

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2018**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Gary L. Delp, and Councilman Roy F. Sweezy. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Courtney Kennedy, and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF BURKE COUNTY PROCLAMATION Mayor Black presented the following proclamation to Dorian Palmer:

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

WHEREAS, the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring model is a proven, effective strategy that helps children and young adults by matching them with a caring, responsible adult role model who can provide guidance and direction, and build their confidence; and

WHEREAS, mentoring strengthens Western North Carolina's economic and social well-being by helping young people fulfill their potential, encouraging healthy family relationships, and promoting more vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been making an impact on the lives of young people in the County of Burke since the year 1999 serving a total of 751 children, serving 51 in the 2017 year; and in Western North Carolina since 1982, serving 2,346 children in the 2017 calendar year.

WHEREAS, residents of Western North Carolina are making a profound difference in the lives of our young people by serving as mentors; and

WHEREAS, many of Western North Carolina's children are in need of a caring adult mentor in their lives, and closing this mentoring gap will take more investment, partnerships, and volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of mentoring, recognize the dedicated individuals who serve as mentors, and encourage more citizens to help build a brighter future for Western North Carolina's youth through mentoring; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the mentors, volunteers and staff, the month of January is recognized nationally as Mentoring Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, John F. Black, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Valdese, do hereby declare January 2018 as Mentoring Month in Valdese, and call upon all citizens, businesses, public and private agencies, as well as religious and educational institutions, to join the mentoring movement and be a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Burke County and Western North Carolina.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of January 2018.

/s/ John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Mayor

OATH OF OFFICE Deputy Town Clerk Courtney Kennedy administered Oath of Office to Councilman Roy F. Sweezy, Ward 3.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2017

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned item on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

End Consent Agenda

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE Water Resources Director Greg Padgett introduced Tyler Vick, Plant Maintenance Mechanic.

CENTURYLINK UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTION CONTRACT Planning Director Larry Johnson provided a brief presentation on a proposed contract with CenturyLink. The contract will provide a unified communications solution which will improve communications with the public and between departments. The cost of this project is \$77,098.82. Funds for this project have been allocated in the budget.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the contract with CenturyLink in the amount of \$77,098.82, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - INTENT TO CLOSE A SECTION OF WHISNANT STREET Mayor Black informed Council that the project is not complete at this time. A notice calling for the public hearing to be held at the December 4, 2017, Council meeting was published and the public hearing was continued until this meeting; however, staff has requested that the public hearing be continued again at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to continue the public hearing at the February 5, 2018 Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

PURCHASE OF TOWN VEHICLES Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth requested authorization to purchase a 2018 Ford F150 for public works in the amount of \$23,225.21, and a 2018 Ford Explorer for town hall in the amount of \$27,247.05; the total cost for these two vehicles purchased on state contract is \$50,472.26. Mr. Duckworth informed Council that these vehicles will replace a 2004 Chevy 1500 and 1996 Dodge Caravan, which will be used at other departments. Funds for these vehicles are allocated in the current budget, as identified in the Capital Improvements Plan.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to authorize the purchase of the two aforementioned vehicles, totaling \$50,472.26, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

LEASE AGREEMENT AT OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH DR. KYLE BARNES Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi informed Council that Dr. Kyle Barnes works with a current tenant, Dream Connections, Inc., assisting with care for clients enrolled in the adult day program service. Dr. Barnes would like to rent storage space that is underutilized at Old Rock School. Ms. Angi requested that Council approve a lease agreement for rental space at Old Rock School in the amount of \$50.00 per month.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the lease with Dr. Kyle Barnes in the amount of \$50.00 per month, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi provided the following presentation to Council:

Main Street 2017

Valdese North Carolina

Downtown Development

Façade Grants

- Old World Baking Company & Talk of the Town– Completed waiting for approval for payout
- Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant - Completed
- UnitOne Fitness/Debbie Huffman Dance (2) – application and rendering received – waiting on building owner for cost estimates
- Elgie McGalliard – waiting for cost estimates
- Hoilman Electric – application given to building owner, waiting for submission
- The Stitchery – application given to building owner, waiting for submission
- Burke Oil Building – application given to building owner, waiting for submission



In result other building owners have made improvements also:

- Salon Di Bellezza & Mimosa Beauty Salon
- Retro Hair Salon (new location next to Myra's General Antiques)
- Old Rock School (new paint & woodwork repaired)
- Kelly Harmon Photography – new sign
- Purchase of vacant building across from Myra's – *plans to renovate are in the works*

Interior Improvements to:

- The Stitchery
- Debbie Huffman Dance Academy

Major Projects

Streetscape

- New flower bed surrounds from Italy Street to the Old Rock School
- New flower bed plantings (more still to come Spring 2018)
- Addition of arches to planter boxes for hanging baskets
- Purchase of 10 more planter boxes underway
- Stamped brick crosswalk with NCDOT – by Spring 2018

New Businesses (in downtown district)

- Provantage Home Solutions
- The Stitchery
- Los Compadres
- Old World Baking Company
- Kelly Harmon Photography Studio
- Debbie Huffman Dance (new location)
- Retro Hair Salon (new location)

How does Valdese...

