

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, February 5, 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:**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:** Mayor Black presented the following resolution to Timothy D. Williams:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR TIMOTHY D. WILLIAMS**

**WHEREAS**, Captain Timothy D. Williams for the past 30 years has served the Town of Valdese with distinction as a committed and dedicated public servant with the Valdese Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Timothy D. Williams' 30 years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication, compassion and integrity to serve the best interests of the community, our citizens and the Valdese Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Timothy D. Williams has served the Fire Department in numerous positions and working his way up through the ranks of the department, obtained the rank of Captain at which he currently serves; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Timothy D. Williams, while serving with the Valdese Fire Department, experienced the fire on Mineral Springs Mountain; worked tirelessly both during and after Hurricane Hugo and many other natural and man-made emergency incidents to ensure the safety of Valdese citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Timothy D. Williams has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has worked with and the members of the public with whom he has served these past 30 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese as we take this occasion to express honor, respect, and admiration to **Captain Timothy D. Williams** for his outstanding contributions to the Valdese Fire Department and the Town of Valdese.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to **Captain Timothy D. Williams** for his service and leadership to the Valdese Fire Department and the Town of Valdese during the past 30 years and extends congratulations and best wishes upon his retirement.

Adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

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

**WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLARD CHURCH:** Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth introduced Willard Church to Council. Mr. Church has resided in Valdese his entire life, is a World War II Veteran, and was one of the Grand Marshals for the most recent Valdese Christmas Parade. Mr. Church shared that he had never attended a Council meeting and wished to check it off his list. Mayor Black informed Mr. Church that he was proud to have him here this evening, thanked him for joining us, and invited him to return to another meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** (enacted by one motion)

**APPROVED REGULAR MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2018**

**APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2018 AND JANUARY 23, 2018**

**APPROVED WALDENSIAN HERITAGE WINES REQUEST TO SELL WINE AT EDICT OF EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION, INTO THE WOODS, AND APRIL CRAFT MARKET**

Waldensian Heritage Wines has been authorized to sell wine at the Edict of Emancipation Celebration & Faló event on Saturday, February 17, 2018; Old Colony Players production of Into the Woods on March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 2018; and the April Craft Market event on April 14, 2018. All events are being held at the Old Rock School.

**APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH OLD WORLD BAKING COMPANY**

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEASE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese (the Town) is the owner of the property on which the former Town Hall was located (the Property); and

WHEREAS, Old World Baking Company, LLC operates a bakery and restaurant business on property located north of and adjoining the Property; and

WHEREAS, the dumpster servicing Old World Baking company, LLC is presently located on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Old World Baking Company, LLC have agreed that Old World Baking Company, LLC may keep its dumpster on the part of the Property on which that dumpster is located in consideration of the Town being allowed to use the dumpster for disposal of Town trash; and

WHEREAS, this proposed lease of dumpster space is for a period of less than one year, and G.S. §160A-272 authorizes a town to enter into leases of one year or less upon resolution of the town council adopted at a regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, the town council is convened in a regular meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the town council approves the lease agreement presented to the council under which the Town would lease to Old World Baking Company, LLC the part of the Property on which Old World Baking Company, LLC's dumpster is located. The Town Manager is authorized to execute that lease agreement on behalf of the Town.

ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

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

/s/ Frances Hildebran, Town Clerk

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

***End Consent Agenda***

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

**APPROVAL TO WITHDRAW FROM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BURKE COUNTY FOR CONSOLIDATED 911 SERVICE**

In 2011, the Town of Valdese entered into the Interlocal Agreement with Burke County for Consolidated 911 Service. Section N. of the Agreement stated that a participating governmental entity may withdraw from this agreement at the end of a fiscal year by giving a six (6) month written notice of withdrawal by the party's manager. Valdese duly provided such notice by letter on December 13, 2017, signed by both the town manager and mayor.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve and ratify the action taken by the town manager's letter of December 13, 2017, to notify the County of Burke that the Town will withdraw from the Interlocal Agreement for the Consolidation of

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911 Service, effective June 30, 2018, and confirming the Town of Valdese will withdraw from the agreement on that date; seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

