

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2015, 12 NOON**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 12 Noon, for the purpose to discuss applying for a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation Recreation Grant. Members of Council met in the Town of Valdese Community Room at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor Pro Tem Susan Stevenson, Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilman Gary L. Delp, and Councilman Chip Black. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, and Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

Also present: Recreation Director Doug Knight, Sandy Dyer – Studio 7 Multi Sports, and Morganton News Herald Reporter Sharon McBrayer

Absent: none.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., and invited everyone to enjoy lunch catered by Myra's Catering. She asked for a Moment of Silence in the recent death of Mayor James L. Hatley after which she offered the Invocation. She said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss applying for a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation Recreation Grant.

DISCUSSION REGARDING APPLYING FOR A KATE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION RECREATION GRANT Town Manager Jeff Morse offered an overview of the grant and discussed financial issues after the three year grant funding period in an estimated amount of \$70,000 - \$100,000 per year. Currently there are 400 – 500 citizens paying fees to use our wellness center.

Members of Council were concerned if the entire area were invited to become members of the wellness center that our citizens may have issues using the fitness equipment and machines. There are three subdivisions that will be built out in the future and those citizens would be using the facility. There were also concerned about available parking with increased memberships.

Recreation Director Doug Knight said there may be other funding streams that may be available for those who cannot afford the membership fees.

Members of Council believed we need to take care of the citizens of Valdese before opening up to the county. There was a joint effort for a Healthy Burke Program through Burke County Health Department and Blue Ridge Health Care for area programs such as exercise, diabetes, weight clinics, and other types of healthcare classes, etc., to be held at a centralized location within Burke County.

It was the consensus of Council to not apply for a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation Recreation Grant at this time.

At 12:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned and no action was taken.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor Pro Tem Susan Stevenson, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilman Gary L. Delp, and Councilman Chip Black. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle

A quorum was present.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – MEMORY OF MAYOR JAMES L. HATLEY Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Mayor James L. Hatley who passed away on Friday, January 9, 2015.

She offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 2015 AND SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2015

APPROVED DEED COMBINING THE VALDESE PUBLIC LIBRARY PARCELS INTO ONE LOT FOR LIBRARY EXPANSION Approved a General Warranty Deed prepared by Burke County Attorney J.R. Simpson to combine the two Valdese Library tracts into one parcel for tax purposes and Library expansion.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION APPROVING BUILDING REUSE DOCUMENTS – THE FORMAL SHOWCASE

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VALDESE
AND VEDIC AND APPROVING DEFERRED LOAN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN VEDIC AND FORMAL SHOWCASE, LLC**

WHEREAS, at its February 2, 2015, meeting the Town Council approved a \$24,000 building reuse deferred loan to Formal Showcase, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Town asked Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation (VEDIC) to administer this building reuse loan on behalf of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the proposed agreement between the Town and VEDIC setting forth the terms of this building reuse loan and the proposed deferred loan agreement between VEDIC and Formal Showcase, LLC accurately set forth the agreement between the Town and VEDIC relating to this building reuse deferred loan, and those documents should therefore be approved; and

WHEREAS, the member/manager of Formal Showcase, LLC will be required to guarantee any required repayment of this deferred loan.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town agrees to appropriate the sum of TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$24,000) to VEDIC, which VEDIC will use to make a deferred loan available to Formal Showcase, LLC under the terms of the agreement between the Town and VEDIC and under the terms of the deferred loan agreement between VEDIC and Formal Showcase, LLC as presented to the Town Council at its February 2, 2015, meeting.
2. The proposed agreement between the Town and VEDIC relating to the \$24,000 building reuse deferred loan to Formal Showcase, LLC is approved.

3, The proposed deferred loan agreement between VEDIC and Formal Showcase, LLC is also approved.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED THIS 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.

/s/ Susan Stevenson, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST: Town Clerk

APPROVED REQUEST FROM WALDENSIAN HERITAGE WINES TO SELL WINE ON MARCH 8, 2015 (2-4 P.M.); JUNE 4, 2015 (5:30 – 7:30 P.M.); AND OCTOBER 4, 2015 (2-4 P.M.) AT THE ROCK SCHOOL ART GALLERY RECEPTIONS

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE AS MARCH 2, 2015 FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION #1-1-15 At the March 2, 2015 public hearing, Council would consider an application by Mr. Richard Owens to conduct a lawful retail, service, and repair shop (Burke Audio Video) in the M-1 Manufacturing District.

ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KOSTELEK PLANNING, LLC FOR THE VALDESE/RUTHERFORD COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE PEDESTRIAN PLAN The Engineering Services Agreement with Kostelec Planning, LLC, provides engineering services for the Valdese/Rutherford College Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. Officials for the Town of Valdese and Town of Rutherford College met to review RFP's from five planning consultant firms for planning services related to the plan. The Town of Valdese would execute the agreement due to the NC Department of Transportation identifying Valdese as the lead entity. The consultant's compensation would not exceed \$35,500. A breakdown is as follows: NCDOT - \$28,400; Town of Valdese - \$5,473; and Rutherford College - \$ 1,627 for a total of \$35,500.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

LIBRARY FUNDING INCREASE Mr. Morse said Councilwoman Hildebran represents the Valdese Town Council on the Burke County Library Board and she recommended additional funding in the amount of \$2,500 to the Valdese Branch Library for the purchase of library books.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve \$2,500 additional funds to the Valdese Branch Library for the purchase of books, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

VEHICLE PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth requested authorization to purchase a Ford F150 4x4 truck for the Utility Division (replacing a 98 Ford F150 with 164,000 miles) from Capital Ford in Raleigh (on the state contract) in the \$19,769 plus a towing package in the amount of \$881 for a total purchase amount of \$20,650. He described the funding. He said staff recommended the possibility of purchasing locally from Paramount. Staff approached Paramount and received a quote of \$21,570, an increase of \$920.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said this was a bid and you could not approve an option for more than the bid amount.

Councilman Black made a motion to approve the aforementioned vehicle purchase with Capital Ford in the total amount of \$20,650, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL TO DRAWDOWN THE SETTING'S PROJECT CONTINGENCY FUNDS Mr. Morse introduced Chad Donnahoo, lead attorney working with The Settings Bonding Company on the original lawsuit to draw down the \$4.2 million to complete the roads, water and sewer. The project was moving along well and ahead of schedule. Several issues developed and one major issue was they have finished half of the development in terms of roads, water and sewer and people across the country that have purchased lots in The Settings Development are ready to begin construction but there is no power. The bonding company is not responsible for power, which was not part of the lawsuit. In order to expedite the power grant, Mr. Morse had been working with Duke Energy and received a price of \$397,000 to the bonding company to bring power to what had been developed so far, approximately half. Duke Energy had agreed to honor the price if the bonding company would act quickly. In Mr. Morse's discussions with the bonding company, in encouraging them to move as quickly as possible, he asked them to proceed and authorize the funding. Unfortunately, at this time the bonding company had indicated that their funding cycle only includes monies that have been set aside through the bond for 2016, which would not be available for them to go ahead with power at this point in time. As part of the original agreement with the bonding company, of the \$4,075,000, they have already

spent \$2,075,000. In addition, there was \$500,000 in security that applies to the bond amount. He recommended if the bonding company agreed they would use \$397,000 to fund the security to take away from their money to go ahead with power instead of waiting until 2016. This would reduce the cash security by \$397,000 but still 100 percent secure through the original bond which was extra cash in hand in case we had to go to court to complete the project. The bonding company had done 100 percent of everything they committed to so far. They have paid back taxes, ahead of schedule on roads, water and sewer, and the substation was in place. They are good partners and have continued to be good partners. He recommended that Council authorize the Town Manager and Mr. Donnahoo to amend the original Settlement Agreement to allow them to use the \$397,000 to apply to the total cost of getting power throughout the entire development, all Phase 1 and Phase 2A. That way, those who own lots could begin building and would not have to wait until 2016. Mr. Morse believed that would place the bonding company in position to finish the project out. He said the Town was still fully secured with the original bond and holding \$100,000 in cash.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Black made a motion to authorize Mr. Morse and Mr. Donnahoo to negotiate, on behalf of the Town, using up to \$400,000 to go to Duke Energy for the completion of delivering the power infrastructure to the entire Settings Development for Phase I and Phase 2A, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE DESIGN REVIEW Mr. Morse recommended that this item be tabled until the March 2, 2015 Council meeting. It was the consensus of Council to table the item.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following three budget amendments:

Budget Amendment No. 10 - Health Insurance Budget Adjustment

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.

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, 2015:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4100.060 Group Insurance	3,738	
10.4200.060 Group Insurance		40,162
10.4250.060 Group Insurance	4,672	
10.4350.060 Group Insurance	1,869	
10.4900.060 Group Insurance	934	
10.5100.060 Group Insurance	11,214	
10.5300.060 Group Insurance	6,541	
10.5700.060 Group Insurance	1,869	
10.5800.060 Group Insurance	1,869	
10.6200.060 Group Insurance	5,607	
10.6250.060 Group Insurance	1,869	
Total	<u>\$40,182</u>	<u>\$40,182</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 0 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.

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.

Budget Amendment No. 11 - Bethel Road Waterline

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.

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, 2015:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8120.150 Maint & Repair	<u>\$ 38,043</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 38,043</u>	\$

This will result in a net increase of \$ 38,043 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

30.3990.000 Fund Balance		<u>\$ 38,043</u>
Total	\$	<u>\$ 38,043</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 12 - Water & Sewer Construction Truck

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.

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, 2015:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8120.740 Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 21,000</u>	
30.8100.989 Contingency		<u>\$ 21,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21,000</u>	<u>\$ 21,000</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 0 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

Total	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>
	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>

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.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the three aforementioned budget amendments, seconded by Councilman Black. The vote was unanimous.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson said the past couple of weeks, with the passing of Mayor Hatley had been difficult for Council. It had been sad and stressful. There needs to be some good, strong decisions made on whom would lead. An appointment would need to be made to assume the Mayoral position until the November 2015 election and the appointee would run for election or anyone else who wished to run for the office. The winner in November would serve a two-year term which would complete Mayor Hatley's term. Then the term would return to a four year position. She said it was important for the person who assumed the Office of Mayor to understand the current activities and projects. She served as Mayor Pro Tem and would like to remain in that office and maintain her Council seat. She believed the appointment should be someone from Council. She requested input from Members of Council. She said Councilman Ogle was out of town and regretted that he could not be in attendance.

Councilman Delp said he believed the Town had a good, well-balanced Council and he believed a Member of Council should serve as Mayor. He said the most qualified Member of Council to serve as Mayor would be Councilman Chip Black, the most senior member.

Councilman Delp made a motion to recommend the nomination of Councilman Black, if he would accept, to serve as the Town of Valdese's Mayor until the November election at which time he would have to run for the Office of Mayor.

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Councilwoman Hildebran said she was saddened that Mayor Pro Tem didn't wish to serve as Mayor and she agreed with Councilman Delp and said Councilman Black was highly respected and he had served in the community and served on the board of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments as Chairman for two years which covered 4 counties and 28 local governments. She said Councilman Black was a great leader in government.

Councilman Black said he would be willing to serve as Mayor and would do his best.

Councilwoman Hildebran seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hildebran asked about filling Mr. Black's Ward 3 vacant seat. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said it would be the same process, Council could appoint someone or could wait until the November election.

Councilman Delp recommended that there be discussion at the March 2, 2015 meeting regarding filling the Ward 3 seat.

OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR JOHN F. “CHIP” BLACK, JR. Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered the Oath to Mayor Black.

Mayor Black received a standing ovation.

Mayor Black said he appreciated the confidence that Council had shown in giving him this opportunity.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK Mayor Black said he currently served as the Town Clerk and recommended the appointment of Councilwoman Frances Hildebran as Town Clerk.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she would be delighted to serve as the Town Clerk for the Town of Valdese, having served as Deputy Town Clerk for 25 years and now had come full-circle.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the appointment of Councilwoman Frances Hildebran as Town Clerk, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

TRAFFIC – NEAR OLD BURKE MILLS Councilman Delp said he received comments about the white lines painted in the road by the old Burke Mills, where traffic merges into one lane, and asked if it were possible to install posts. Staff said no that the Department of Transportation controlled that portion of the street.

VALDESE/RUTHERFORD COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE PEDESTRIAN PLAN Councilwoman Hildebran requested that staff look at extending the sidewalk to the western end of the community toward the Morgan Trace Subdivision, with approximately 60 homes, probably the second largest subdivision in Town. There are a lot of residents (senior adults) in Morgan Trace who walk but have to leave the subdivision to drive to another location to park and walk. She said the current sidewalk goes to the shopping center but if the sidewalk could be extended to Tunnel Road or to the south side of 70 at the back of the subdivision.

Mr. Morse said he would ask the representatives and Planning Director Larry Johnson to make sure the request is looked at.

PICNIC SHELTER – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT Councilwoman Hildebran reported that a picnic shelter at the Wastewater Treatment Plant had fallen down.

Fire Chief Charlie Watts said the picnic shelter was actually struck by a vehicle owned by a Draughn High School student and he was working with the insurance company to obtain the check. Fire Chief Watts already had a contractor lined up to rebuild the shelter.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

UPDATE – RECREATION WELLNESS PROPOSAL Mr. Morse said at the January 15, 2015 Special Meeting that Council recommending not applying for a Kate B. Reynolds Grant due to funding after three years; however,

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Recreation Director Doug Knight had encouraged alternative grant opportunities as recommended by the Kate B. Reynolds staff.

Mr. Knight said after Kate B. Reynolds Foundation was notified that the Town of Valdese would not be pursuing a grant from the Reynolds Foundation staff encouraged alternative grants without having to increase the budget after receiving grant funds for operation. It was recommended that staff apply for a capital grant and not an operational grant. Mr. Knight said staff was not asking for a change in what to ask for just to enhance what is already in place. Additional staff would not be needed as the fitness programs would be conducted by contractor/trainers, of which some is currently being done. A trainer would coordinate the classes and accept fees, a percentage would be paid back to the Recreation Department and classes would be held to assist our citizens. He said at one time a commercial kitchen for healthy cooking classes was a recommendation but another organization in the area had a plan for a commercial kitchen which could be used. Their location could be recommended and they could recommend the Recreation Department for other programs. Kate B. Reynolds Foundation staff recommended collaborating with other organizations and agencies. He said instead of opening up membership to other organizations such as Kellex (currently 25 employees using Recreation Center) that a contractor/trainer would go to the organization in the western part of the county and set up employee programs which would not increase the Town's budget. Mr. Knight said he had until February 10, 2015 to apply for a grant.

Mr. Morse said the Kate B. Reynolds staff had been most helpful. Mr. Morse commended Mr. Knight for his vision.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to allow Recreation Director Doug Knight to apply for a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation grant, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

UPDATE – PROPERTY LOCATED AT 909/913 MAIN STREET WEST Mr. Morse said staff spoke with Mr. Deal this afternoon and there is only one item remaining on the list to be completed. Mr. Deal was informed if the dirt was not filled in within the next three weeks that the Town would pursue the collection of fines. Mr. Morse said by the next Council meeting, either the work would be done or the collection of \$7,000 in fines would be started.

OLD BURKE MILLS PROPERTY Councilman Delp asked about the Old Burke Mills Property. Mr. Morse said his last conversation with the property owner was back in January.

At 8:00 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 Council Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 7:00 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, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

FRIENDS OF THE VALDESE REC - BETH HEILE Ms. Heile resides at 5291 Mineral Springs Mountain Avenue. She said she was born and raised in Valdese and was the daughter of Pat Zimmerman and her father was the late Glenn Zimmerman. She attended NC State University and she now has a son and returned to Valdese for a small town/outdoor life and has been back for three years. You have to drive everywhere you want to go. She said one day she and her husband were talking with Recreation Director Doug Knight about mountain biking at Lake James and Mr. Knight said there was a large parcel at Lake Rhodhiss which would be great for biking, hiking, etc. She took on the project and organized Friends of the Valdese Rec and their goal is to acquire 300 acres at Lake Rhodhiss currently owned by Crescent Land. She reviewed the area on a map. She was spreading the word. She had met with Mayor Black and would be meeting with Town Manager Jeff Morse. She planned to let civic groups know they can make donations for bridges, picnic shelters and tables, and trails. In the future, they would probably solicit donations from the people. Proposed are walking trails, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails, disc golf, and picnic shelters. With access to the water there could be kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, tubes, etc. We could be listed on the Catawba River Trail Map.

Councilwoman Hildebran asked if Crescent had been contacted. Ms. Heile said not yet, they wanted to go as a united force with the town.

Mr. Morse said ten years ago when the Town was working with Duke Energy on the FERC Relicensing Program, the Town had proposed for Crescent donating property to the Town for recreation purposes. Duke Energy at that time declined on the request. Mr. Morse said with Ms. Heile's enthusiasm and the contacts the Town has may help. Mr. Morse said Sonni Dyer had a mountain biking group that would know about grants to apply for.

Councilman Ogle asked where we would get the money not only to build the park but also maintain the park. Mr. Morse said it would be great to take a field trip to Taylorsville as they have a successful mountain biking trail. Mr. Morse said it would be good to see how Taylorsville keeps the motor bikes from destroying the trail.

Ms. Heile said when people search the web and Valdese is listed for outdoor activities they would come here and hopefully want to live here.