- Increase investment in our downtown district?
- Become a destination for new business?
- How do we encourage local spending in the downtown district?
- Entice/encourage building owners to invest in their building?

Vacancy Ordinance

- Pass a building vacancy ordinance - An ordinance that forces building owners to bring their buildings up to modern building code before they are allowed to lease their building again. There have been at least a half dozen potential businesses that looked at downtown spaces this year who could not afford to bring the buildings up to code and took their business to a different community.

Building Reuse

- Bring back a reformed/funded town initiated building reuse program. Our former program did not have enough accountability built into it.
- Due to lack of investment from building owners, the inventory of available buildings in the downtown district are in need of major rehab.
- Potential business owners are reluctant to lease a building that requires thousand of dollars for infrastructure renovations. Business owners are scared off when having to invest their dollars to bring a building up to code. They are willing to invest for use specific needs and cosmetics.

Design Standards

- Pass reasonable design standards for new construction of commercial properties on Main Street
- Restrict metal buildings and inexpensive looking facades that take away from the character and charm of Main Street

Zoning Ordinances

- Update our zoning ordinances to prevent drive-throughs, front parking lots, landscape buffers, setbacks greater than soft from the sidewalks and gravel parking lots. These updates will keep Main Street walkable and help to retain its historic charm. This would be for new construction only. The planning board is currently studying these issues.
- Address issues such as boarded up windows, broken windows and deteriorating facades

Council thanked Ms. Angi for her presentation.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AND AMENDMENTS

Valdese Town Council Meeting Tuesday, Jan 02, 2018

Budget Amendment No. 07

Subject: Phone System Updates

Memorandum:

As per discussions held in previous council meetings pertaining to the subject, the following budget amendment is essential in order to appropriate the necessary funds.

Action Suggested:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina that the following amendment is made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

| Acct. No. | | <u>Debit</u> | <u>Credit</u> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 10.4900.330 | Dept Supplies | 7,600 | |
| | Total | \$ 7,600 | \$ 0 |
| | | ===== | ===== |

This will result in a net increase of \$7,600 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

Acct.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
| <u>No.</u> | | |
| 10.3970.302 | From Util Fund - Capital | 7,600 |
| | | ----- |
| Total | \$ | \$ 7,600 |
| | | ===== |

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board, to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

TOWN OF VALDESE
RECREATION CENTER
LAKESIDE PARK FUND
CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following project ordinance is hereby adopted.

Section 1. The project authorized is to establish a recreational park, off of Lovelady Road, next to the existing WWTP Access Road and is to be financed by The Town of Valdese contributions and the solicitation of donations, gifts and grants.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the program ordinance and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to contribute to this project:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Town Contributions | \$ 40,000 | 53,3970.001 |
| Donations and Gifts | 300,000 | 53,3970.002 |
| Donations – Kellex | 75,200 | 53,3970.003 |
| Grant – Clean Water | 673,246 | 53,3970.004 |
| Grant – PART F | 300,000 | 53,3970.005 |
| Donations – Restricted | 15,000 | 53,3970.021 |
| | ----- | |
| | \$1,403,446 | |
| | ===== | |

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Professional Services | \$ 0 | 53.6200.040 |
| Legal | 0 | 53.6200.041 |
| Other Improvements-Pump Track | 15,000 | 53.6200.150 |
| Advertising | 0 | 53,6200.260 |
| Site Planning & Design | 40,000 | 53,6200.490 |
| Capital Outlay – Land | 1,348,446 | 3,6200.710 |
| | ----- | |
| | \$ 1,403,446 | |
| | ===== | |

Section 5. The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to town council required by the program procedures, loan agreement(s), grant agreement(s) and state regulations.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due.

Section 7. The finance officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The budget officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of the past and future cost and revenues on this project in every budget submission made to this board.

Section 9: Copies of this project ordinance shall be made available to the budget officer and the finance officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this 2nd day of January, 2018

/s/ Mayor John F. Black, Jr.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned budget ordinance and amendment, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilman Delp thanked all of the people that participated in decorating the town during the holiday season. Mr. Delp shared that he received a lot of excellent comments. Many people were worried because we could not light the pole but with the excellent effort that was put into decorations this year, not many people missed the pole decorations. Mr. Delp finished by saying he looks forward to next year.

Councilwoman Hildebran shared the following update on the library: Burke County Public Library Director Jim Wilson informed Ms. Hildebran that a total of six RFQs for the project were received and will be reviewed within the next week. The demolition of the Cole House is complete and everything has been hauled away and filled in. During the demolition, an abandoned well was discovered in the basement, about 30 to 40 feet deep. After consulting with Burke County Environmental Health, the well was filled in and capped.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Eckard made the following announcements:

The Council Strategic Planning Workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at WPCOG Offices.

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2018 in observance of Marking Luther King, Jr. Day.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018.

Christmas decorations will be taken down next week.

Mr. Eckard was informed today that ICMA has granted him the status of credentialed manager.

ADJOURNMENT At 6:53 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Delp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

Town Clerk

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Mayor