**AUDIT REPORT PRESENTATION – FY 16-17 – LOWDERMILK CHURCH & CO., LLP** (Copy of audit on file in the Office of Finance Director.) Mr. Phil Church of Lowdermilk Church & Co., presented the 2016-2017 audit. Mr. Church thanked Finance Director Jerry LaMaster, department heads and Town Manager Seth Eckard for all of their help during this audit. Mr. Church informed Council that highlight sheets had been provided as a detailed report of the audit will not be provided at this time; however, Mr. Church is available to meet with any member of Council if they would like further review of the audit. Mr. Rick Hammer reviewed the general fund, utility funds and audit highlights. The fund balance of General Fund and Utility Fund were \$1,239,809 and \$1,288,550, respectively. Ad valorem tax collections were \$1,885,682 which was 94.19 percent of the levy.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to accept the 2016-2017 audit report as presented, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF FY 17-18 AUDIT CONTRACT – LOWDERMILK CHURCH & CO., LLP** Mayor Black informed Council that the FY 2017-2018 audit contract was being presented in the amount of \$11,970. The fee did not increase from last year.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned contract for the FY 2017-2018 audit report, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR 125<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATIVE PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi introduced Gretchen Costner and Greg Mastin, members of the Public Art Commission. Ms. Costner informed Council that the Public Art Commission is seeking funding for a 125<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Public Art Project. The proposed project will depict the original 29 settlers arriving in 1893 at the depot location across from Town Hall; the art will be made from iron, with a train that will stand about 12-15 feet tall. The Commission would like to contract with Oak Hill Iron Works of Morganton, with a total project cost in the amount of \$50,000.00. The Commission is seeking \$25,000 from the Town for this project.

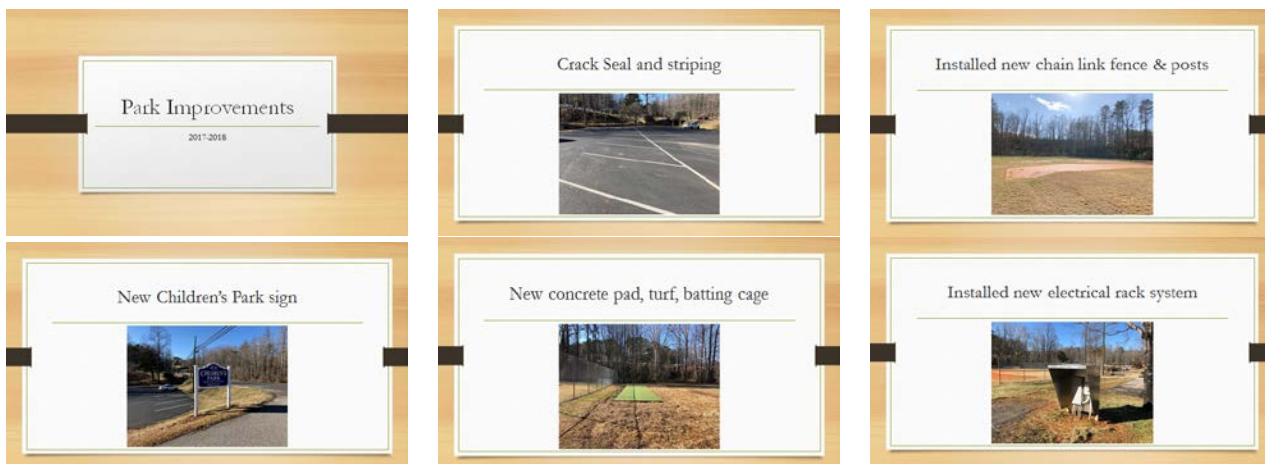
Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve this project and authorize the allocation of funds totaling \$25,000.00, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

**CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO CLOSE A SECTION OF WHISNANT STREET**

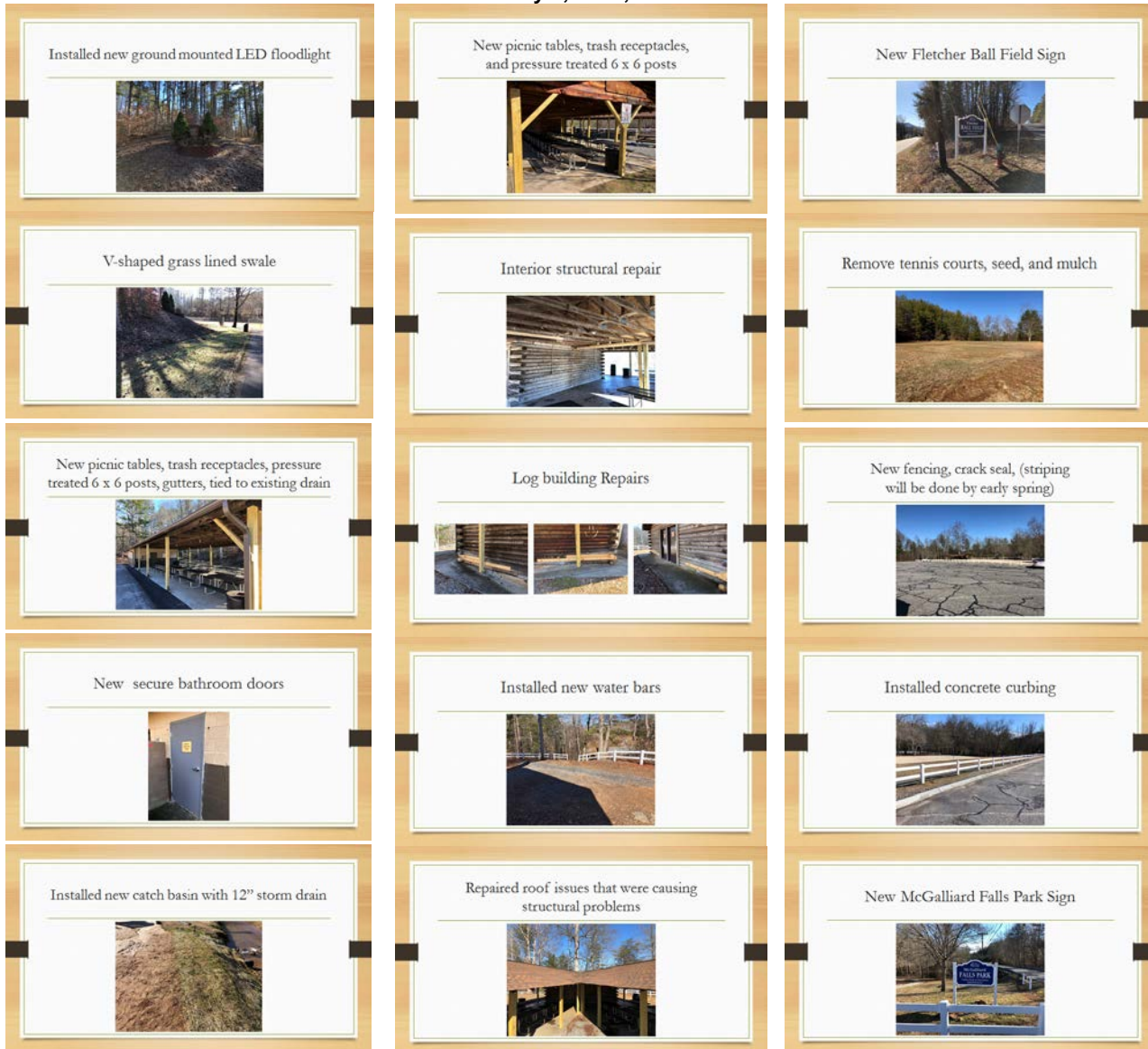
Mayor Black informed Council that the project is not complete at this time. A notice calling for the public hearing to be held at the December 4, 2017, Council meeting was published and the public hearing was continued until this meeting; however, staff has requested that the public hearing be continued again at the next Council meeting.

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

**MCGALLIARD FALLS AND CHILDREN'S PARK UPDATES PRESENTATION:** Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knight provided the following presentation to update Council on the Parks Improvement Project:



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**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilman Delp requested clarification on a rumor that is going around, stating that the state is going to close I-40 exits for Rutherford College and Valdese, at the same time to perform repair work. Town Manager Seth Eckard informed Councilman Delp that the state has plans to repair, change, or modify I-40 exit 111 and 107 but this project is in the early planning stages, with work unlikely to begin for several years. Councilwoman Stevenson shared that she attended a meeting held by NCDOT recently and was informed that Castle Bridge will be closing in May or June and will remain closed for 12 to 14 months.

Councilman Delp informed Council that a gentleman has been going around town trying to give away bottles of cleaning solution. Mr. Delp asked if the town had a solicitor's policy. Police Chief Jack Moss informed Mr. Delp that the town does have a policy, requiring a solicitor to apply with the town clerk, complete a background check and provide proof of insurance before they are authorized to visit residents.

Councilwoman Hildebran shared the following update on the library: Burke County Public Library Director Jim Wilson informed Ms. Hildebran that a draft contract with the architect should be received today. Mr. Wilson also stated that Robert Salsbury is attempting to obtain a clean set of plans from the 1988 library expansion which can be used for the new expansion.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked Police Chief Jack Moss if there has been an increase in activity near her neighborhood, as residents are commenting on increased patrols in the area. Chief Moss informed Ms. Stevenson that

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routine patrolling does occur in her area and that a residential check has been requested by a resident that is away for an extended period of time.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** A Council workshop to discuss a proposed streetscape project has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.

The next regular Council Meeting is Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The First Free Movie at Old Rock School was on Friday, January 26, 2018, approximately 150 people attended.

**ADJOURNMENT** At 7:05 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

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Town Clerk  
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Mayor