

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., to review the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Members of Council met at Valdese Town Hall Community Room, 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 J. Andrew Thompson, Councilman Roy Sweezy, Town Manager Seth Eckard and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present and no action was taken.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He said this was a Special Called Council Meeting to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Proposed Budget.

DISCUSSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET: Town Manager Seth Eckard informed Council that the meeting was being held to discuss health insurance, recycling, fund balance, and the pay study.

Dwayne Wilson of Dwayne Wilson Insurance informed Council that Aetna, Cigna, and UHC declined to provide a quote for the Town's health insurance for FY 19-20. Mr. Wilson shared that BCBS has provided a quote, identifying a 15.9% premium increase. The plan quoted will reduce the employee's maximum out of pocket to \$3,000 (currently \$3,500) and increase the family out of pocket maximum to \$6,000 (currently \$5,000). Mr. Wilson discussed ways that staff has changed the Town's Wellness Program to incentivize and encourage employees to be proactive with their health care.

Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth provided a presentation of the cost of services that his department oversees. Mr. Duckworth informed Council that Republic Services has increased the contract price to provide recycling services to residents. The increase is due to China no longer accepting recycled material from the United States and domestic outlets not having capacity to accept materials. The increase in the FY 19-20 contract is \$24,000.

Finance Director Bo Weichel provided a presentation on the current status of the Town's fund balance and identified ways to increase the fund balance each year. Mr. Weichel shared that eliminating the tax discount would increase revenues which could be used to build fund balance or to continue recycling services.

Town Manager Seth Eckard discussed the proposed pay study. Mr. Eckard identified the constraints the Town faces and is not recommending implementation of the full pay study, as recommend by David Hill. Mr. Eckard recommends partial implementation in the amount of \$277,169.

At 7:39 p.m., Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk
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Mayor