MANAGER JEFFREY V. MORSE ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT Mr. Morse announced his retirement after 35 years of service with the Town of Valdese effective June 30, 2015. He said the past 35 years had been the best years of his life and he raised a family here. It had been a pleasure serving the citizens of Valdese, and he had many opportunities to go to other locations. It had been an honor to work with various Mayors and Members of Council, especially the current Mayor and Council. He said after 35 years when citizens remind him of all he did, he wanted everyone to understand, it was not him, it was the staff, Council, various State Officials, and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. He was just part of a great team. It had been an honor and a privilege and he planned to remain in Burke County and Valdese would always be his home.

Mr. Morse received a standing ovation.

Mayor Black said most people did not realize that Jeff grew up in Valdese, not as a youth but as a professional. He came here in 1980 and was only 29 years young and served with the last four Mayors. In 35 years Jeff Morse grew to

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be one of the most respected Managers in the State of North Carolina. He told Mr. Morse that he had made a lasting contribution to the Town of Valdese, and on behalf of the citizens, staff and Council, everyone was grateful for his service and wished him the best in retirement.

Councilman Delp said he thought it was interesting that Jeff's first job as Manager was in Mr. Delp's hometown of Saltville, Virginia.

BENCH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM – CARLA BERRY Ms. Berry was not present due to illness.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2015

ADOPTED RESOLUTION APPROVING UNIFOUR REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING
REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within the Town of Valdese are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the town are particularly vulnerable to such hazards as winter storms, wildfires, floods and high winds, and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Part 6, Article 21 of Chapter 143; Parts 3, 5, and 8 of Article 19 of Chapter 160A; and Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Section 1 Part 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes (adopted in Session Law 2001-214 --- Senate Bill 300 effective July 1, 2001), states therein in Item (a) (2) "For a state of disaster proclaimed pursuant to G.S. 166A-6(a) after August 1, 2002, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act"; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Valdese Town Council to fulfill this obligation in order that the Town will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County;

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Valdese Town Council hereby:

1. Adopts the Unifour Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
2. Vests the Chief of the Valdese Fire Department with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:
 - (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
 - (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts.
3. Appoints the Chief of the Valdese Fire Department to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Valdese Town Council for consideration.

4. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2015.

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

Attest: /s/ Frances M. Hildebran, Town Clerk

ADOPTED ARBOR DAY 2015 PROCLAMATION

ARBOR DAY 2015 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, 2015 is the 143rd Anniversary of the holiday and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese has received the prestigious Tree City USA award for the past 27 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John F. Black, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 20, 2015, as the 143rd Anniversary celebration of

"Arbor Day 2015"

in the Town of Valdese and the town will hold an Arbor Day Event on the Football Field behind the Old Rock School, Friday, March 20, 2015, 1:00 p.m., regarding tree planting and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

This 2nd day of March, 2015.

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

SET FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015 AS TAX LIEN ADVERTISING DATE FOR REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY

APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE Records affected were law enforcement and personnel records.

Councilwoman Stevenson said it would be nice if anyone could attend the Arbor Day celebration with the students on Friday, March 20; after which, she made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION Mayor Black said the appointment to fill his seat from Ward 3 would be through the November 2015 election and then the person elected in November would fill the unexpired term ending in 2017. He asked for recommendations.

Councilman Delp said there were a lot of talented citizens in Ward 3 and one man had worked and volunteered for the town a quarter of a century. The gentleman had worked with the Library Board, Downtown Revitalization, proposed park presented earlier, and Planning and Zoning Board.

Councilman Delp made a motion to appoint Mr. Roy Sweezy for Ward 3 Council Member.

Councilwoman Stevenson said Mr. Sweezy had made a lot of contributions to our Town. It was important that we have someone that was up to speed on what the Council was involved in and she believed Mr. Sweezy was a great choice.

Councilwoman Stevenson seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Hildebran said Mr. Sweezy had a lot of experience with the Planning Board and downtown area. He even built benches for the new town hall. She fully supported Mr. Sweezy for Councilman of Ward 3.

Mayor Black said it was moved and seconded that Mr. Roy Franklin Sweezy be appointed to fill the Ward 3 vacancy.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Black asked Mr. Sweezy if he were willing to accept the appointment. Mr. Sweezy said he would be glad to accept the appointment.

Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered the Oath of Office to Roy Franklin Sweezy.

Mr. Sweezy thanked Council for its trust and he was honored to serve in this capacity.

PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE Councilman Delp said he served on the Planning Board as Alternate and Mr. Sweezy was Chairman of the Valdese Planning Board. If/when Mr. Sweezy was elected in November, Mr. Delp said he would resign from the Planning Board as an alternate member.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #1-15-15, RICHARD OWENS TO CONDUCT REPAIR SHOP (BURKE AUDIO VIDEO) IN THE M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT Mayor Black introduced the Conditional Use Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against to please come forward and be sworn in. Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered an oath to Planning Director Larry Johnson, Richard Owens and Tom Johnson.

Mayor Black declared the public hearing open.

Planning Director Larry Johnson said Richard Owens (applicant) and Intention Works LLC (Owner), petitioned for a conditional use permit located at 820 Main Street West, the former Dolly Hosiery Building. Mr. Owens was requesting a conditional use permit to use this property in a lawful retail, service, repair or wholesale use. He would like to move his existing business, Burke Audio Video, to this new location for more space.

LAND USE AND ZONING: The subject property is zoned M-1 Manufacturing and was designated on the maps.

Surrounding Land Use and Zoning:

North – All parcels are zoned M-1 Manufacturing and are currently vacant

South – Parcels are zoned B-2 General Business and are a combination of commercial (Food Lion Shopping Center and Osaki Restaurant) and residential.

East – Parcel is zoned M-1 Manufacturing and is occupied by Ethridge Auction House

West – Parcel is zoned M-1 Manufacturing and contains Valdese Autoworks

TRANSPORTATION: Main St W/US Hwy 70 – Main Street was considered a major thoroughfare and is maintained by NCDOT. Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count data closest to this location was 9,100 car trips per day and was under capacity. A business in this location would have a minor but insignificant increase in traffic. Primary egress and ingress would be on Main Street West.

UTILITIES: The Town of Valdese provides water and sewer services.

LAND USE PLAN: The Valdese Land Use Plan identifies the future land use as industrial.

CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST HISTORY: There was no special use history on this property.

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

(Please note that no technical compliance criterion was required.)

Sec. 9-3058.1(a) and (b) Manufacturing District (M-1) Uses permitted by right and uses permitted with a conditional use permit

(a) Uses Permitted by Right

- (13) The manufacturing, processing, fabricating and/or wholesaling of the following products: clothing, including hosiery

Compliance – Building was used for hosiery manufacturing but is now vacant.

(b) Uses permitted with a conditional use permit

- (2) Any lawful retail, service, repair or wholesale use not specifically referred to in this section, provided no use shall be dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare, or general character of this zone or the Town of Valdese.

Compliance – applicant was requesting to use this existing building to house an electronic repair, retail and warehouse business.

Sec. 9-3058.4 Dimensional Requirements

- (a) Minimum frontage on a public street 35 feet- compliance, 132 feet of street frontage

(b) Minimum Building Setback

- (1) Minimum Front building setback: 25 feet
(2) Minimum side building setback: 10 feet (15 feet for side abutting a street ROW)
(3) Minimum Rear building setback: 20 feet

Compliance – The main building meets all required setbacks. Any future expansion will be required to meet the current setbacks.

(a) Maximum building height

- (1) Maximum building height for residential structures: 50 feet

Compliance: building is less than 50 feet tall

- (a) Minimum Lot Size – no minimum lot size for M-1

Sec. 9-3147 Conditional Uses.

The Valdese Town Council shall grant in particular cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, permits for conditional uses as authorized by this Valdese Zoning Ordinance and set forth as Conditional Uses under the various use districts.

POSSIBLE FINDINGS AS RELATED TO THE GENERAL STANDARDS FOUND IN SEC. 9-3147:

- (a) The following general standards shall be met by all applicants for approval of conditional uses pursuant to this chapter:

- (1) The use will not adversely affect the health, or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.
Applicant Complies (9-3147.4)

- (2) The use will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or public improvements in the neighborhood.
Applicant Complies (9-3147.4)

- (3) The use, which is listed as a conditional use in the district in which it is proposed to be located,

complies with all required zoning standards.
Applicant Complies (9-3147.4)

- (b) The Valdese Town Council shall make these general findings based upon substantial evidence contained in its proceedings. The Council may refer to staff's report to aid in its deliberations. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to present evidence in the form of testimony, exhibits, documents, models, plans, and the like to support the application for approval of a Conditional Use.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION: The existing, vacant building is 8500 square feet and situated on a 0.89 acre lot. It has access from Main Street West/US Hwy 70 and Dixie Avenue SW to the rear. It is zoned M-1 Manufacturing and is currently vacant.

The owners have accepted an offer from the applicant to purchase the property. However, the purchase is contingent upon the applicant's ability to use the building for his electronic retail, repair and warehousing business. Any major renovations will require permits from the Town of Valdese and Burke County Building Inspections.

The Valdese Zoning Ordinance requires the Planning Board to review the application and make a recommendation to the Valdese Town Council. The Planning Board reviewed this application on January 26, 2015, and recommended approval of Conditional Use Permit Application 1-1-15.

Adjacent property owners were notified by mail and the property was posted. The Public Hearing was advertised in the Morganton News Herald for two consecutive weeks.

Section 9-3047 which establishes specific standards for the approval of a conditional use for the operation of a lawful retail in a manufacturing district. If, after the public hearing, the Valdese Town Council finds this request also meets the general standards for a conditional use permit, the permit should be granted. (The general standards are also shown above—Section 9-3047)

Town Council should make "findings of fact" (factual evidence regarding the application). Town Council should also make "findings" (conclusions related to the general standards) which support the council's decision.

Note: STAFF PREPARED A PERMIT GRANTING THE CONDITIONAL USE ORDER. IF COUNCIL AGREES WITH INFORMATION PRESENTED BY STAFF, IT MAY MOTION TO ADOPT THE ORDER.

Proposed Findings of Fact:

1. That on January 22, 2015, the applicant (Richard D. Owens) applied for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the retail, warehousing, and repair of electronic and consumer related products within an existing building zoned M-1 Manufacturing. The building is located 820 Main Street West and is formerly known as Dolly Hosiery Mill.
2. The property is located on a 0.89 acre tract of land zoned M-1 Manufacturing can be further identified by Burke County Record Number 30919.
3. That the Valdese Town Council has heard sworn testimony by the applicant and staff
4. That the Valdese Planning Board reviewed the application on January 26, 2015 and recommends approval by Valdese Town Council.
5. That M-1 Manufacturing district allows any lawful retail, service, repair or wholesale use provided no such use shall be dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or general character of this zone or the Town of Valdese.
6. The proposed use shall meet all requirements imposed by Burke County Building Inspections Department and the Town of Valdese.
7. Applicant must provide a minimum of one parking space per 500 feet of gross floor area (17 spaces).
8. The use will not adversely affect the health, or safety of person residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.
9. The use will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or public improvements in the neighborhood.

Councilman Ogle asked about parking in front of the building or would they use parking in the back of the building. Mr. Johnson said one parking space for 500 square feet and they would need 17 spaces. Most parking, if not all, would be on the side or rear. If there were parking in front of the building, there would only be three or four parallel parking spaces.

Mayor Black asked if there were additional comments or if anyone wished to speak either for or against the conditional use hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Order, including the General Standards and the Findings of Fact in this case, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner introduced Grayson Baur, Surface 678.

Mr. Baur offered a PowerPoint presentation of trees, brick pavers, concrete, stamped concrete, stained and stamped concrete, plans and sketches, parking lot, and benches.

Mayor Black said this was a major project with a 50 year commitment. Mr. Morse said he walked downtown this date and he said something would have to be done with the pavers. He recommended borrowing from the Utility Fund and repaying back with annual payments from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said this was the first he had heard about borrowing from the General or Utility Fund, he was not sure if it could or could not be done. Mr. Morse said he talked with Finance Director Jerry LaMaster and it could be done.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she was not comfortable making a decision at this meeting and she would need more financial information. She remembered when a capital drive was conducted 45 years ago for downtown improvements.

Mr. Morse said the Downtown Merchants and Small Town Committee would need to look at the plan as well.

Councilman Delp had questions about the sewer line.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she was concerned about the safety uses.

Mr. Morse said he would have a funding plan and several options available at the March 16 Budget Retreat.

Councilman Ogle said there were concerns about raising water rates and now staff wanted to possibly borrow from the Utility Fund in an amount of up to \$120,000 for this project. Mr. Morse said the money in the Utility Fund was for future use and we need double what we have due to major upgrades to water and wastewater areas.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to defer this item until the April Council meeting for the selection of a plan.

PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY CAMERAS – OLD ROCK SCHOOL Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner recommended Council approve a proposal from Sawyer Security for the purchase of 10 security cameras, supplies and installation for the Old Rock School in the amount of \$8,308.05. Funding was available from the Rostan Foundation revenues remaining from the Old Rock School elevator project.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the purchase of security cameras for the Old Rock School in the amount of \$8,308.05, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT – MYRA'S Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner said staff received a request from Larry Earp, Owner of Myra's, for a Façade Improvement Grant in the amount of \$2,500. The estimated cost of the project to reface eight signs was \$8,006.25. The grant had been approved by the Small Town Main Street Committee. Mr. Earp planned to have the project completed by April 2015 in time for the car shows. Town funds would not be available until July 2015.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the Façade Improvement Grant in the amount of \$2,500, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

GIS SERVER UPGRADE AND MAPPING PROJECT Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth offered a brief background on the Town's GIS project. He requested approval to upgrade the GIS Server and software by contracting with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. The second part of the contract would include mapping of Waterside and The Settings Subdivisions infrastructure. Upgrading to new software and server would allow information to be created and edited in real time. Staff would also be able to view data via wireless internet from the field. Cemetery data would be available live, real time, and up to date for public access. The Town's GIS data program began approximately 10 years ago. Data included cemetery, utilities, and planning. Storage of the data and map editing was completed by WPCOG staff. Since its inception, editing data has been a slow and challenging process. This process included Town staff gathering data to send to WPCOG for editing and upload approximately every 6 to 8 months. With the completion of the proposed updates and mapping, the Town's GIS data would be accurate, up to date, and available real time. The proposed contract with WPCOG for GIS and cemetery databases was in the amount of \$10,458.

Mr. Tom Bell with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) offered a PowerPoint presentation of what the Town currently had from year 2000, and he said the Town of Valdese would be first to update its GIS. Mr. Bell said there was a licensing issue that staff could use for one year and thereafter the cost would be \$500 per year.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned contract with the WPCOG in the amount of \$10,458, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF 2015 BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE Mayor Black recommended the following appointments: Councilman Ogle, Councilwoman Stevenson, Councilman Sweezy, and himself to work with Town Manager Jeff Morse, and Finance Director Jerry LaMaster.

Mayor Black said there would be a quorum at the Budget Review Committee meeting and he instructed staff to give notice of the meeting. He invited other Members of Council to attend if they wished.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the appointments to the 2015 Budget Review Committee as recommended by Mayor Black, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

REAPPOINTMENT - VALDESE ABC BOARD MEMBER Mayor Black said staff recommended the reappointment of Mark Rostan to a second, three-year term which would expire April 1, 2018.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to reappoint Mark Rostan for a second, three-year term, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

REAPPOINTMENT - CHAIRMAN ABC BOARD Mayor Black recommended reappointing Town Manager Jeff Morse until Mr. Morse's retirement on June 30, 2015. Council would then appoint the new manager or a Member of Council.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to reapprove Town Manager Jeff Morse as Chairman of the Valdese ABC Board until June 30, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

SEARCH FOR NEW TOWN MANAGER Mayor Black said with the retirement of Town Manager Jeff Morse there would need to be a search for a new manager. He said there were several choices, the NC League of Municipalities could assist in the process of figuring out what kind of manager Council would want and they would do that for free. Also, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments had a service they provide that would go through the same process as the League and they would handle the application process and narrow down the applicants (there may be a lot) and come up with five or six for Council to interview at an estimated cost of \$2,000. The WPCOG recently assisted the Town of Claremont with a town manager search.

Councilman Ogle said the WPCOG was local, in our community and knew our challenges and what was needed in this area and the League was in Raleigh.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she was on staff with the Town of Valdese when Mr. Morse was hired and the Town contracted with the League at that time. She said staff ends up doing the work. She had gone through the selection process for a new CEO at Grace Hospital and \$2,000 was a bargain.

Councilwoman Stevenson also recommended the WPCOG to assist with the recruiting process as they were familiar with the area.

Councilman Delp recommended the WPCOG for the search process for a new town manager in the amount of \$2,000 and made a motion to allow Mayor Black to contact WPCOG staff to being the process, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

SNOW REMOVAL Councilman Ogle commended Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth and his department for clearing the streets during the recent snow. Councilman Ogle said there was a new pothole on Church Street.

RECREATION COMMISSION Councilman Delp said there were seven members on the Recreation Commission of which he was one appointed by the Town Council and there was currently an opening. He said Beth Heile would be an outstanding board member but did not live in the corporate limits of Valdese, she lived on Mineral Springs Mountain. He said the old bylaws stated that members had to be Valdese residents but when the Recreation Commission became an advisory commission to the Town Council it lost its bylaws. Councilman Delp said the Recreation Commission members would love to have Ms. Heile.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said an advisory board could allow an outside member. Mr. Morse said in the past, some advisory boards have had outside members.

