis made a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting, seconded by Peery Wells, Sr., all Agreed on a unanimous voice vote of all AYES. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Eugene Wells, Jr.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.


Deborah Kennedy, Mayor

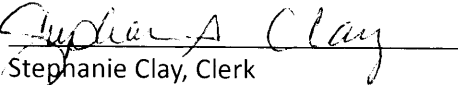

Stephanie Clay, Clerk

EXHIBIT A
CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, this Drakes Branch Town Council convened a CLOSED SESSION on this 6th day of April, 2026 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, § 2.2-3711 A 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.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Account balances with The Bank of Charlotte County are as follows:

SECURITY DEPOSIT ESCROW	\$4,128.42
WATER/SEWER	\$16,028.37
GENERAL FUND	\$161,824.80
LGIP	\$309,403.72
LGIP-EM	\$206,569.39
TOTAL	\$697,954.70

BILLS TO BE PAID

GENERAL FUND

DATE DUE	VENDOR	REASON	AMOUNT
04/13/26	Dominion Energy	Charlotte Gazette building	\$23.20
04/24/26	Dominion Energy	Bob White Rd.	\$14.79
05/01/26	Dominion Energy	Various locations (street lights)	\$1,500.55
TOTAL			\$1,538.54

WATER/SEWER FUND

04/10/26	Wholesale Parts	Ignition parts old F-250	\$97.02
04/10/26	Whites Bldg. Supply	Keys, clorox & marking paint	\$92.27
04/15/26	Fuel Freedom	W/S gas- vehicles	\$596.55
04/22/26	Dominion	Swage treatment plant	\$967.21
04/22/26	Dominion	Well 4	\$123.31
04/22/26	Dominion	Westpoint Stevens Rd Well	\$356.87
04/22/26	Dominion	Well 6	\$165.90
04/22/26	Dominion	Rt. 637 Lift pump station	\$129.20
04/22/26	Dominion	Rt. 623 Pump	\$20.74
04/22/26	Dominion	Well 5	\$128.69
04/24/26	EJ Prescott	5 meters- stock	\$1,571.88
04/25/26	Drakes Farm & Home	Long nose pliers	\$12.99
TOTAL			\$4,262.63

DRAKES BRANCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 6, 2026

SIGN IN SHEET FOR SPEAKERS

- 1. David West
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
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- 10.