

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2017**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, August 7, 2017, 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., Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, and Councilman Roy F. Sweezy. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle and Councilman Gary L. Delp

A quorum was present.

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

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE NOON ON SUNDAYS – JEAN-MARIE COLE, 705 BERTIS STREET SW, VALDESE Ms. Cole informed Council that she was opposed to the sale of alcoholic beverages before noon on Sundays. Ms. Cole's main concern was the example it would set for young people and children in the community; providing a bad example of how important alcohol, and other drugs, are in their lives. Ms. Cole thanked Council for their time.

WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – WT SORRELL, 102 OAKLAND COURT NE, VALDESE & DR. ROBERT STEVENSON, 1009 CREEKSIDE DRIVE NE, VALDESE Mr. Sorrell provided a brief overview of the process the Waldensian Presbyterian Church is following in preparation for the 125th Anniversary and of future landscaping plans. The church is looking to upgrade and replace some of the landscape and would like to work with the town once a plan is implemented. The gentlemen thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Black thanked Mr. Sorrell and Mr. Stevenson for their time and shared his appreciation for all that they, and the church, do and stated that he looks forward to working with them.

SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE NOON ON SUNDAYS – BRIAN THOMPSON, 100 MAIN STREET, VALDESE Mr. Thompson wished to share a positive view of the sale of alcoholic beverages before noon on Sundays. Mr. Thompson explained that some members of the community would like to have the option to purchase a beverage earlier in the day. Mr. Thompson thanked Council for their time.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – JUNE 26, 2017

APPROVED EASEMENT WITH DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS FOR TEMPORARY POWER TO AARON BERRY OFF OF CURVILLE STREET NE Duke Energy requested approval of a temporary easement to provide service to Mr. Berry's new construction on his property located off of Curville Street NE.

APPROVED FLOWER BED MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH ROCK DRUG An agreement allowing the town to continue to make improvements to the flower bed located on the Rock Drug Store property. Improvements will include adding block and stucco around the flower beds as part of the Main Street Improvements Project.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 FOR AMENDMENTS TO ZONING ORDINANCE – GATED/EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENTS A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 to consider amendments to the Valdese Zoning Ordinance regarding Gated Subdivisions and Exempted Developments under certain conditions.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES Town Manager Seth Eckard introduced Courtney Kennedy, Deputy Town Clerk. Water Resource Director Greg Padgett introduced Clay Cannon and Chris Fredell, Treatment Plant Operators and Norman Cook, Laboratory Technician. Mr. Cook was a part-time employee who became full-time on July 1, 2017.

NAME OF NEW DOWNTOWN PARK Council reviewed the list of recommendations for a name for the New Downtown Park. Requests were received from The Rostan Family Foundation, Members of Council, and through a post on the Town's Facebook page. Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to officially name the new downtown park Valdese Family Splash Park, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR NEW DOWNTOWN PARK Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knight proposed the following fees for the new downtown park:

Picnic Shelter:	\$30.00 (for 2 hours) /\$15.00 for each additional hour
Small Meeting Room:	\$30.00 (for 2 hours) /\$15.00 for each additional hour
Multi-Purpose Room:	\$70.00 (for 4 hours) /\$20.00 for each additional hour
Security Deposit:	\$25.00

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the fee schedule for the new downtown park as presented and requested that staff perform an analysis of fees levied within the town. Councilman Sweezy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT ON LAUREL STREET NE BETWEEN MAIN STREET EAST AND ELDRED STREET NE A traffic study was conducted after receiving a recommendation from Councilman Delp to reduce the speed limit on a portion of Laurel Street, between Main Street East and Eldred Street NE, due to safety concerns. The traffic data collected at this location showed that the average daily traffic count was 2,000 vehicles per day and also identified that 15 percent of the vehicles exceeded the 35 mph speed limit. Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing a reduction in speed to 20 mph on a portion of Laurel Street between Main Street East and Eldred Street NE, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion passed unanimously. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell informed Council that an ordinance may not be adopted on the date it is introduced, except by a vote equal to or greater than two thirds of all the actual membership of Town Council. Because the ordinance was first introduced at this meeting and it did not receive the four votes that were required, the ordinance was not adopted. Instead, the vote taken by Council acknowledges introduction of the ordinance. The ordinance may be adopted at a subsequent meeting by an affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the Town Council.

AWARD OF BID FOR WHISNANT STREET RELOCATION Planning Director Larry Johnson presented a bid tabulation prepared by West Consultants for the Whisnant Street Relocation Project. The lowest bidder was Evans Construction Company, Inc., Connelly Springs, in the amount of \$52,875.45. (Other bids: J. T. Russell & Sons, Inc., Conover - \$66,030 and Midstate Contractors, Inc., Hickory - \$61,360)

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to award the bid for the Whisnant Street Relocation Project to Evans Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$52,875.45, contingent upon the purchase of the related property by Alray Tire or Neil Shatley, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE NOON ON SUNDAYS AT LICENSED PREMISES Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adopt an ordinance permitting establishments that hold ABC permits to sell beverages allowed by those permits beginning at 10 A.M. on Sundays, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion passed with voting as follows; Ayes: Stevenson, Sweezy; Nays: Hildebran. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell informed Council that an ordinance may not be adopted on the date on which it is introduced except by a vote equal to or greater than two thirds of all the actual membership of the Town Council. Because the ordinance was first introduced at this meeting and it did not receive the four votes that were required, the ordinance was not adopted. Instead, the vote taken by Council means that the ordinance is deemed to have been introduced at the meeting and that the ordinance may be adopted at a subsequent meeting by an affirmative vote of all the members of the Town Council.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilwoman Stevenson informed Council that she had been approached by a citizen with concerns about a trailer park located near Hauss Ridge Road. Ms. Stevenson visited the property and noted that there are five or six condemned trailers on the property; however, it is visible the people are going in and out of trailers. Planning Director Larry Johnson informed Councilwoman Stevenson that staff is aware of the situation and is able to abate the nuisance; however, it will require resources that are not currently available in the budget. The

property has been condemned and an order was issued to the property owner to address the nuisance. Mr. Johnson stated that any abatement of this property will not change the permitted uses of the property; it must be used for residential purposes only, with a principle use on the property. Town Manager Seth Eckard noted that three years of property taxes have not been paid and suggested that the town could consider foreclosing on the property as a means to get the property cleaned up.

Councilwoman Hildebran stated that she felt something needed to be done with regard to the number of complaints that are being received about eyesores throughout the community. Ms. Hildebran recommended developing a plan of action to address these issues. After discussion, it was determined that staff will develop an enforcement strategy for Council to review.

Councilwoman Stevenson discussed concerns with the Valdese Public Library, specifically the lack of progress after holding fundraisers and planning for improvements. Town Manager Seth Eckard offered to have a conversation with the County to obtain more information on the project.

Councilwoman Stevenson would like to receive an update on the Youth Council.

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

42nd Annual Waldensian Festival and Footrace – August 11 & 12, 2017

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2017, in observance of Labor Day

Next Council Meeting - Tuesday, September 5, 2017, due to Labor Day holiday

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THELDA B. RHONEY Mayor Black presented the following Resolution to Thelda Rhoney:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THELDA B. RHONEY

WHEREAS, Thelda B. Rhoney has been a public servant for over 30 years; and for the past 13 years has served the Town of Valdese with distinction as our Deputy Clerk; and

WHEREAS, these 13 years of service have been marked with outstanding dedication and devotion to the Town of Valdese as she has worked endlessly towards the betterment of our community, leading the charge on many crucial Town projects, including the grant that created the Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation (VEDIC); and

WHEREAS, Thelda B. Rhoney has served as a member of the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks, International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and Association of Administrative Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Thelda B. Rhoney, in her capacity as Deputy Clerk, has maintained the vital municipal records for the Town and we have relied on her to be our community historian; and,

WHEREAS, Thelda B. Rhoney has been a committed mentor to the many young men and women who have served as Interns with the Town of Valdese, and has earned admiration and respect from her fellow public servants, and from all of those whom she has encountered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Thelda B. Rhoney for her guidance and outstanding contributions to the Council, staff, surrounding governments, and citizens of Valdese for the past 13 years as Deputy Town Clerk, and we extend congratulations and best wishes upon her retirement.

This 7th day of August, 2017

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

At 6:58 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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