Councilman Delp said the Recreation Director would need to ask Ms. Heile if she were interested and she could be appointed at the next meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

UPDATE – PROPERTY LOCATED AT 909/913 MAIN STREET WEST Mr. Morse said he received a call from Mr. Deal who advised the weather had held him back and if he could get three or four dry days he could complete the work; hopefully by the April meeting.

ANNUAL BUDGET RETREAT, OLD ROCK SCHOOL, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2013, 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015, IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY

INTRODUCTION OF MS. SARAH OWENS Mr. Morse introduced Ms. Owens, a student at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and as part of her curriculum and major she would like to shadow some of the government operations.

Mr. Morse said the Town would also have an Intern this summer perhaps from Carolina as well.

RAIL COMMITTEE MEETING Mr. Morse requested that Planning Director Larry Johnson report on the meeting. Mr. Johnson said the Town of Valdese would host the Rail Committee Meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 12 noon, at the Winery. Members of Council were invited and he requested that they let Ms. Rhoney know if they wished to attend.

At 8:45 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.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Annual Budget Retreat on Monday, March 16, 2015, 3:00 p.m., Old Rock School, Waldensian Room.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
ANNUAL COUNCIL/DEPARTMENT HEAD BUDGET RETREAT
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**

The Valdese Town Council met on Monday, March 16, 2015, 3:00 p.m., for its Annual Budget Retreat, Old Rock School, Waldensian Room, 400 Main Street West, Valdese, North Carolina. The following members were present: Mayor John F. (Chip) Black, Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson (arrived at 3:20 p.m.), Councilman Roy Sweezy, and Councilman Gary Delp. Also present: Town Manager Jeff Morse, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and all Department Heads.

Others present: Sharon McBrayer, "Morganton News Herald" and Sandi Walker.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER At 3:00 p.m., Mayor Black opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He offered the Invocation. He said he met with Department Heads recently and recommended a different meeting format and charged them with three things: 1) Highlight significant changes for 2015-16 and reasons for the changes; 2) discuss any capital needs anticipated over the next three years and be prepared to discuss the return on investment, and 3) discuss two ideas which could be implemented that would either make their department more efficient, result in a long term savings to the town or improve services to our citizens.

OPENING COMMENTS – TOWN MANAGER JEFF MORSE Mr. Morse said the Department Heads would offer their presentations, then he would offer a brief summary.

FINANCE Jerry LaMaster distributed current budget information for the General Fund and the Utility Fund through the month of February. He distributed a list of anticipated changes in revenues for 2015-16, and Capital Reserve commitments which would be carried forward from 2014-15. He briefly reviewed the documents.

RECREATION Doug Knight recommended \$19,100 to Recreation's part-time budget; remove fitness center wall for expansion - \$10,000; Roofing – Bowling alley - \$45,000; North side flat roof of Tiger Gym - \$15,000 and East side flat roof of Tiger Gym - \$25,000-\$35,000. Mr. Knight recommended an additional \$6,300 for current part-time employee.

POLICE Jack Moss said his department still had one vacant position due to funding and reinstating this position would reduce the strain on overtime and reserve manpower hours. He would need one new police vehicle (estimated cost - \$28,000); replace a vehicle with approximately 125,000 miles. Personnel salaries need to be competitive. Need to secure the Police Department by installing a key fob entrance door system.

Councilman Delp said he would like to see the cost of a full-time officer vs. reserve officer increase costs. Chief Moss said he had that information available.

FIRE Charlie Watts said the department had 35 air bottles that would reach end-of-life age per DOT and would need to be replaced at \$800 each at an estimated cost of \$28,000. Upgrade 45 bottles and upgrades to current air packs to 4500psi - \$40,000; upgrade to filling station - \$1,000. He reviewed advantages or disadvantages of the bottles and air packs. He said 18 new air packs with spare bottles, firefighter tracker system and improved firefighter communication system would cost an estimated \$125,000. The department currently has a 1985 Pierce Arrow 50' Ladder Truck (30 years old) and repair parts were non-existent and there were a lot of issues with the ladder truck. The estimate to refurbish the current ladder truck - \$300,000. He estimated a cost of \$750,000 for a new ladder truck with a 75 foot ladder. They need a new phone system for departments, new apparatus engine bay heaters, want to participate in elementary school reading program and they need additional volunteer firefighting personnel. The metal roof and trim needs painting at a cost of \$6,500.

Chief Watts said staff needed to obtain the deed from The Settings by June 30, 2015.

Mr. Morse said there would be an additional \$20,000 contribution for the new communications center.

PUBLIC WORKS Bryan Duckworth has five divisions in his department. He recommended the following items: PC upgrades - \$1,400; cover for aggregate materials (permit requirement) - \$8,000; fencing repairs - \$5,000; replacement of 1996 John Deere front deck mower - \$18,000; 2 Ford trucks - \$39,000; gazebo replacement - \$8,000; earmark funding for future equipment purchases - \$50,000; compact street sweeper - \$40,000; repainting yellow curbing on

March 16, 2015, Budget Retreat, MB#30

Main Street - \$4,000; paving needs; replacement of trash/recycling bins - \$9,300; 400 touch read water meters - \$60,000; waterline replacements - \$45,000; installation of 24-inch valve on the water transmission line - \$15,000; upgrade Bridgeport pump station - \$40,000; replacement batteries Triple water system - \$15,000. He also recommended a phone tree to get messages out quicker about broken waterlines and other Town issues.

WATER Jerry Conley said the 2-million gallon clear well and the 4-million gallon Barus tank would need cleaning/painting at a cost of \$40,000 - \$60,000; need to replace a vehicle; need shed for equipment and piping for the emergency pumps. He recommended cross-training all of his employees.

WASTEWATER Greg Padgett would need repairs to Influent pumps #3 and #4; polymer system - \$20,000; back drive centrifuge #1 - \$20,000; MCC (aeration basin) \$25,000; computers - \$2,000; truck - \$22,000; riding mower; \$7,500; spare pump for Morgan Trace - \$3,200; SCADA - \$40,000; concrete work around compost pad - \$10,000; and dewatering building - \$10,000.

ADMINISTRATION Greg Cannon said a new administration van was needed to replace a 1997 van with 100,000 miles - \$30,000 - \$35,000. There needed to be an alert system for drive up customers.

DINNER At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Black invited everyone to enjoy dinner catered by Myra's. At 6:46 p.m., Mayor Black called the meeting back to order.

PLANNING Larry Johnson said a vehicle was needed and a replacement is usually from the Police Department. He expected an increase in professional services and \$10,000 for condemnations/demolitions. He recommended the purchase of iPads for the Planning Board members. There would need to be some upgrades to the Town's current software. He said the Planning Board would update the Land Use Plan and Subdivision Regulations. Whisnant Street needed realigning due to safety issues because the street is shared by Public Works and Alray Tire.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS Barbara Hefner said funds need to be set aside for a new chiller -\$40,000; upgrade sound system - \$6,000; rebuild windows in Waldensian Room; stage curtains - \$4,100; update restrooms, Phase I - \$16,000; replace tile in east end of building/sound booth - \$2,000; Main Street Landscape Design - \$61,000 - \$163,000 for Phase I. She said Gardner-Webb was moving out of the Old Rock School and there may be interest from a Performing Arts Group to use the space.

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, GENERAL – DEPARTMENT HEADS Town Manager Jeff Morse said a long-term rate schedule would be needed for revenues for the Town and he said there would need to be increases in water rates for a growth pattern in the Utility Fund. He said the new subdivisions would increase revenues. He said economic incentives were vital for our downtown and he commended Council for offering incentives and façade improvement matching grants and he recommended that the programs be continued. He said he would approach Burke County and the City of Morganton for administrative funds for VEDIC.

Mayor Black thanked the Department Heads for a tremendous job.

At 7:49 p.m., Mayor Black dismissed the Department Heads.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Black requested a Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations; and (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee.

At 7:55 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to recess into Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations; and (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Delp and carried unanimously.

At 8:15 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS WITH MANAGER

March 16, 2015, Budget Retreat, MB#30

Councilman Ogle asked about the study to consolidate our utility systems with the City of Morganton or the City of Hickory. Mr. Morse said the study was conducted approximately 10 years ago and it was not feasible. Councilman Ogle requested that he be provided a copy of the study. Mr. Morse also said several years ago the Town actually looked at contracting out the utility operations.

Mayor Black mentioned the idea of a Consortium to combine water/sewer operations.

Councilwoman Stevenson said there were good ideas brought forward at this meeting and the primary needs should be met.

Councilman Delp said the Town had great employees and we need to let people know what our employees are doing by having a display at the Waldensian Festival. He said Councilman Sweezy was a great photographer. He requested that staff let all Members of Council know when the Budget Review Committee holds its meeting.

Mayor Black said we need to concentrate on the leadership of the Town and the next generation of leadership. He had spoken with the Mayor of Mooresville regarding a Citizens Academy Program. The program could be held on Thursday evenings for six weeks and would showcase the Town of Valdese and the services offered.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Black adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, April 6, 2015, at 7:00 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 Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

MAYOR JAMES L. HATLEY MEMORIAL RESOLUTION AND PRESENTATION Mayor Chip Black presented to the Hatley Family a Boston rocker and the following Memorial Resolution:

**RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
MAYOR JAMES L. HATLEY**

WHEREAS, James L. Hatley grew up in Valdese, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Valdese High School, James L. Hatley served his country by becoming a United States Marine; and

WHEREAS, after retirement from General Electric as the Manager of Information Systems Development, James L. Hatley moved his family back to the "Best Little Town in North Carolina," known as Valdese; and

WHEREAS, James L. Hatley served as a board member of Valdese General Hospital from 1992-1999, serving as Vice President, and was a board member with Blue Ridge Health Care from 2000-2002, was Chairman of the Board from 2002-2007, and was Chairman Emeritus from 2007-2010; and

WHEREAS, James L. Hatley was appointed as a Councilman in Ward 2 for the Town of Valdese, and served that office from November 1997 until 1999. He was elected as Mayor for the Town of Valdese on November 2, 1999, and served that office until his untimely death on January 9, 2015; and

WHEREAS, James L. Hatley served on the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) and Risk Management Services (RMS) Trustee, was on the board of Burke Development, Inc., and was on the board of directors of Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation (VEDIC); and

WHEREAS, James L. Hatley, during his leadership as Councilman and Mayor, the Town of Valdese saw many projects come to fruition improving the quality of life for the citizens of Valdese; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Valdese Town Council and Town Staff were privileged to work with Mayor James L. Hatley and considered him a true friend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Valdese Town Council commends the life and accomplishments of our beloved Mayor James L. Hatley and extends deepest sympathy to his wife, Mary Louise, and entire family.

This 6th day of April, 2015.

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

The Hatley Family thanked the Town of Valdese.

MR. ALLEN VANNOPPEN, MORGANTON, NC Mr. VanNoppen said he was a reporter with the "Morganton News Herald" when Mr. Morse began employment with the Town of Valdese in 1980. When Mr. VanNoppen started VanNoppen Marketing in 2000, Mr. Morse allowed the firm to market the community-wide conservation water grant

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and later his firm was selected to assist the Tourism Department. He said he would always be indebted to the Town of Valdese, Town Council and Mr. Morse. He presented Mr. Morse with a framed news article that Mr. VanNoppen wrote about Mr. Morse when he began employment with the Town of Valdese.

Mr. Morse thanked Mr. VanNoppen.

MS. BETH HEILE, 5291 MINERAL SPRINGS MOUNTAIN AVENUE, VALDESE, NC Ms. Heile thanked Mayor Black, Mr. Morse and the Town of Valdese for the support. Ms. Heile said she was appointed Chairman of the Friends of the Valdese Rec and said the committee plans to meet with Duke Energy on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2015 AND BUDGET RETREAT AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2015

APPROVED SPRING LITTER SWEEP, APRIL 18 – MAY 2, 2015 The Town would participate in the April 18 – May 2, 2015 Spring Litter Sweep.

APPROVED NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and counties, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, City of Service, and mayors across the country to recognize the impact of service on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service on April 7, 2015.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, John F. Black, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Valdese, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2015, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city; to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

This 6th day of April, 2015.

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

APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION Appointment of Beth Heile (outside resident) to the Parks and Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of David Brown, who recently resigned after moving to Morganton. The unexpired term ends on December 31, 2017.

CALL PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR BURKE COUNTY LIBRARY On March 25, 2015, staff received Application 2-3-15 for a Conditional Use Permit for property located at 213 St. Germaine Avenue SE. The applicant is the Burke County Public Library System and would seek the approval for a Planned Unit Development – Business in order to have multiple buildings on one parcel. Call public hearing for Monday, May 4, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

APPROVED REQUEST FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 234 TO SELL BEER AND MALT BEVERAGES ON FRIDAY, JUNE 19 (5:00 – 10:00 p.m.), JULY 3 (5:00 – 11:00 p.m.), AUGUST 7 (5:00 – 11:00 p.m.) AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 (Noon – 11:00 p.m.)

Councilman Ogle 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.

SELECTION OF DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN Mayor Black said there was a presentation at the March Council meeting. He asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Ogle was concerned about the sewer. He said on this date he spoke with Ronnie Thompson, Thompson Realty, and Ronnie Pruitt, Grace Jewelry, who both recommended a bigger line and trap in front of the two buildings when the sidewalks were being demolished which may be cheaper than transferring sewer to the back of the buildings. They said the lines clog up from the beauty shop. He said he needed to be assured that the new sidewalk would not be dug up in the future.

Mr. Morse said the sewer lines were flat with no drop which created a flow issue and the issue would not go away. Mr. Duckworth said the old iron pipe from that time period were somewhat flat and if PVC Plastic pipe were installed from the building to the street side of the curb there would be better flow.

Mayor Black said there were six options and he asked about the funding.

Councilman Ogle asked how we would pay for this as a chiller was needed at the Old Rock School and a \$700,000 fire truck was needed. Mr. Morse said there would never be enough money to pay for the needed items.

Mayor Black said Council would need to make a priority list and regarding this particular project that trees would be removed, the sidewalks would be in disrepair and would be replaced and there would be a need to spend some money and the question was to spend the least to get by with or do something significant that would last for the next 50 years for the Landscape Design Plan at a cost from \$60,000 - \$161,000.

Finance Director Jerry LaMaster said there were three options: 1) Not do the project; 2) borrow up to \$200,000 from BB&T for five years with approximately \$42,000 payment per year; or 3) pay from general fund and reduce fund balance.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell and Mr. LaMaster further discussed laws regarding funding from the general/utility funds.

Councilwoman Hildebran asked if any debt was retiring. Mr. LaMaster said no this would be new debt.

Councilman Delp said of the \$148,812 that \$91,420 was for brick which would be modified by recycling current brick.

Councilman Sweezy said staff could install maples instead of a contractor due to price. Mr. Duckworth said after the landscape architect designs are final and sent out for bid, and should bids come back too inflated staff could look at ways to cut costs.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to go with staff's recommendation of Perspective 2A with brick paving (not actually approving the project but giving staff direction), and borrow the money of up to \$200,000 from BB&T in order to maintain the General and Utility Funds, for both downtown blocks on Main Street and staff is to report back with a total cost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sweezy.

Voting aye: Ogle, Hildebran, Stevenson, and Sweezy

Voting noe: Delp

The motion carried.

PARKING LOT – ITALY/MAIN STREET Councilman Delp said the parking lot had been paved but there were no islands as proposed. Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said the islands would take up eight parking spaces and staff made a decision to not install the islands.

Councilman Ogle said the plans were approved by Council to spend the money to pave the lot with the islands. Mr. Duckworth said the plan was approved after the bids went out to pave the parking lot and before the design by the architect. If Council wanted to add the islands, this could be done.

APPROVAL OF LANDSCAPE AGREEMENT OFF I-40 AT EXIT 111 WITH NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said NCDOT would install the landscaping and the Town would maintain and provide labor, chemicals, mowing and everything in-house would be approximately \$5,000 per year. He said this worked well with Exit 112. He said the bridge crew and Department of Labor has assisted to reduce costs.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell further reviewed the contract.

Councilwoman Stevenson said the upkeep at our exits was labor intensive and she said they need some attention.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Delp made a motion to approve the Landscape Agreement off I-40 at Exit 111, with NCDOT, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION OF POLICE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) Police Chief Jack Moss said the SOP had not been updated since April 1998. Chief Moss asked if there were any comments or questions. The plan would be on the May 4 Council agenda to see if Council has any recommended changes. A resolution adopting the SOP would be on the June 1 agenda.

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE FOR OPEN POSITION – WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Treatment Plant Superintendent Greg Padgett said an employee resigned, due to health issues and had exceeded the Medical Leave Act, and he requested authorization to hire for a vacant position to fill the position as a Maintenance Tech instead of a Treatment Plant Operator which would be a 10 percent higher pay grade with additional job duties.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to authorize to hire for an open full-time position at the Wastewater Department and approve the position as a Maintenance Tech at a higher pay grade, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following two budget amendments:
BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13 - POLICE CAR LOAN

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.

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, 2015:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5100.740 Capital Outlay	<u>64,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$64,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$64,000 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.

10.3970.762 Loan Proceeds		64,000
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$64,000</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 14 - RESIDUAL ELEVATOR FUNDS FOR SECURITY CAMERAS

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.

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, 2015:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5100.150 Maint & Repair Bldg	<u>10,350</u>	
Total	<u>\$10,350</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$10,350 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.

10.3970.990 Fund Balance		10,350
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$10,350</u>

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.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned budget amendments, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

PARK MAINTENANCE PART-TIME WEEKEND EMPLOYEE Councilman Ogle said he had noticed a man weed-eating on Saturdays with no supervision in a Town vehicle and was this gentleman being paid overtime. Mr. Duckworth said that would be a Parks and Recreation part-time employee.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS & TOURISM MONTHLY STATS REPORT Councilwoman Hildebran said there had been 3,880 website visits and that was exciting.

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN CHERYL DAYE Councilwoman Hildebran said a senior citizen contacted her to let her know she contacted Town Hall about a request for a water bill adjustment due to a broken waterline in her basement. The citizen spoke with Cheryl Daye and said she was the nicest person and got back in touch with her in a timely manner. Councilwoman Hildebran commended Ms. Daye and asked her supervisor, Greg Cannon, to please thank Ms. Daye for being so nice to our citizens. Councilwoman Hildebran said this was not the first time she had received comments about how nice Ms. Daye was to our citizens.

CITIZENS NOT CLEANING UP AFTER THEIR PETS Councilman Delp said he received an e-mail from a citizen complaining that some citizens were not cleaning up after their pets. He said the Town had placed pet stations around town.

CRACKS ON TENNIS COURTS Councilwoman Stevenson said she received a complaint that we have cracks on our tennis courts and it is difficult to play.

EMPTY BUILDINGS IN TOWN Councilwoman Stevenson was concerned about several empty buildings on Main Street and requested that staff work with the building owners to bring in businesses.

DOWNTOWN APPEARANCE Councilman Sweezy said the Main Street USA was excited about our sidewalk project. He said that we do not have appearance standards in our zoning ordinance and perhaps the Planning Board could

address this issue in the future. Mayor Black said he would share the appearance issue with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and report back to Council on ordinances of other cities and towns.

FAT STREET – BURNED HOUSE Councilman Delp asked if the Town owned the property where the house was burned down on Fat Street. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said the lawsuit would need to be filed to foreclose the tax and the process was underway. He said through the lawsuit the property would go up for sale and the Town would get the money for the sale of the lot.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

UPDATE – PROPERTY LOCATED AT 909/913 MAIN STREET WEST Mr. Morse distributed a memo from Planning Director Larry Johnson regarding this property. Mr. Morse said Mr. Deal had completed the corrective actions identified in the Order of Abatement and staff confirmed all corrective actions were completed. He said that civil penalty fines had accrued in the amount of \$12,150. Councilman Ogle asked about waiving the fine or hold to waive at a later time.

Mr. Morse said he would not recommend holding the fine over the property owner indefinitely. He said he spoke with the neighbors and they were pleased with the work.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said the Statute of Limitations was three years for a lawsuit if the fines were not paid.

Councilman Delp asked if the fine could be adjusted. Mr. Morse said yes.

Councilman Ogle asked if a fine had been collected from anyone else. Mr. Morse said no.

Councilman Ogle asked if Council could suspend action for 90 days. Attorney Mitchell said yes.

Mayor Black said Mr. Deal had met the requirements that had been established and Council either recommends that the fine be paid within the next 15 days or it could waive the fine.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a statement, “It has taken us four years to get this project to fruition, he did not keep his promises during this four year period, so I want to make it known that if he backslides and things start happening and the property is in disarray and we start getting complaints in my ward for that house, I want to go on record that I do not think we should penalize him in the amount but I personally would like to recommend that we hold off of making a decision on this at least for a few months just to see what happens.”

Councilman Sweezy asked if 90 days would be sufficient for a motion.

Councilwoman Hildebran said yes and she made a motion to table this issue for 90 days after which it would be brought up for review, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

UPDATE – FORMER BURKE MILLS PROPERTY Mr. Morse said he called the property owner this date but did not get an answer. He presented this property to the Executive Director of BDI Alan Wood and this could be a green site. He or the next Manager could ask that this property be donated to the Town if there was no environmental liability. He said the concrete slab was in pretty good shape and the brick was a good base for a foundation and could be compacted and finished off.

VALDESE TRIATHLON – SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015, 8:00 A.M.

WPCOG ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015, 6:30 P.M., CROWNE PLAZA, HICKORY

LARRY EARP’S CAR SHOW & POSSIBLE SATURDAY EVENT Mr. Morse said Mr. Earp’s first car show of the season was Friday, April 3 and it was a huge success. He publicly thanked the Cannon Family, owners of Rock Drug, for working with the Town for use of their parking lot.

Mr. Morse said at no cost to the Town there may be an open mic event on Saturdays in Valdese. The Town would provide publicity and the goal was to bring people to Valdese.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS BEGIN FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015

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CONTINUE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015, 7:00 P.M., VALDESE TOWN HALL, FOR CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE

At 8:15 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to recess the meeting to be continued on Monday, April 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015, 7:00 P.M., MEETING CONTINUED FROM MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 13, 2015, Mayor Black reconvened the meeting.

The following were present: Mayor John F. (Chip) Black, Jr., Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilman Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp

Absent: Councilwoman Stevenson and Councilman Ogle

A quorum was present.

Also present: WPCOG Executive Director Anthony W. Starr and former WPCOG Director DeWitt "Dee" Blackwell, Jr.

MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE

At 7:00 p.m., Councilman Sweezy made a motion to recess into Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran and carried unanimously.

At 8:30 p.m., Councilman Sweezy made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Black adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, May 4, 2015, at 7:00 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 Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

UPDATE ON SMALL TOWN BENCHES – MS. CARLA BERRY Ms. Berry resides at 204 Columbo Street, Valdese. She said 42 benches had been sold and 16 had been placed around town. Another order had been placed with Powell Welding. She said this had been an exciting project. She thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth, Ken and Marilee Stettler, Roy Sweezy, and the Committee Members for their hard work on this project.

JEAN MARIE COLE, 735 BERTIS STREET, VALDESE She read an article in the newspaper about the Town removing residential fees from the water bill and adding them to the tax bills. She asked that this not be done because tax bills were hard enough to pay. She had rather pay the \$11 every month instead of a full year all at once.

GINGER CLEMENT, 205 ARNAUD AVENUE, VALDESE Ms. Clement said with the Library expansion she was worried about parking on Arnaud Avenue because the street was narrow. She had only two parking spaces because her property is on a steep slant and there was no room for family and friends to park when they visit her.

DOG STATIONS/DOG PARK

Ms. Clement said there were no bags in the dog stations around town and some stations had been empty for two to four months. Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said bags were on order. She asked was there any place for a dog park in Valdese.

PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC WORKS CREW LEADER ERIC STREET Mayor Black said the Town had a program where employees could submit creative ideas that would save the town money, provide better services, or something that would enhance the town. Mr. Street offered an idea that would save the Town several hundred dollars on an annual basis. Mayor Black presented Mr. Street with a \$100 gift card.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2015 AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF CONTINUED MEETING ON APRIL 13, 2015

APPROVED VALDESE ABC BOARD TRAVEL POLICY

VALDESE ABC BOARD TRAVEL POLICY

The following guidelines will be used as a travel policy for all employees traveling on Valdese ABC Board business:

1. Reimbursement of travel expenses-

Meals will be covered on a per day rate. (Based on the current Federal Per Diem Rate) The Federal Per Diem Rates listing (found online at www.gsa.gov) is updated on an annual basis in October. If the traveler's destination is not listed on the website, the standard rate, \$46 currently, is used.

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When traveling to attend a conference, where some meals are provided by the conference, remaining meals not provided by the conference will be eligible for reimbursement on a reasonable and actual basis (receipts required).

When on a trip not involving an over nights stay, expenses (i.e. mileage, meals) will be eligible for reimbursement on a reasonable and actual basis (receipts required).

Lodging will be covered for reasonable and actual cost (receipt required). Unless attending a conference, the Federal Per Diem Listing should be used as a guideline in determining reasonable cost.

2. Board credit cards may be used to reserve lodging. Travel related cost however, should not be charged to the credit cards. All travel expenses will be covered through travel advances and / or reimbursements.
3. It is the responsibility of the General Manager to determine which meal allowances are eligible for reimbursement to employees for partial day travel. Reimbursement will be for reasonable and actual cost (receipt required).
4. All requests for travel expense reimbursement (i.e. meals, lodging, mileage, etc. must be accompanied by a travel expense report.
5. Other issues:

-Transportation: As a general rule, it is the Board's policy that an employee is authorized to use a private vehicle and be reimbursed at current standard mileage rate. The current standard rate shall be the same as paid by the Town of Valdese following the IRS rate.

-Telephone: Any employee traveling out of town and staying overnight will be allowed a personal telephone call up to \$4 per night. Board business related calls will be paid by the Board.

-Registration: Registration fees are generally paid in advance directly to the vendor, not from travel advance.

-Advances: The Board does permit employees to request advances whenever an estimated trip cost exceeds \$25. If the cost is less than \$25, employee must seek reimbursement when the trip is completed.

Adopted this the 20th day of April, 2015, by the Valdese ABC Board of Directors.

Approved this 4th day of May 2015.

/s/ John F. (Chip) Black, Jr., Mayor

Attest: /s/ Town Clerk

APPOINTMENT TO FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND Fire Chief Charles Watts was appointed to fill the unexpired term of David Rust (deceased). The term will expire December of 2015.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO JOIN WESTERN PIEDMONT JOBS TRAINING CONSORTIUM

**RESOLUTION TO JOIN
WESTERN PIEDMONT JOBS TRAINING CONSORTIUM**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Valdese wishes to participate as a full member of the Western Piedmont Workforce Development Area and the Western Piedmont Jobs Training Consortium as generally authorized in NC GS 160-460. Et. Seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that is expressly understood that the Town of Valdese as a consequence of its participation, shall be separately and jointly liable along with other participating consortium members for the actions and activities of the organization; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the duly appointed delegate of Mayor John F. Black, Jr., to the Policy Board of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) shall also serve as the official representative for the Town of Valdese on the Western Piedmont Jobs Training Consortium, authorized to sign any and all related Consortium documents, including the Consortium Agreement.

This the 4th day of May, 2015.

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

/s/ Frances M. Hildebran, Town Clerk

APPROVED REQUEST FROM WALDENSIAN STYLE WINES AND WALDENSIAN HERITAGE WINES TO SELL WINE AT THE WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 7, 2015 (5:00 P.M., UNTIL 11:00 P.M.), AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015 (FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 11:00 P.M.), AT THE BEER AND WINE GARDEN LOCATED AT THE WELLS FARGO PARKING LOT.

APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR MILLSTONE AVENUE WATER PROJECT, CDBG The contractor requested 30 additional days for completion due to the wet weather experienced in our area. There were no monetary changes.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR BURKE COUNTY LIBRARY Mayor Black introduced the Conditional Use Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against to please come forward and be sworn in by Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney. Ms. Rhoney administered oaths to Planning Director Larry Johnson and Burke County Library Director James Wilson.

Mayor Black declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Wilson offered a brief PowerPoint presentation. He said they had a campaign to raise \$450,000 and they met the goal and collected 99.3 percent of the pledges. They have 8,000 – 10,000 people attending the programs offered by the library per year. He presented renderings which included an amphitheater. Future plans are for parking along Italy Street.

Planning Director Larry Johnson briefly reviewed highlights of the following report:

Conditional Use Permit for Multi-family use CU 2-03-15

APPLICANT AND PROPERTY OWNER:

Burke County Public Library

REQUEST:

Burke County Public Library is requesting a conditional use permit for a Planned Unit Development Business.

LOCATION:

The two structure parcel is located at 205/213 Saint Germain Avenue SE and being Burke County Record Numbers 38650 and 11323, and Pin Numbers 2743040600 and 2743041507.

LAND USE AND ZONING:

The subject property is zoned O/I Office Institutional and is designated on the maps with a red outline.

Surrounding Land Use and Zoning:

- North – Parcels contain single-family houses and are zoned O-I Office Institutional.
- South – Parcels contain single family houses and are zoned R-12A Residential.
- East – Parcel contains First Methodist Church of Valdese and is zoned O-I Office Institutional.
- West – Parcel contains a single family home and is zoned R-12A Residential.

TRANSPORTATION

St Germain Avenue SW – St. Germain Avenue is considered a local or minor residential street. Being part of the Town's road system, St. Germain Avenue is maintained by the Town of Valdese. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count

data is not available for St. Germain. It is available for a parallel street, Massel Ave. The 2011 traffic count for Massel was 450 trips per day. It was estimated that St. Germain Ave SE would be a little higher at 600 trips per day.

UTILITIES:

The Town of Valdese provides water and sewer services.

LAND USE PLAN:

The Valdese Land Use Plan identifies this property as part of the expanded Central Business District.

CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST HISTORY:

There is no special use history on this property.

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

(Please note that no technical compliance criterion was required.)

Sec. 9-3054.1(c) Office – Institutional (O-I) – Uses permitted with a conditional use permit

- (c) Uses permitted with a conditional use permit
- (8) Planned Unit Development - Business

Compliance –applicant is requesting a Planned Unit Development - Business (PUD-B) to have a multi-unit facility with outdoor space for the Valdese Public Library to be contained on one property.

Sec. 9-3054.4 Dimensional Requirements

- (a) Minimum Lot width- None Compliance
- (b) Minimum Building Setback
 - (1) Minimum Front building setback: 20 feet
 - (2) Minimum side building setback: 10 feet (15 feet for side abutting a street ROW)
 - (3) Minimum Rear building setback: 15 feetCompliance – all buildings meet minimum setbacks.
- (c) Maximum building height
 - (1) Maximum building height for residential structures: 50 feetCompliance: building is less than 50 feet tall
- (d) Minimum Lot Size
 - (3) No minimum lot sizeCompliance: lot is 39,963 sq feet

Sec. 9-3047 Conditional Uses.

The Valdese Town Council shall grant in particular cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, permits for conditional uses as authorized by this Valdese Zoning Ordinance and set forth as Conditional Uses under the various use districts.

POSSIBLE FINDINGS AS RELATED TO THE GENERAL STANDARDS FOUND IN SEC. 9-3147.

- (a) The following general standards shall be met by all applicants for approval of conditional uses pursuant to this chapter:
 - (1) The use will not adversely affect the health, or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.
Applicant Complies (9-3047.4)
 - (2) The use will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or public improvements in the neighborhood.
Applicant Complies (9-3447.4)
 - (3) The use, which is listed as a conditional use in the district in which it is proposed to be located,

complies with all required zoning standards.

Applicant Complies (9-3047.4)

- (b) The Valdese Town Council shall make these general findings based upon substantial evidence contained in its proceedings. The council may refer to staff's report to aid in its deliberations. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to present evidence in the form of testimony, exhibits, documents, models, plans, and the like to support the application for approval of a Conditional Use.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION:

The Valdese Public Library is requesting a Planned Unit Development-Business. They will have two buildings on one parcel with an outdoor facility. A bridge will connect the two buildings. Site plan and 3-D renderings show the proposed additions. Current parking will be shared with the First Methodist Church of Valdese until the new parking lot is created. A new sidewalk is required along Italy Street SE and is shown on the site plan.

Planning Board considered the application at their April 20, 2015 meeting. The Planning Board along with Planning Staff recommends approval of the PUD-B for CUP 2-03-15.

Proposed Findings of Fact

1. That on March 25, 2015, the applicant, Burke County Public Library applied for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Planned Unit Development on property located at 205/213 Saint Germain Avenue SE.
2. The property is located on a 0.92-acre tract of land zoned Office-Institutional O-I and can be further identified by Burke County Record Numbers 38650 and 11323.
3. That the Valdese Town Council has heard sworn testimony by the applicant and staff
4. That the Valdese Planning Board reviewed the application on April 20, 2015 and recommends Valdese Town Council approval.
5. That Office-Institutional O-I district allows Planned-Unit Developments- Business provided no such use shall be dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or general character of this zone or the Town of Valdese.
6. The proposed use, additions and renovations to the existing structures shall meet all requirements imposed by Burke County Building Inspections Department and the Town of Valdese.

Mayor Black asked if there were additional comments or if anyone wished to speak either for or against the conditional use hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Order, including the General Standards and the Findings of Fact in this case, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

POLICE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE Police Chief Jack Moss asked if Members of Council, Town Attorney, or Town Manager had any comments or recommended changes to the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). There being no comments, Chief Moss said a Resolution adopting the SOP would be on the June 1, 2015 consent agenda for adoption.

CHANGE ORDER ON BOBO STREET PARKING LOT PROJECT Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner requested a change in the project at a new cost of \$85,300. Architect Robert Salsbury Council at its January 5, 2015 meeting awarded a bid to lowest bidder for paving the Bobo Street parking lot. Carolina Paving & Grading was the lowest bidder in the amount for a total of \$72,000. The next day they said they made a mistake and their bid was too low and their bid was still the lowest bid. The bid was over budget so the decision was made to accept Alternates # 3 & 4 (deleting curb, gutter and asphalt paving for the old post office lot). Carolina Paving and Grading did not have a proper NC Contractor's License so the company arranged to have Valdese Concrete Works, Inc., be the Contractor of record. Valdese Concrete Works could not accommodate the contract request. In discussing alternatives, if Evans Construction would honor their bid after the three-month delay and accept the contract award with Alternates 3 & 4

accepted, this would be the best option for Valdese. Evans accepted the request for a total cost of \$85,300. (Note: Bids may be found in the Council minutes of January 5, 2015, Minute Book 30, pg 760.)

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the bid to Evans Construction with Alternatives 3 and 4 in the amount of \$85,300, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

TOWN FY 2015-2016 BUDGET

Mayor Black said Members of Council would be meeting to review a draft of the FY 2015-2016 Budget. It was decided the best date and time would be Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall. Town Staff would give proper notice of the special called meeting.

PROPERTIES IN VALDESE THAT NEED ATTENTION Councilman Ogle said on this date he drove the Town Manager around Valdese and came up with a list of properties that need attention, whether tall grass/weeds; home maintenance; junk in yards and on front porches; and vehicles without license plates. He recommended that Council go back to the Planning Board and the Town Attorney and draft some type of enforcement ordinance to encourage people to keep up their properties. He said when you come into Valdese from both the east and west there you see things such as a home with the windows falling out, an old mill with tall grass, and an old church with the windows boarded up which does not welcome someone to come live in Valdese. He said there were three houses on Dixie Avenue that were about to fall down. He said he realized the Town had a nuisance ordinance and he would hate to impose fines on citizens that could not afford repairs to their property. He encouraged Members of Council to ride around the Town and look at the properties. He said Planning Director Larry Johnson needed support from the Planning Board and Town Attorney.

Councilman Ogle said some of the trailers on Pineburr Avenue were being torn down and placed on the street for the Public Works Department to pick up and haul off.

Councilman Delp said we have policy and asked if this was an enforcement issue.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said if Council's directive was to cite everyone that could be cited, it could be done. He said Council could direct the Planning Director to inspect the properties in question. He said some people do not have the money for repairs. He said the Planning Director comes to him to check if a vacant property was in foreclosure and sometime it is or sometime the property was in bankruptcy. You could get a court order but if the owner has no funds for repair would the Town want to go on properties to make repairs and place liens on the property. He said we have tools such as the nuisance ordinance and junk car ordinance of which he briefly reviewed. He said Council may want to become more aggressive with the ordinances.

Mayor Black said a Community Assistance Group could be organized to assist some of the homeowners who have financial issues or were not physically able to make repairs. Mayor Black said he reads articles about Homeowner Associations around the state that strictly enforce their laws and he would not want Valdese to come to that.

PROPERTY LOCATED AT 909/913 MAIN STREET WEST Councilwoman Hildebran asked that the record reflect complaints she had received via e-mail from the Draughn Family and the Bishop of River of Life Church of their concerns about the house at 909/913 Main Street. She informed them that she had brought up this issue almost every meeting since she was elected to Council. She said at the last meeting Council voted to table this issue for 90 days after which it would be brought back up for review to see if Mr. Deal continued to make improvements. Now she had received two or three complaints within 30 days and she would like to bring it back to institute the fines as Mr. Deal could afford the renovations to his home. She was not in favor of instituting fines on our elderly in the community to fix up homes they could not afford.

Mayor Black recommended since Council voted to table this issue for 90 days that it would come back up in approximately 60 days. They briefly discussed Robert's Rules of Order.

Attorney Mitchell said he had read the e-mail from the Bishop and he believed the issue was neighbor to neighbor and not Town responsibility. He said there were private nuisances and there were public nuisances.

Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney reported this issue was scheduled to be on the June 29, 2015 Council agenda.

Councilwoman Hildebran requested that the record reflect that she would like to begin enforcement now.

May 4, 2015, MB#30

SEMI-TRUCKS ON LAUREL ROAD DAILY Councilman Delp said there are at least two semi-trucks on Laurel Road on a daily basis and the residents' windows shake and some windows have actually broken.

Police Chief said the problem was the drivers were lost as they were making deliveries to the bakery. The GPS directs drivers to Laurel Road instead of Italy Street. He said he did not feel comfortable writing tickets to a driver who was lost.

SEWER LINE REPAIR Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth for the quick response with a sewer line repair in her ward.

KATE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION GRANT Councilwoman Stevenson congratulated Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knight on receiving a \$150,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation. She thanked Mr. Knight and Town Manager Jeff Morse for their hard work on the grant application.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

TOWN OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015, IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

REDUCTION OF VALDESE FIRE RATING Fire Chief Charlie Watts said the Fire Department was inspected by the NC Department of Insurance and the Town received a lower insurance rating, from a Class 5 to a Class 4, which should result in savings for some of the larger commercial and industrial customers. The Town missed a Class 3 by less than one point. The things that reduced the rating were the Town's water distribution system, hydrant distribution, new communications center, and automatic mutual aid agreements with Burke County.

Members of Council congratulated Fire Chief Charlie Watts on a job well done.

CONTACT LEGISLATORS Mr. Morse encouraged Members of Council to call State Representative Hugh Blackwell and State Senator Warren Daniel due to a recent article in the newspaper that clearly defined the dilemma of the cost to operate the 911 services due to consolidation. Cost to the Town would increase to \$76,000 from \$56,000. The General Assembly and House passed unanimously nonpartisan to require the County to pick up the entire tab of 911 services. He asked that everyone encourage Senator Daniel to put Burke County back on the state-wide bill.

MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (a) (4)

To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

Mayor Black pointed out to the audience that Council would not adjourn this meeting after the Closed Session, that it would continue this meeting until May 5 and May 6 and he stated the following reason. He said there would be no other business to be brought before Council after Closed Session.

At 8:09 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to recess into Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran and carried unanimously.

At 8:45 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

CONTINUE MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015, 5:00 P.M., AND ALSO WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015, 5:00 P.M., (VALDESE TOWN HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM) FOR CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE

At 8:45 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to recess the meeting to be continued on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 5:00 p.m., (as well as Wednesday, May 6, 2015) Valdese Town Hall, Community Room, for a Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ogle and carried unanimously.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015, 5:00 P.M., (MEETING CONTINUED FROM MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015, 7:00 P.M.)

The Town of Valdese Town Council continued its Monday, May 4, 2015 meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., in the Community Room 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 Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present: WPCOG Executive Director Anthony W. Starr and Former WPCOG Director DeWitt "Dee" Blackwell, Jr.

At 5:00 p.m., Mayor Black reconvened the Council Meeting.

MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.

At 5:00 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to recess into closed session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran and carried unanimously.

At 7:15 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

At 7:15 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to recess the meeting to be continued on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall Community Room for a Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson and carried unanimously.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015, 5:00 P.M., (MEETING CONTINUED FROM TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015, 5:00 P.M.)

The Town of Valdese Town Council continued its Monday, May 4, 2015 meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. and again on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m., in the Community Room 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 Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present: WPCOG Executive Director Anthony W. Starr and Former WPCOG Director DeWitt "Dee" Blackwell, Jr.

At 5:00 p.m., Mayor Black reconvened the Council Meeting.

MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.

At 5:00 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to recess into closed session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson and carried unanimously.

At 6:50 p.m., Councilman Sweezy made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

AT 6:50 P.M., MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A MOTION TO RECESS THE MEETING TO BE CONTINUED ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015, 5:00 P.M., VALDESE TOWN HALL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.

At 6:50 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to recess the meeting to be continued on Monday, May 11, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall Community Room for a Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ogle and carried unanimously.

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015, 5:00 P.M., (MEETING CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015, 5:00 P.M.)

The Town of Valdese Town Council continued its Monday, May 4, 2015 meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m., and again on Monday, May 11, 2015, 5:00 p.m., in the Community Room at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina for Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee

The following were present: Mayor John F. (Chip) Black, Jr., Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle

A quorum was present.

Also present: WPCOG Executive Director Anthony W. Starr and Former WPCOG Director DeWitt "Dee" Blackwell, Jr.

At 5:00 p.m., Mayor Black reconvened the Council Meeting. Dinner was catered by Myra's Catering.

AT 5:30 P.M., MAYOR BLACK CALLED FOR A MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (6) TO CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, FITNESS, CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT, OR CONDITIONS OF INITIAL EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.

At 5:30 p.m., Councilman Sweezy made a motion to recess into closed session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson and carried unanimously.

At 6:50 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:50 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the May 4, 2015 meeting (that was continued on May 5, 2015, 5:00 p.m.; May 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m.; and May 11, 2015, 5:00 p.m.). The motion was seconded by Councilman Sweezy and carried unanimously.

The next meeting is a Special Called Meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of a FY 2015-2016 Budget Review Committee Meeting. The meeting would be held at Valdese Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina.

Town Clerk

Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, May 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., for the purpose to review the FY 2015-2016 Budget. Members of Council met in the Town of Valdese Community Room 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, Councilman Gary L. Delp, and Councilman Chip Black. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Finance Director Jerry LaMaster, and Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle

A quorum was present.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Black called the meeting to order. He said this was a Special Called Council Meeting for the purpose of the FY 2015-2016 Budget Review and there would be no action taken or public comment accepted.

DISCUSSION WITH BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE REGARDING FY 2015-2016 BUDGET Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse and Finance Director Jerry LaMaster offered a review of the revenues and departmental expenses for the FY 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Morse said budget highlight would be presented at the June 1, 2015 Council meeting and the Budget Public hearing and adoption of the Budget Ordinance would be held at the June 29, 2015 Council meeting.

Personnel issues were discussed.

At 8:34 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a Special Called Council Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of Appointing a New Town Manager and Approval of the New Town Manager's Employment Agreement.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in special session for the purpose of considering the appointment of a New Town Manager and approval of the employment agreement. Members of Council met in the 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 Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, and various Department Heads.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle

A quorum was present.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Black called the meeting to order. He said this was a Special Called Council Meeting for the purpose of appointing a New Town Manager and approving an employment agreement with the new manager. He offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Black welcomed Burke County Commissioner Chairman Johnnie Carswell; Burke County Manager Bryan Steen; Sharon McBrayer, "Morganton News Herald;" and Lex Menz, "Lenoir News Topic."

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN MANAGER Mayor Black said the process of looking for a replacement for a town manager that has served for 35 years and has had as many successes as Jeff Morse was a daunting task. He thanked the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Executive Director Anthony Starr and Former Executive Director Dee Blackwell who helped Council through the process. The WPCOG handled the applications, backgrounds, and narrowed down a list of candidates. The responsibility of interviewing and selecting the Town's next Manager fell upon the Council. He was delighted with the level of professionalism and business-like approach Council used to select a new manager.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to appoint Mr. Seth Eckard as the Valdese Town Manager effective July 1, 2015, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Black said Council was delighted that Mr. Eckard chose Valdese for his next place of employment. He said Mr. Eckard served in Valdese as an ASU Intern and served the City of Lenoir and was currently the Town Administrator for the Town of Sawmills.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH NEW TOWN MANAGER SETH ECKARD EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015 Mayor Black asked for a motion to approve the employment agreement. (NOTE: Copy of agreement on file in the Office of Town Manager.)

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with new Town Manager Seth Eckard, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Eckard said he was humbled by Town Council's decision. The position of Town Manager for the Town of Valdese was a once in a lifetime opportunity. He said Jeff Morse was a legend in the government profession and leaves some really big shoes to fill. Valdese is a community that has its best days ahead of it and he looked forward to working with the Council and Staff to make Valdese the very best it can be.

EMPLOYMENT OF SETH ECKARD AS ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER, BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JUNE 18, 2015 AND CONTINUING THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015, AT THE SAME LEVEL OF COMPENSATION AS CONTAINED IN THE MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT Mayor Black said Mr. Morse's retirement date was June 30, 2015, and Mr. Eckard's formal employment date was July 1, 2015, and Council would like for Mr. Eckard to begin employment a week or so in advance to take advantage of a transition so that Mr. Morse could do some introductions. Mayor Black asked for a motion to approve Seth Eckard as Assistant Town Manager on or after June 18, 2015, until he becomes Town Manager on July 1, 2015, under the same provisions of the employment agreement.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the employment of Mr. Seth Eckard as the Valdese Assistant Town Manager beginning on or after June 18, 2015 and continuing through June 30, 2015, at the same level of

compensation as contained in the Town Manager's Employment Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Delp and carried unanimously.

Mr. Morse said it only took him 35 years to get an Assistant Town Manager.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Burke County Manager Bryan Steen congratulated Mr. Eckard and said he looked forward to working him in matters of mutual interest. Mr. Steen wished Mr. Morse good luck and congratulated him on 35 years of service to the profession.

Burke County Commissioner Johnnie Carswell said, on behalf of the Burke County Board of Commissioners, he welcomed Mr. Eckard and said they looked forward to working with Valdese as they have in the past. Mr. Carswell said, on a personal note, he had known Mr. Morse for quite a number of years and counted it a pleasure calling him a friend. Mr. Carswell said he was born in Valdese and was also a lifelong resident and appreciated Mr. Morse for everything he had done to make Valdese what it was today. The Burke County Commissioners want to continue to move forward in a collaborative effort as they have in the past. He thanked Mr. Morse for sacrificing many hours of hard work. He said Mr. Eckard would have big shoes to fill but they were proud to have him in this town.

Councilwoman Stevenson thanked Mr. Morse and said he had been a great manager. She appreciated Mr. Morse for working with Mr. Eckard through the transition.

Councilman Delp said this was a great day for Valdese as they had picked an excellent, young man to lead Valdese into a bright future. This was also a sad day as he used to hang out with Jeff Morse and Jimmy Draughn. He said Mr. Morse was a legend and had done more for this Town than he would ever know.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she worked for the Town when Mr. Morse was hired during a time of uneasiness in the community. The Town needed someone with Mr. Morse's personality and she said he had done a fabulous job. She said we are in a new day and she was excited about the new manager and his management style that he would bring to the table. She said the confidence Council had put into the selection process had been amazing. The community would be pleased in the long run and would need to trust the decision that was made by Council.

Councilman Sweezy said he was new to Council but had a lot of respect for Mr. Morse and the fine job he had done. He said he was looking forward to Mr. Eckard's tenure. He said in the application process there were other good candidates but none of Mr. Eckard's caliber and he welcomed him to Valdese.

Town Manager Jeff Morse congratulated Mr. Eckard and was proud to work with him as an ASU Intern and it was an honor to see him appointed as Town Manager. Mr. Morse said that Mr. Eckard did not have big shoes to fill as he only had to walk in his own shoes. Mr. Morse said he would be available for Mr. Eckard as well as any manager as they stick together and work together as part of the profession.

At 7:14 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk
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Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 7:00 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, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: Councilman Roy F. Sweezy

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

INTRODUCTION OF ASU INTERN – MADELEINE SHULL Mr. Morse introduced Ms. Shull, Appalachian State University Intern. He said she was the granddaughter of former Mayor Ray Fletcher. Ms. Shull said she majored in Political Science with a concentration in Town and City Management. She grew up in Valdese and was looking forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Black welcomed Ms. Shull.

NEW TOWN MANAGER SETH ECKARD Mayor Black welcomed Mr. Eckard who was in the audience. Mayor Black said Mr. Eckard would become Town Manager effective July 1, 2015.

SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM PRESENTATION Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner gave a brief presentation and said the process had been in progress for two years and they would be losing their coach from Asheville. She said the citizens have come together and worked hard for two years because they care about this Town. She recommended that Council approve moving up to a Main Street Community Program. Ms. Hefner introduced the chairmen of the committees.

Promotions Committee – Mary Ann Diamond with Edward Jones. Ms. Hefner said Ms. Diamond was also the current President of the Valdese Merchants Association (VMA).

Ms. Diamond highlighted the committee achievements over the past two years. 1) A new Town of Valdese logo; 2) the logo and branding had been incorporated into the Town's website, downtown benches, marketing materials, water bills, and other town departments; 3) creation of the Town of Valdese business opportunities page on the town's website includes business availability in Town as well as incentives to come to Valdese; 4) VMA had added a web page to the town's website which includes a membership application as well as a list of incentives to join the association and this had been successful; and 5) quarterly coupon books offering 10 percent off from 25 downtown merchants.

Design Committee – Carla Berry said Ken Stettler and his wife had assisted her with bench sales. So far, they sold 49 benches (total of \$21,560) to make Valdese more attractive. She said Valdese Elementary School raised enough money from donations of 25 cents at a time to purchase a bench. She expects to sell four or five more benches. They would be sending thank you notes.

Mr. Ken Stettler recommended that Members of Council walk through Town to read the plaques on the benches. He said it was the heartbeat and story of Valdese. He said the Pilot Club and the Rotary Club had purchased benches. He said a bench would be placed at the Waldensian Museum dedicated to the Waldensian Settlers who arrived in 1893 and founded this Town.

Councilwoman Hildebran requested a listing of the bench sales and the verbiage on the plaques.

Economic Restructuring Committee – David Smith said he served on the committee but was not the chairman. The committee 1) reviewed the Valdese retail marketplace profile which shows areas of leakage where businesses are going other places and the information was offered to the downtown businesses; 2) property assessment sheets were

compiled and made available at the Community Affairs Department for individuals inquiring about rental space and other information; and 3) business packets had been created for new businesses who wish to come to Valdese and included in the packets was available buildings, information about VMA, small business training opportunities, and possible financial assistance. The packet was also linked to the Town's website. Designated boundaries for the downtown business district had been established. He said the Economic Restructuring Committee members took a field trip to West Jefferson to see how the Main Street Program worked for them. A committee member attended the Main Street Solutions Workshop, which provided grant opportunities and a grant was awarded to the town. The committee was designing a brochure that provides step-by-step instructions on what to do to start a business in Valdese. Two committee members were going to attend a workshop "Unlocking Undervalued Real Estate Values" in Asheville on June 5, 2015. Committee members were scheduled to attend a workshop in Statesville on July 21, "Building a Healthier Business Mix." The committee recommended that Council approve moving to a Main Street Community. The committee had two recommendations for Council, 1) complete involvement and buy-in of all Town planners in the process and 2) property owners and tenants need to get together and discuss where they want to take the Town within the next five years. They would also like to involve the New Town Manager.

Councilwoman Hildebran asked if the Town met all requirements for moving up to a Main Street Community. Ms. Hefner said Ms. Parham from the NC Department of Commerce was the one that suggested the Town move up to a Main Street Community. The Town does meet all criteria and Ms. Hefner briefly discussed the four point approach which was in place with the committees.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to move up to a Main Street Community, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Hildebran said due to the Town's population, it did not qualify for the upgraded designation and due to the hard work on behalf of Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner and the Main Street Committee Chairs, the Town was invited to participate in the program. She commended Ms. Hefner and the Committee Chairs for their dedication and hard work.

Mayor Black asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – MAY 4, 2015, CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM CONTINUED MEETINGS ON MAY 5, 6, AND 11, 2015, AND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 11 AND 18, 2015

RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

**RESOLUTION
ADOPTING VALDESE POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) MANUAL**

WHEREAS, the Valdese Police Department established a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual to aid in the daily operation of an effective and professional police department. The Procedures Manual will aid the police officer in his/her sworn duties and the fulfillment of their obligations to serve and protect the citizens of Valdese, North Carolina. Therefore, these Rules and Regulations should help the officers understand how they should conduct themselves as Valdese Police Officers. These Rules and Regulations are to be understood and followed; and

WHEREAS, violations of the Policies and Procedures will subject the officer(s) to disciplinary action (verbal or written reprimand, or both), temporary suspension, or dismissal. These actions will depend on the degree of the offense and the record of the offender. Jurisdiction and disposition of offenses will be enforced in accordance with established Personnel Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the manual is not to be construed as creating a property interest in continued employment or otherwise abrogating the at-will employee doctrine. Rather, the manual is intended to provide internal guidelines to Town officials for the administration of the Town's Police Department employment positions. Employees of the Police Department shall also be subject to such other personnel policies as the Town may from time to time adopt.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that is now the duty and responsibility of the police officers to read, study, understand and follow the Policies and Procedures as established and explained in the Manual.

June 1, 2015, MB#30

Adopted: This the 1st day of June, 2015.

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

Attest: /s/ Frances M. Hildebran, Town Clerk

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DREAM CONNECTIONS The lease agreement at the Old Rock School with Dream Connections in the amount of \$925 per month.

APPROVED CALLING PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 29, 2015, 7:00 P.M., FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

FY 2015 – 2016 BUDGET REVIEW AND SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015 Mr. Morse said the budget was basically the same as last year except for inflationary items or items in terms of cost that we have no control over. He said in the General Fund there would be a \$37,000 increase in healthcare (7.4 percent increase). An additional \$7,600 increase to the 911 call center due to the call demand. Library contribution increased by \$2,500 to the previous annual appropriation. He mentioned several capital outlay projects – Bobo Street parking, redesign two blocks of downtown landscape, new recreation park that includes a splash pad and community facility for which the Town received a \$150,000 Kate B. Reynolds Foundation Grant to increase the size of the facility. There was \$221,000 in capital reserves of which he recommended \$50,000 for future economic development incentives. The Town would continue with the Small Town Program; Old Rock School continues to provide successful programs; Public Works continue to provide services the citizens expect on a daily basis; and Police and Fire continue to operate at a high degree of professionalism. He recommended a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase for employees. There would be no tax increase.

Utility Fund continues to be impacted by activities we have no control over. There are three industrial users in the Town – Valdese Manufacturing; Valdese Weavers, and Robinson Hosiery. We sell water to Icard and Burke County. Staff is working with an existing industry to make sure we do not lose the industry due to expansion issues and are looking at a viable location, and if we were to lose the industry we would lose \$420,000 in water sales, loss of 200 jobs, and \$30,000 tax base. Staff does not recommend an increase in water and sewer rates; however, to maintain the viability of the utility systems staff must constantly review the systems and see what the needs are in the future.

During the Budget Retreat, Council was concerned about the three employees at Public Works who had been working through Helping Hands for over a year. Staff recommends that the three temporary employees be hired full-time effective July 1, 2015.

Mr. Morse said there was a \$102,000 contingency in the Utility Fund and at the end of this fiscal year and going into next year if the contingency was not needed the funds would be earmarked for three needed items: 1) truck for Water Plant - \$23,000; replacement of valve on a 24-inch waterline - \$15,000; and truck for Wastewater Plant - \$23,000. This would be added to the capital reserves list as additional projects.

Mr. Morse said, "This will be my last budget message. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Citizens of Valdese these past 35 years. I am confident in the future of this Town. The citizens continue to send to the Council dedicated public servants whose only agenda is to provide cost effective services that our citizens desire. As former Mayor Jim Hatley was known for saying, and I quote, "Valdese, the best little town in North Carolina," continues to be the standard in which the employees, council, and the citizens of Valdese strive to maintain. It has been a privilege."

Councilman Ogle asked which municipalities were contributing to the Burke County 911 call center. Mr. Morse said Valdese, Morganton and Burke County. Burke County was covering the other municipalities cost and he described a Bill that counties cover all towns. The bill passed in the House and Burke County was exempt. He called Senator Daniel to amend the Senate Bill to include Valdese and Morganton.

Mayor Black said the FY 2015-2016 proposed budget was approximately \$9.9 million between both the General Fund and Utility Fund. He requested that staff post the budget on the Town's website and if citizens had questions to please call Finance Director Jerry LaMaster or Town Manager Jeff Morse.

Mayor Black asked several Department Heads about items being included in their budget which was discussed at the Budget Retreat. All items had been addressed or included in the budget or capital outlay.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the FY 2015-2016 Budget on Monday, June 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

AGREEMENT WITH WPCOG FOR ADMINISTERING THE PARTF AND KATE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION GRANTS Parks & Recreation Director Doug Knight said the agreement with the WPCOG was in the amount of \$5,000 for administering the two aforementioned grants. Funds come from the grant monies.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with WPCOG not to exceed \$5,000, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH WPCC AND BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PROMOTING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES Fire Chief Charlie Watts said there was a lack of volunteerism, especially in fire departments and Draughn and Patton High Schools were starting a Fire School through Western Piedmont Community College. They would be using some of the Valdese Fire Department's equipment as well as other fire departments. There was no required funding from the Town.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

CONTRACT WITH FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY FOR CONSULTING TO ACQUIRE A 300 ACRE TRACT ADJACENT TO DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL FOR PARK Town Manager Jeff Morse said he met recently with Foothills Conservancy, an organization in this area who works with nonprofits and donors to preserve public properties. A presentation was made to the Conservancy to help the Friends of the Valdese Rec acquire necessary funds to obtain the property at a cost of \$1.1 million. He said the Town and Friends of the Valdese Rec were trying to make the project a reality. The contract with the Conservancy was in the amount of \$75 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000, which may take over two years. Mr. Morse said this would not be a high maintenance function and details would be worked out later whether it would be a Town or nonprofit project.

Councilman Delp asked if the group was part of the Town or an independent group. Mr. Morse said the Friends of the Valdese Rec was a volunteer group. Councilman Delp asked if the park would be used to make money. Mr. Morse said no.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she did not recall Council taking action to go with the project. Mr. Morse said it was exploratory at this point. He said the project had been presented to Council by Ms. Heile, but no commitment had been made and this would be the Town's first commitment financially. He said details would be worked out later if it would be a Town function or a nonprofit.

Mayor Black said this is the only tract of land around Valdese that was undeveloped that could be used for a park. The property was available and Crescent was willing to sell. The Town could not afford to purchase; however, there were people and organizations interested in making charitable contributions to preserve the property through Foothills Conservancy (the only way the Town could raise enough money to acquire the property).

Councilman Delp said this was one of the greatest things that could happen to Valdese and he said 'we' had been stated many times and he asked who 'we' were.

Mayor Black said it would start with the Town of Valdese, and the Friends of the Valdese Rec was applying for nonprofit status and they currently had no funds and the term 'we' collectively were the citizens of Valdese, Members of Council, etc.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she wanted to be kept updated on this project.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she was not part of the conversation and Council should decide if this is what it wanted to do before spending \$10,000. Mr. Morse said presentations had been made to Council. Councilwoman Hildebran said yes presentations but no action had been taken by Council.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said he would hope that 'we' would be the Town of Valdese as it would spend taxpayer funds to explore town parks or parks owned by someone else and all details would have to be worked out. The Town could contract with a nonprofit at a later date.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to authorize the expenditures of funds up to \$10,000 with Foothills Conservancy to explore the possibility of acquiring 300-acres for a Town park, seconded by Councilman Delp.

Voting aye: Ogle, Stevenson, Delp

Voting noe: Hildebran

The motion carried.

CLOSE OUT BUILDING REUSE DEFERRED LOAN – DOWNTOWN DELIGHTS VEDIC Executive Director Chuck Moseley said Downtown Delights no longer operates in Valdese. In 2011, the Town provided \$35,000 building use plus an additional \$10,000 for a total of \$45,000 for upgrades to a building on Main Street. All improvements were made, receipts received and payments made. Downtown Delights operated out of the former Flowers Building for one year while upgrades were being made and they operated in the Main Street building for one year which met the two year requirement. They also exceeded the requirement for the number of employees. All requirements were met for the loan to be forgiven.

VEDIC made a loan to Downtown Delights which was separate from the Building Reuse and they have paid \$4,000 of \$35,000. VEDIC sold the equipment that was in the building as collateral towards the loan.

After a brief discussion regarding only one year in the downtown facility on Main Street and the need for more information, Mayor Black asked Council to table this issue until they can look at the loan agreement.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to table this issue until the June 29, 2015 Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR REGIONAL CRIME LAB Police Chief Jack Moss said the WPCOG requested participation in a Needs Assessment for a Regional Crime Lab. Valdese’s share would be \$1,000. This is not a SBI Lab but a Center for Advanced Forensics in the western part of the state due to the lengthy time to get evidence processed.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to authorize the Town’s participation in the Needs Assessment for a Regional Crime Lab in the amount of \$1,000, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENT Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following ordinance:

**TOWN OF VALDESE
RECREATION CENTER
DOWNTOWN 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, next to the existing Community Center in the Town of Valdese 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	\$ 65,600	52,3970.001
Donations and Gifts	150,000	52,3970.002
Grant - PARTF	215,600	52,3970.003
Grant - KBR	<u>150,000</u>	52,3970.004
	<u>\$ 581,200</u>	

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

Dept Supplies	\$ 15,000	52.6200.330
Site Planning & Design	39,200	52,6200.490
Other Improvements	40,000	52.6200.720
Buildings & Structures	427,000	52,6200.740
Grounds	35,000	52,6200.150
Utilities	<u>25,000</u>	52,6200.812
	<u>\$ 581,200</u>	

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 1st day of June, 2015.

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

Attest: /s/ Clerk

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned Capital Project Budget Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

SENIOR PROJECT – DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL Councilman Delp said he judged the Senior Projects recently at Draughn High School, of which all were excellent, one student commended the firemen at the Valdese Fire Department and Councilman Delp thanked the Firemen.

JULY 10, 2015 FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT Councilman Delp said he and Water Plant Superintendent Jerry Conley had volunteered to cook hotdogs on July 10 and asked others to join them.

POSSIBLE SECURITY Councilman Ogle said we may need security during Council Meetings due to several people in the hallway during tonight’s meeting. Planning Director Larry Johnson said the east side door was unlocked due to rain and it would remain locked in the future. Mayor Black said this was a public meeting.

WEEDS Councilwoman Hildebran said she received complaints about weeds at several locations in Town and she contacted Town Manager Jeff Morse and she commended the following Department Heads who responded in a timely manner and had the grass cut: Planning Director Larry Johnson; Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth; and Recreation Director Doug Knight.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

STREETSCAPE UPDATE Mr. Morse requested that Council not take any action until several issues were resolved.

AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE WITH BURKE COUNTY IN GOLDEN LEAF GRANT FOR A MECHATRONICS CURRICULUM AT WPCC Mr. Morse said Burke County was applying for a Golden LEAF Grant for a Mechatronics Curriculum at WPCC. He said the industries need this program and Burke County asked the Local Governments to show support for the program. Staff recommended a \$1,000 contribution.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve a \$1,000 contribution of support to Burke County for the aforementioned, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11 (A) (4) TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING AGREEMENT ON A TENTATIVE LIST OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES THAT MAY BE OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC BODY IN NEGOTIATIONS

Mayor Black called for a motion to recess into Closed Session and stated the aforementioned citation. Mr. Morse asked if the New Town Manager Seth Eckard and BDI Executive Director Alan Wood could please be included. Mayor Black said yes.

At 8:23 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to recess into Closed Session Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ogle and carried unanimously.

At 9:05 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

LETTER OF INTEREST – VALDESE TEXTILES FACILITY

Mayor Black said he stated prior to Closed Session that there would be no action; however, he called for a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to prepare a Letter of Interest on behalf of the Town of Valdese for property in question.

At 9:05 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to prepare a Letter of Interest regarding the Valdese Textiles Facility, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

At 9:05 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, June 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m., for the FY 2015-2016 Budget Public Hearing. This meeting also serves as the July Council meeting.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 29, 2015**

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR TOWN MANAGER JEFFREY V. MORSE A retirement reception was held for Mr. Morse from 5:00 p.m., until 6:30 p.m., at Valdese Town Hall.

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, June 29, 2015, at 7:00 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 Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

UPDATE ON SMALL TOWN BENCHES – MS. CARLA BERRY Ms. Berry resides at 204 Columbo Street, Valdese. She offered an update on the town benches and said they met their goal and received five additional bench orders for the library and new park.

Mayor Black thanked Ms. Berry.

MS. SANDI WALKER, OWNER OF DOLLS AND DESIGNS BY SANDI, 124 MAIN STREET WEST Ms. Walker gave each Member of Council a booklet on "The Constitution." She referred to the Council minutes of October 6, 2014, regarding the July 4th celebration. She offered facts about the Constitution and encouraged Members of Council to research the writings of the founding fathers. She said, "It is incumbent on you to insure our Fourth of July is celebrated with the proper honor it deserves. Personal agendas, past conflicts, and just having a party is not appropriate for our Fourth of July celebration. I think if you consider your real responsibilities to the citizens you represent, you will make the right decision. Councilman Delp and Councilwoman Hildebran I commend you on the comments from the October 6, 2014 meeting, I say God Bless you. The rest of you, Shame on you!"

PRESENTATION BY ANTHONY STARR, WPCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Mr. Starr acknowledged the service Mr. Morse gave the Town and the Region. He said it was uncommon for a manager to work for a town for 35 years and for a Council to support a manager for that length of time. He said a WPCOG staff member created a map of Burke County that included six flags from the six countries that were responsible for the settlement of Burke County through the years. He presented the framed map to Mr. Morse.

COMMENTS – DEE BLACKWELL, FORMER WPCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Mr. Blackwell said Jeff Morse built a great public service legacy and he brought to Valdese continuity of government, creativity, reliability, honesty, good advice, and judgment. He congratulated Mr. Morse on his retirement.

PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN MANAGER JEFFREY V. MORSE BY MAYOR BLACK Mayor Black presented a plaque to Mr. Morse on behalf of the Burke County Narcotics Task Force which read, "Jeff Morse – Thank you for your Loyal and Dedicated Service – 1-1-1999 – 6-30-2015 – Burke County Narcotics Task Force."

Mayor Black presented Mr. Morse with a Resolution of Appreciation from the Town of Valdese:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
JEFFREY V. MORSE**

WHEREAS, Jeffrey V. Morse for the past 35 years has served the Town of Valdese with distinction as a committed and dedicated Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, these 35 years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interests of the community as he has worked constantly for the betterment of its economic, cultural and aesthetic development; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey V. Morse was appointed and served on numerous State and Local Boards and Commissions and was appointed Chairman of many of them; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey V. Morse, while serving as Town Manager, experienced the fire on Mineral Springs Mountain; and he experienced Hurricane Hugo and led the Town through the worst destruction in its history, with a minimum loss of resources, and he tenaciously continued on through the ongoing recovery process with FEMA; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey V. Morse secured millions of dollars in grant funds for Town projects; he led the Coalition to protect the Catawba River; he brought many economic development projects to fruition; he saw the development of several subdivisions, including three riverfront subdivisions; and a complete list of his accomplishments for the Town of Valdese are too numerous for this document to contain; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey V. Morse has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has encountered and he also earned the affection of his fellow public servants, who are proud to call him "friend."

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 JEFFREY V. MORSE for his outstanding contributions to the Council, Staff and Citizens of Valdese as well as Local Governments in the Unifour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Jeffrey V. Morse for his leadership and guidance to the Town of Valdese during the past 35 years as its Town Manager and extends congratulations and best wishes upon his retirement.

Adopted this the 29th day of June, 2015.

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

ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE Mayor Black also presented Mr. Morse with the prestigious "Order of the Long Leaf Pine."

Mr. Morse said he appreciated the remarks and the awards. He said it had been an honor and privilege to serve Council over the past 35 years. He said it had also been an honor to serve the citizens of Valdese.

Mr. Morse received a standing ovation.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2015

ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS LAPTOP

RESOLUTION FOR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, under authority granted by NC General Statute 160A-265 which allows municipalities to dispose of personal property; and

WHEREAS, the Valdese Town Council is requested to declare the laptop of retiring Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse as surplus and the item is determined to have no value; and

WHEREAS, the laptop is requested to be awarded to Town Manager Jeffrey V. Morse upon his retirement from the Town of Valdese – Administration Department on June 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the laptop assigned to Mr. Morse be declared surplus property and determined to have no value and to be presented to Mr. Morse upon his retirement on June 30, 2015.

This 29th day of June, 2015.

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

ATTEST: /s/ Town Clerk

APPROVED WATERSIDE BOND FINAL REDUCTION Mr. Dan Rawn, LR Acquisitions, requested the Town return the remainder of cash bond in the amount of \$5,000, plus interest in the amount of \$36.86 as of the end of May 2015. The final request was reviewed and approved by David Poore, West Consultants.

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT AT OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH STILL WATERS COUNSELING, INC. The lease agreement at the Old Rock School with Still Waters Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$270 per month.

APPROVED CLOSE OUT BUILDING REUSE DEFERRED LOAN – DOWNTOWN DELIGHTS The requirements were met and staff recommended that the building reuse grant be closed out.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

FY 2015 – 2016 BUDGET (1) PUBLIC HEARING AND (2) ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE Mayor Black opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

Town Manager Jeff Morse said he presented budget highlights at the June 1, 2015 Council meeting and there was several items added to capital reserves, including the \$5,000 for two gazebos. He said the three Public Works employees that were working for a temporary agency would become full-time employees. He thanked the Department Heads for their hard work during the budget process.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

FY 2015 – 2016 ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE

**TOWN OF VALDESE BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2015 - 2016**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT:

Section I: The following amounts are hereby appropriated to the fund set forth for the operation of the town government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this town:

GENERAL FUND		\$ 5,122,489
Governing Body	\$ 62,755	
Administration	1,052,234	
Public Works	345,960	
Maintenance & Grounds	198,900	
Planning	83,294	
Police	884,046	
Fire	672,251	
Street	175,040	
Powell Bill	149,823	
Sanitation	248,551	
Recreation	760,406	
Tourism/Community Affairs	489,229	
UTILITY FUND		\$ 4,791,235
Water	1,805,677	
Wastewater	1,761,136	
Water/Sewer Const.	1,224,422	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 9,913,724</u>

Section II: It is estimated, and therefore appropriated, that the following revenues will be made available to the respective funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 5,122,489
UTILITY FUND	\$ 4,791,235
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 9,913,724</u>

Section III: There is hereby levied an ad valorem tax at the rate of forty eight and one half cents (\$0.485) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2016 for the purpose of raising a portion of the revenue listed in the General Fund appropriation in Section II of this ordinance. This rate, based upon an estimated total valuation of \$328,892,270 will generate a levy of \$1,557,245 with an estimated collection rate of 98% less \$12,000 reserved for discounts.

Section IV: As set forth in the Utility Fund Non-Departmental Section of the FY 2015-2016 budget document, the amount of \$418,406 is appropriated for the purpose of debt service and that this amount is sufficient for the complete and proper payment of all bond principal, bond interest and commissions on the outstanding debt of the town relating thereto for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016.

Section V: Long Term Monitoring surcharge for industrial pretreatment program.

Program Cost: \$14,350

Section VI: The fee schedule for utility service for INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS is as follows:

<u>Inside Water</u> (Consumption /1000 gal.)	<u>Inside Wastewater</u> (Discharge/1000 gal.)
0 - 3 \$11.31	Admin. Billing Charge \$6.15
4 - 3000 2.15	
3001+ 1.04	User Charge 2.05
<u>Outside Water - Town System</u> (Consumption /1000 gal.)	<u>Outside Wastewater - Town System</u> (Discharge /1000 gal.)
0 - 3 \$24.19	Double Inside Rate
4 - 3000 4.30	
3001+ 2.08	

The fee schedule for utility service for COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS is as follows:

<u>Inside Water</u> (consumption / 1000 gal.)	<u>Inside Wastewater</u> (discharge / 1000 gal.)
Fixed Meter Charge +	Minimum charge
0 - 3 26.26	
4 - Plus 2.60	up to 3000 gals. \$5.79
	Cost per 1000 gal. \$1.93
<u>Outside Water - Town System</u> (consumption / 1000 gal.)	<u>Outside Wastewater- Town System</u> (discharge / 1000 gal.)
Fixed Meter Charge +	Double Inside Rate
0 - 3 38.48	
4 - Plus 5.20	

Planning Director Larry Johnson reviewed the proposed zoning amendments for detached garages and said the Planning Board recommended approval. He recommended a possible workshop for review of electronic display signs for Members of Council in July. **(NOTE: Amendments regarding Detached Garages may be found in Ordinance Book No. 9, pg. 98.)**

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing for Detached Garages and continued the public hearing for Electronic Display Signs on August 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Councilman Delp made a motion to approve the zoning amendments for detached garages and to continue the public hearing for electronic display signs at the regularly scheduled August 3, 2015 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ogle and carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT WITH WPCOG FOR 2015-2016 TECHNICAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE Planning Director Larry Johnson said the agreement with WPCOG for Technical Planning Assistance in the amount of \$21,900 was to assist the Planning Department in planning and enforcement activities. This contract represents a \$100 decrease from last year's agreement.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with WPCOG for 2015-2016 Technical Planning Assistance, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

AGREEMENT WITH WPCOG FOR WESTERN PIEDMONT STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP Mr. Morse said the agreement with WPCOG for Assistance in Supporting the Western Piedmont Stormwater Partnership in the amount of \$2,111 (Valdese portion of the partnership fee).

Councilman Ogle asked if only Valdese and Morganton were the municipalities in Burke County and only three municipalities in Catawba County. Mr. Morse said he would follow-up with the WPCOG on the cities in the partnership.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with WPCOG for Western Piedmont Stormwater Partnership in the amount of \$2,111, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

GAZEBO REPLACEMENTS - CAROLINA STREET AND ORCHARD AVENUE Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth requested the purchase of two prefabricated gazebos for the outlying park areas of Carolina Street and Orchard Avenue. Staff recommended purchasing the gazebos from Leonard Buildings for a total cost of \$4,800.

Councilwoman Hildebran said one of the gazebo replacements was in her Ward and she had received complaints about the condition of the gazebo. She said she also received comments about the 300 acre park near Lake Rhodhiss that we should look at taking care of the parks we currently have and maintain them before looking at developing a new park. She thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth for his work replacing the gazebos.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the purchase of two gazebos in the amount of \$4,800, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

FY 2014 - 2015 YEAR END BUDGET AMENDMENT Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following year end budget amendment:

SUPPLEMENTAL YEAR END BUDGET AMENDMENT

GENERAL FUND

Total Revenue:	2,352
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2013 Ad Valorem Tax	10.3010.131	(15,200)
2013 Motor Vehicle Tax	10.3010.132	8,000
Tax Penalty & Int	10.3170.000	
Utility Franchise Tax	10.3370.000	41,900
Powell Bill	10.3430.000	(1,831)
Sales Tax	10.3450.010	31,900
Insurance Reimbursement	10.3680.000	2,600

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Old Colony Players	10.3970.023	5,100
From Utility	10.3970.302	10,000
From Utility	10.3970.302	3,000
From Utility	10.3970.302	5,473
Grant - Main St	10.3970.625	(64,316)
Festival	10.3970.920	3,000
Insurance Reserve	10.3970.930	(30,000)
Powell Bill Fund Balance	10.3990.000	226
Fund Balance	10.3990.000	2,500

Expenditures:

Governing Body			0
Professional Services	10.4100.040	2,000	
Group Insurance	10.4100.060	(3,600)	
Dept Supplies	10.4100.330	800	
Misc	10.4100.570	800	
Administration			34,100
Salaries	10.4200.020	3,000	
Professional Services	10.4200.040		
Group Insurance	10.4200.060	(3,000)	
Unemployment	10.4200.080	7,700	
Telephone	10.4200.110	3,500	
Travel	10.4200.140	1,000	
Dept Supplies - PC's	10.4200.330	4,000	
NC Sales Tax	10.4200.370	8,000	
County Sales Tax	10.4200.390	4,000	
Contracted Services - HAS	10.4200.454	3,000	
Dues & Subscriptions	10.4200.530	5,000	
Capital Outlay	10.4200.740	(15,000)	
Burke County Library	10.4200.930	2,500	
Business Revitalization	10.4200.940	13,000	
Contingency	10.4200.990	3,000	
Contingency	10.4200.990	(5,600)	
Public Works Admin			2,000
Salaries	10.4250.020	1,500	
Over Time	10.4250.021		
Maint & Repair Bldg	10.4250.150	2,000	
Dept Supplies	10.4250.330	(1,500)	
Maintenance & Grounds			(2,000)
Salaries	10.4350.020	5,000	
Part Time	10.4350.022	4,000	
Maint & Repair Bldg	10.4350.150	1,500	
M&R Equipment	10.4350.160		
Helping Hands	10.4350.451	(12,500)	
Insurance & Bonds	10.4350.540		
Planning			3,773
Professional Services	10.4900.042	5,473	

June 29, 2015, MB#30

Condemnations	10.4900.451	9,300	
Dues & Subscriptions	10.4900.530	(10,000)	
Insurance & Bonds	10.4900.540	(1,000)	
Police			4,265
Salaries	10.5100.020	20,000	
Over Time	10.5100.021	2,000	
Part Time	10.5100.022	(2,000)	
Extra Duty Hours	10.5100.024	(11,000)	
Retirement	10.5100.070	4,000	
Utility Electric	10.5100.130	1,265	
Auto Supplies Gas	10.5100.311	(10,000)	
Contract Services	10.5100.450		
Fire			1,900
Salaries & Wages	10.5300.020	(2,000)	
Part Time	10.5300.022	(2,000)	
Group Insurance	10.5300.060	3,600	
Utilities - Gas	10.5300.131	(2,000)	
Maint & Repair Vehicle	10.5300.170	6,000	
Contract Services - 911	10.5300.451	(1,800)	
Insurance & Bonds	10.5300.540	100	
Safety	10.5300.572		
Street			1,600
Salaries	10.5600.020	5,000	
Utilities Street Lights	10.5600.133	2,000	
Maint & Repair Bldgs	10.5600.150	2,500	
Maint & Repair Equip	10.5600.160	(2,500)	
Auto Supplies Gas	10.5600.311	2,000	
Insurance & Bonds	10.5600.540	(7,400)	
Sanitation			5,500
Salaries	10.5800.020	500	
Maint & Repair Equip	10.5800.160	6,000	
Maint & Repair Auto	10.5800.170	5,000	
Dept Supplies	10.5800.330	(6,000)	
Debt Service	10.5800.910	15,435	
Contribution to CRF	10.5800.961	(15,435)	
Recreation			1,500
Salaries	10.6200.020	4,000	
Part Time	10.6200.022	4,000	
Utility Exp - Gas	10.6200.131	2,000	
Maint & Repair Bldg	10.6200.150	(2,000)	
Maint & Repair Equip	10.5800.160	3,000	
Dept Supplies	10.6200.330	3,500	
Chemicals	10.6200.332	(1,500)	
PFR Concessions	10.6200.481	(5,000)	
Dues & Subscriptions	10.6200.530	(2,000)	
Insurance & Bonds	10.6200.540	(3,500)	

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Sales Tax	10.6200.570	(1,000)	
Community Affairs			(50,286)
Professional Services	10.6250.040	11,500	
Professional Services - Main St	10.6250.041	(4,450)	
Contract Services	10.6250.450	(58,224)	
Insurance & Bonds	10.6250.540	2,500	
Misc - Main St	10.6250.570	(1,642)	
Misc - Main St	10.6250.570	(20,174)	
Trans to Art Fund	10.6250.928	30	
Trans to CRF	10.6250.929	20,174	
Total Expenditures			<u>2,352</u>
			0

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned FY 2014-2-015 Year End Budget Amendment, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW TOWN MANAGER SETH ECKARD Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Eckard.

Mr. Eckard received a standing ovation.

Mr. Morse requested that Mr. Eckard take the Town Manager's seat at the dais and Mr. Morse stepped down.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:

Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation (VEDIC) - Reappointment of Eddie McGimsey to a third, 3-year term and John Fredrickson to a second, 3-year term. These terms expire July 1, 2018. Also, appointment of Seth Eckard as Town Manager Representative, to serve as an Ex Officio Voting Member.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments to the VEDIC Board of Directors, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

Valdese ABC Board – Appointment of Seth Eckard, New Town Manager to fill unexpired term of Jeffrey V. Morse, current Town Manager. The term expires April 1, 2017.

Burke County Narcotics Task Force – Appointment of Seth Eckard, Town Manager to replace to fill unexpired term of Jeff Morse.

Catawba Wateree Water Management Group – Appointment of Seth Eckard, Town Manager, as the Town's Primary Voting Member replacing Jeff Morse and Water Plant Superintendent Jerry Conley as the Town's Secondary Voting Member.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

Appointment of Chairman to Valdese ABC Board – Staff recommends Town Manager Seth Eckard to replace Jeffrey V. Morse, term expires March 31, 2016.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to appoint Town Manager Seth Eckard as Chairman of the Valdese ABC Board, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

TOWN BENCHES

Councilwoman Hildebran thanked Ms. Carla Berry for providing the list of citizens and organizations that purchased Town benches.

SAFE TOWN

Councilman Delp said the Town of Valdese was appointed one of the 10 safest Towns in North Carolina due to the hard work of the Police Department and he thanked the officers.

Police Chief Jack Moss said this was a reflection on the Police Department as well as the Fire Department.

POSSIBLE TIME CHANGE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councilman Ogle recommended moving the Valdese Town Council meeting time from 7:00 p.m., to 6:00 p.m. He said this may require a code amendment.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT UPDATE FOR JULY 3, 2015

Mayor Black requested that Administrative Specialist Morrissa Walker Angi offer a brief update on the July 3, Family Friday Night. Ms. Angi said the band, "Too Much Sylvia" would begin at 7:00 p.m., and fireworks would begin around 9:45 p.m.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager Seth Eckard presented the following items:

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT/INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

TOWN OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2015, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015

At 8:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, August 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, August 3, 2015, at 7:00 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, Councilman Gary L. Delp, 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: Councilwoman Frances Hildebran and Councilwoman Susan Stevenson

A quorum was present.

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

PRESENTATION OF MAIN STREET COMMUNITY CERTIFICATE – COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BARBARA HEFNER Ms. Hefner presented a certificate to Mayor Black which read, "The State of North Carolina is pleased to designate Valdese as a North Carolina Main Street Community. This certificate attests that your Town was selected by the Department of Commerce, North Carolina Main Street Center as a participant in the North Carolina Main Street Program for Downtown Revitalization. July 1, 2015, John Skvarla, Secretary of Commerce and Elizabeth H. Parham, Director, NC Main Street Center."

Mayor Black said this award was due to the work of our great staff and great volunteers and he thanked them.

JOHN EDWARD MCFADDEN, PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE TOWN'S TOBACCO USE POLICY Dr. McFadden said he resided at 110 Tron Park Avenue NE in Valdese. He said he appeared before Council approximately five years ago and recommend a no smoking policy of which staff studied and a policy was put in place. He recommended the policy be amended to coincide with Burke County Public Schools smoking policy. He recently observed a man spit tobacco juice into a bottle at the Recreation Center and he was concerned what would have happened had the man dropped his bottle on the gym carpeted floor. He recommended Council study the issue.

Mayor Black requested that the Town Manager review the policy and bring a recommendation before Council at the next meeting.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell commented on the current NC General Statute that authorizes banning tobacco.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2015

ADOPTED RESOLUTION FOR GREATER HICKORY MPO AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF VALDESE, NORTH CAROLINA**

THAT WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of travel within and through the Hickory urbanized area is highly desirable element of a comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and development of the area, and;

WHEREAS, there are a number of governmental jurisdictions within the Hickory urbanized area which have been authorized with implementation and regulatory responsibilities for transportation by North Carolina General Statutes, and;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that coordinated, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning processes be maintained in the Hickory urbanized area to ensure that the transportation system is maintained on an efficient and economical basis commensurate with the public health, safety and welfare, and;

WHEREAS, a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Brookford, Town of Cahaj's Mountain, Town of Catawba, Village of Cedar Rock, City of Claremont, City of Conover, Town of Connelly Springs, Town of Drexel, Town of Gamewell, Town of Glen Alpine, Town of Granite Falls, City of Hickory, Town of Hildebran, Town of Hudson, City of Lenoir, Town of Long View, Town of Maiden, City of Morganton, City of Newton, Town of Rhodhiss, Town of Rutherford College, Town of Sawmills, Town of Taylorsville, Town of Valdese, Alexander County, Burke County, Caldwell County, Catawba County and the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been prepared that sets forth the responsibilities and working arrangements for maintaining a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE, NORTH CAROLINA:

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Brookford, Town of Cahaj's Mountain, Town of Catawba, Village of Cedar Rock, City of Claremont, City of Conover, Town of Connelly Springs, Town of Drexel, Town of Gamewell, Town of Glen Alpine, Town of Granite Falls, City of Hickory, Town of Hildebran, Town of Hudson, City of Lenoir, Town of Long View, Town of Maiden, City of Morganton, City of Newton, Town of Rhodhiss, Town of Rutherford College, Town of Sawmills, Town of Taylorsville, Town of Valdese, Alexander County, Burke County, Caldwell County, Catawba County and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby directed to execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Town of Valdese this the 3rd day of August, 2015.

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

ATTEST: /s/ Clerk

ACCEPTED GRANT AWARD FOR SPARKY FIRE DOG COSTUME AND ACCESSORIES The Fire Department received a grant award in the amount of \$2,800 from Factory Mutual Insurance Company towards the purchase of a Sparky Fire Dog costume and accessories.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT BREATHING APPARATUS

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS

WHEREAS: The Town of Valdese has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing of breathing apparatuses, (the "Project"), and the Finance Director has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. Valdese hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T"), in accordance with the proposal dated July 29, 2015. The amount financed shall not exceed \$130,000.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 2.15%, and the financing term shall not exceed three (3) years from closing.
2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of Valdese are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.
3. The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Director is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Valdese officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Director shall approve, with the Finance Director's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.
4. Valdese shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. Valdese hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).

5. Valdese intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of Valdese's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the BB&T financing described above. Valdese intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from Valdese's general fund, or any other Valdese fund related to the project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

6. All prior actions of Valdese officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this 3rd day of August 2015.

By: /s/ Town Clerk

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

APPROVED AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE – WATER DEPARTMENT AND POLICE DEPARTMENT Request from Water Plant Superintendent Jerry Conley requested to hire a third shift Treatment Plant Operator, and request from Police Chief Jack Moss to hire a Police Officer and also promote a Sergeant within the department.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY PRESENTATION

Foothills Conservancy Land Protection Director Tom Kenney offered a presentation on park acquisition project to acquire land at Lake Rhodhiss. He offered a brief PowerPoint. Mr. Kenney said Foothills Conservancy was a land trust and they had an office in Morganton for the past 20 years. To date, working with public and private partners, they have conserved approximately 40,000 acres of land. He said they would work with Crescent Communities to see if they could successfully acquire the property along Lake Rhodhiss for a future park. The next important step before they begin negotiations would be to have the Town's authorization for Foothills Conservancy to pursue grants to fund the project. He further described the property. Foothills Conservancy, over the past three years, was awarded over \$1.6 million from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund which helps fund property along lakes and streams. He said they received \$100,000 from Duke Energy last year and the next application process would be early next year.

Town Manager Seth Eckard said there would be no Town funds used to purchase the property.

Councilman Ogle said we need to maintain and repair items at the current Town parks.

Councilman Sweezy said this would be an excellent opportunity to obtain an option on 297 acres to be used for a future park.

Councilman Delp asked the total to acquire the property. Mr. Kenney said \$1.2 million with grants, company and private contributions. Councilman Delp said he agreed with Councilman Sweezy that this would be an excellent opportunity for the Town.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Sweezy made a motion to authorize Foothills Conservancy to pursue grant funding to obtain land for a Town-owned park, seconded by Councilman Delp.

Voting aye: Delp and Sweezy

Voting no: Ogle

Mayor Black said the motion carried.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CODE CHANGING COUNCIL MEETING TIME Town Manager Seth Eckard presented the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-1011
OF THE VALDESE TOWN CODE CHANGING THE COUNCIL MEETING TIME**

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Valdese Town Council that the Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

Part 2, Government and Administration, Chapter 1, Article B, Meetings

Section 2-1011 Regular meetings; time and place.

There shall be a regular meeting of the council at the town hall, on the first Monday in each month, at ~~7:00 p.m.~~, 6:00 p.m., unless another place, date or time shall be designated, in which case, each member of the council shall be so notified.

This 3rd day of August, 2015.

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

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to amend the Code of Ordinances by changing the Council meeting time from 7:00 p.m., until 6:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION AMENDING 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR Mayor Black said the meetings calendar would need to be amended as follows:

**TOWN OF VALDESE
RESOLUTION AMENDING 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-1011 of the Town of Valdese Code of Ordinances, there shall be a regular meeting of the council at the town hall, on the first Monday in each month, at ~~7:00 p.m.~~, 6:00 p.m., unless another place, date or time shall be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Valdese Town Council adopts the following amended Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2015:

- September 8, 2015, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., due to Labor Day Holiday
- October 5, 2015
- November 2, 2015
- November 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Annual Dinner Meeting with Valdese Merchants Association, Old Rock School, Waldensian Room
- December 7, 2015

Amended this 3rd day of August, 2015.

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

Councilman Ogle made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution changing the time from 7:00 p.m., until 6:00 p.m., for Council meetings through December 2015, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS REGARDING ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SIGNAGE UNTIL OCTOBER 5, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING Mayor Black said at the June 29th Council meeting, the Public Hearing was opened and the amendments regarding electronic display signage was continued until the August 3 meeting; however, Planning Director Larry Johnson requested the public hearing be continued until the October 5, 2015 meeting allowing staff and the Planning Board additional time to recommend changes.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to continue the public hearing for electronic display signs at the regularly scheduled October 5, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Council meeting located at Valdese Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sweezy and carried unanimously.

SAFETY AWARDS PRESENTATION Fire Chief Charlie Watts presented Certificates of Safety Achievement awards from the North Carolina Department of Labor 2014 Safety Awards. He commended Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth because a public works department is where most accidents occur due to the type of work. Mr. Duckworth conducts a safety meeting every week.

Administration – 27th consecutive year
Old Rock School/Community Affairs – 4th consecutive year

Police Department –
 Public Works – 8th consecutive year
 Triple Water – 2nd consecutive year
 Water – 6th consecutive year
 Wastewater – Second year

APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR CONTROLLED ACCESS SYSTEM – POLICE/FIRE COMPLEX Police Chief Jack Moss presented a proposal for a Controlled Access System for the Police/Fire Complex in the amount of \$12,763.67. This was due to a requirement that the Police Department become compliant from the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), through the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Police Department must be in compliance for its Division of Criminal Information (DCI) Audit by February 2016. Chief Moss said there will be no unauthorized cards issued and they would know who enters and exits the building. All doors would be included except the old town hall.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned proposal with Edwards Equipment Co., Inc., in the amount of \$12,763.67 for controlled access system at the Police/Fire Complex, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

AWARD OF BID TO RESURFACE TENNIS COURTS Recreation Director Doug Knight said staff received three bids to resurface the tennis courts and recommends the lowest bidder, Court One in the amount of \$17,737. (Other bids were S & S Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$18,145 and Quality Seal Coating & Sport Surfaces in the amount of \$19,300.)

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the lowest bidder, Court One in the amount of \$17,737, to resurface the tennis courts, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL ASSOCIATES FOR DOWNTOWN PARK IMPROVEMENTS Town Manager Seth Eckard said the agreement with McGill Associates for Downtown Park Improvements that included multipurpose building, splash play feature, walking trails, playground feature, picnic shelter, paved parking lot, and corn hole courts; however, all items listed may not come to fruition as staff does not know the cost, of which much depends on how the bids come in and available funding. The agreement in the amount of \$54,500 would be paid from PARTF Grant Funds.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with McGill Associates in the amount of \$54,500, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following five budget amendments:

Budget Amendment No. 01 - Façade – Myra’s

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4200.943 Economic Development	<u>2,500</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 2,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 2,500 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.

10.3970.302 From Utility		<u>2,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 2,500</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 02 - Tennis Courts

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.6200.150 Maint & Repair	<u>15,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$15,000 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.

10.3970.302 From Utility		<u>15,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 03 - Police Entry System

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5100.740 Capital	<u>10,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$10,000 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.

10.3970.302 From Utility		10,000
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 04 - Fire Department Roof Trim Painting

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.

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, 2016:

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

August 3, 2015, MB#30

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5300.150 Maint & Repair	<u>7,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$7,000 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.

10.3970.302 From Utility		<u>7,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 05 - Gazebos

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4350.150 Maint & Repair	<u>5,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$5,000 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.

10.3970.302 From Utility		<u>5,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>

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.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the five aforementioned budget amendments, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Delp requested that the Mayor and Manager sit closer to the mic as it was difficult for him to hear.

Councilman Delp thanked Sandi Walker for selling 200 50/50 tickets during Family Friday Night on July 31 while he and Water Superintendent Jerry Conley sold hot dogs.

Councilman Ogle thanked Town Manager Seth Eckard and Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth for coming to his residence to check on a dirty water issue.

Councilman Ogle thanked Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner for her work on the Main Street Community and Waldensian Festival. He also thanked Fire, Police, and Public Works employees.

Councilman Sweezy asked when Council would recommend a small town façade grant and Mr. Eckard said at the September Council Meeting.

Councilman Ogle asked when would Council look at the downtown project. Mr. Eckard said possibly the next meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager Seth Eckard announced the following:

40TH ANNUAL WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL AND FOOTRACE – AUGUST 7 & 8, 2015 Mr. Eckard requested that Administrative Specialist Morrissa Walker Angi give a brief overview of festival activities.

Ms. Angi said Valdese Weavers was sponsoring the festival for their 100th year celebration and they would have a display in the Waldensian Room at the Old Rock School. She reviewed the festival activities.

Ms. Hefner said Ms. Angi had worked very hard on the Waldensian Festival and stated all 170 booths were filled.

GRAND OPENING/RIBBON CUTTING FOR FORMAL SHOWCASE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015, 11:00 A.M.

SONY RECEPTION, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015, 5:00 P.M. Mr. Eckard said a reception would be held for Sony Representatives and Members of Council were invited.

SONY BRINGING PLAYSTATION 4S TO THE OLD ROCK SCHOOL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015, NOON - 6:00 P.M. Fire Engineer Steve Kiddy and his wife, who works with the special needs population, offered a brief overview of the Sony event. Mr. Kiddy said they entered a contest for Sony PlayStation and were one of four winners out of 400 entries. The entire event would be funded by Sony.

Mr. Eckard said one could do a computer search to find out more about “My Road to Greatness.” Mr. Kiddy said one could also find information on the Town’s website.

CATAWBA VALLEY STAFFING JOB FAIR, 152 EAST MAIN STREET, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015, 10:00 A.M., UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

TOWN OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2015, IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, 6:00 P.M., DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

ASU INTERN – MADELEINE SHULL Town Manager Seth Eckard said Ms. Shull completed her Internship on this date. He said she did an outstanding job preparing several standard operating procedure manuals for the Town. Mr. Eckard said he encouraged her to become a Town Manager.

UPDATE ON STAGE 1 DROUGHT Water Superintendent Jerry Conley said he received notice from Duke Energy this date that the Town was still in Stage 1 Drought which meant asking citizens to voluntarily conserve water.

At 8:02 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m., due to Labor Day Holiday.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met Tuesday, September 8, 2015, (due to Labor Day Holiday), 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 Thelda B. Rhoney, 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE WORKER SCOTTY ELMORE Mayor Black said Council challenged employees to come up with ideas that would either save the town money, help us be more efficient, or provide better services to citizens and on behalf of Council, Mayor Black presented Mr. Elmore with a \$100 Visa gift card. Town Manager Seth Eckard said Mr. Elmore suggested encouraging citizens to bag their garbage and recommended placing a note on water bills which saved time with the garbage collection process.

MR. DONALD SMITH Mr. Smith said he lived in the Springwood Development for over 22 years and used to own Valdese Video, Tanning and Fitness for 16 years. He had a business idea of a Craft Distillery and recommended changes in the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate his request. He distributed information on his proposal to bring Craft Distilling to Valdese and he shared a "Passport" document from the NC Distilleries Association.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Black said the Planning Board would examine our ordinances and it would come back to Council. Staff would keep Mr. Smith informed.

MR. JOE MARKS Thanked the Town of Valdese for proclaiming September as National Recovery Month, not only for drugs and alcohol but mental health issues as well.

PRESENTATION OF SAFETY AWARD TO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – FIRE CHIEF CHARLIE WATTS Chief Watts said Parks and Recreation was recognized for the fourth consecutive year.

PRESENTATION OF VALDESE PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE – ROSE MUELLER AND MORRISSA ANGI Ms. Mueller and Ms. Angi presented two brief YouTube videos about the Town of Valdese.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – August 3, 2015

AUTHORIZED DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY – WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Treatment Plant Superintendent Greg Padgett requested the following items be approved as surplus:

- (6) Westinghouse Electrical Disconnect Boxes
- (2) 12" Vertical Morris Pumps
- (2) US Motor Vertical Motors
- (2) Allen Bradley 200hp VFDs (Variable Frequency Drives)
- (2) Pringle Electrical Manual Switch Gear
- (2) 20" to 12" Check Valves
- (3) Louis Allis 10hp Motors
- (1) 24' Warren Dump Trailer
- (1) EZ-Go Golf Cart
- (1) 8" Check Valve
- (1) Goodwrench Vertical Air Compressor
- (1) North Star Trash Pump

The items would be auctioned on GovDeals or sold as scrap.

APPROVED PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

WHEREAS, substance abuse/dependence and mental disorders are very real problems that affect individuals, families and communities, including Valdese and Burke County; and

WHEREAS, prevention of mental disorders and substance abuse/dependence works; treatment is effective, and people do recover, as evidenced by the many people in recovery across our country; and

WHEREAS, preventing and overcoming substance abuse/dependence and mental disorders is essential to the health and wellness of individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers save \$5.60 for every \$1 spent on prevention and \$7 for every \$1 spent on treatment, as a result of increased productivity and reduced healthcare, criminal justice, and social service costs; and

WHEREAS, to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); the Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; the Burke Recovery; and, the Town Council of the Town of Valdese invite all residents to observe the 26th Anniversary of National Recovery Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, on behalf of the Valdese Town Council do hereby proclaim the month of September 2015 as

"National Recovery Month"

in the Town of Valdese and I urge all citizens to participate in programs and events that affirm the benefits of recovery.

This 8th day of September, 2015.

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

FALL 2015 LITTER SWEEP The Governor proclaimed September 19 – October 3, 2015, as Fall 2015 Litter Sweep and the Town plans to participate in this program.

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH P & W RAILROAD CLUB The lease agreement with P & W Railroad Club for rental space at the Old Rock School in the amount of \$210 per month.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

CALL PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUILDING REUSE GRANT – 149 MAIN STREET WEST This item was removed from the consent agenda, no action taken.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING SMOKING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2015 (NOTE: Ordinance may be found in Ordinance Book No. 9, page 102.) Mayor Black said Dr. Ed McFadden recommended changes to the Valdese Smoking Ordinance. Town Manager Seth Eckard said the major changes were the ordinance now includes all tobacco products such as chewing tobacco and e-cigarettes. The ordinance becomes effective November 1, 2015, allowing time for staff to order signage.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CERTAIN CHANGES TO THE TOWN
SMOKING ORDINANCE AND TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF E-CIGARETTES
AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON CERTAIN TOWN PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, G.S. 130A-498 grants local governments the authority, with some limitations, to regulate smoking in public places; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes and other vapor products are not lighted, and therefore G.S. 130A-498 does not authorize local governments to regulate the use of e-cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns do have the authority under their police power to enact ordinances to define, regulate, prohibit, or abate, acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes have a range of potential impacts on individual population health, and significant questions remain regarding their safety and their impact on patterns of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the town council is of the opinion that e-cigarettes should be prohibited in any vehicle or building occupied by the Town of Valdese where smoking or use of tobacco products is prohibited, and that such use should also be prohibited within fifty (50) feet of any public entrance of such buildings; and

WHEREAS, the town council is of the opinion that the use of tobacco products such as chewing tobacco can constitute a health risk to the public, that such use can lead to unhealthy habits among adolescents, that such use can lead to conditions detrimental to the cleanliness of town property and that the use of tobacco products in Town of Valdese vehicles and on property occupied by the Town should therefore be prohibited; and

WHEREAS, certain minor changes need to be made to the Town's smoking ordinance to bring it into compliance with current state law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE AS FOLLOWS: Sections 8-5006 through 8-5010 of the Valdese Town Code are hereby replaced by the following sections, which are hereby adopted:

Section 8-5006 Definitions.

(a) "E-cigarette" shall mean any noncombustible product that employs a heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat a liquid nicotine solution contained in a vapor cartridge. The term includes an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo and electronic pipe. The term does not include any product regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

(b) "Smoking" shall mean the use or possession of a lighted cigarette, lighted cigar, lighted pipe, or any other lighted tobacco product.

(c) "Tobacco product" shall mean any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component part of accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, cheroots, stogies, periques, granulated, plug cut, crump cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco, snuff, snuff flour, Cavendish, plug and twist tobacco, fine-cut and other chewing tobacco, shorts, refuse scraps, clippings, cutting and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of tobacco. A tobacco product excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

(d) "Town Building" shall mean a building owned or leased by the Town of Valdese and occupied, managed or controlled by the town including, but not limited to, the Old Rock School building and the Valdese Community Center.

(e) "Town Park or Sports Facility" shall mean a park or a sports facility owned, leased or operated by the Town of Valdese including, but not limited to, McGalliard Falls Park, Children's Park, Fletcher Ball Park, and the track and football facility located behind the Old Rock School including Joe Temple Field and Michael Jeffrey Morse Field House.

(f) "Town Vehicle" shall mean a passenger carrying vehicle owned, leased or otherwise controlled by the Town of Valdese and assigned permanently or temporarily to town employees, agencies, institutions, or facilities for official town business.

(g) "Universal "No-Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products Prohibited" Symbol" shall mean a symbol consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette and tobacco product enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it.

Section 8-5007 Areas Where Smoking and the Use of Tobacco Products and E-cigarettes are prohibited. Smoking and the use of tobacco products and E-cigarette are prohibited in the following locations:

- (1) Town Buildings and within 50 feet of any entrance to a Town Building;
- (2) Town Vehicles; and
- (3) Town Parks and Sports Facilities.

Section 8-5008 Areas Where Smoking and Use of Tobacco Produce and E-cigarettes are Not Prohibited.

Smoking and the Use of Tobacco Products and E-cigarettes is not prohibited in private vehicles while parked within a Town Park or Sports Facility or anywhere else where smoking and the use of tobacco products and E-cigarettes is otherwise prohibited by this Section.

Section 8-5009 Implementation Requirements.

- (a) The Town shall post signs that meet all the requirements of Section 8-5010 of this ordinance.
- (b) