

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL/JOINT DINNER MEETING WITH VALDESE MERCHANTS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016, 6:30 P.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met jointly with the Valdese Merchants for the Annual Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., at the Old Rock School, Waldensian Room.

The following were present: Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Gary Delp, and Councilman Roy Sweezy.

Also present: Town Manager Seth Eckard, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi.

Absent: Councilwoman Frances Hildebran and Councilman Keith Ogle

A quorum was present and no action was taken.

At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Black welcomed everyone and thanked the business owners for investing their time and money into the Town of Valdese. He offered the invocation and invited everyone to enjoy dinner catered by Myra's Catering. There were approximately 50 downtown merchants and building owners in attendance.

Town Manager Seth Eckard offered a brief overview of the following Town projects: Public WiFi (ARC Grant Awarded); Planter Boxes and Hanging Baskets; Old World Baking Company; Duke Energy's Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grants (Town Hall and Downtown Park); Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant; Downtown Street Lights; and 3-hour Parking and he encouraged the merchants to please use the new parking lot on Bobo Avenue.

Mayor Black said staff was in the planning stages regarding the downtown street lights and requested anyone traveling through towns and cities that saw lighting that looked nice to please take photos and send to town staff.

Valdese Merchants Association President Maryann Diamond offered a brief update about the association and the benefits of being a member. She said their mission was to promote the Valdese Business District by working together to support each other and raise funds to sponsor events. Ms. Diamond said Sandi Walker would be the upcoming President, Danny Wells, Vice President; Beverly Carlton, Treasurer; and Jeanine Barus, Secretary.

At 7:46 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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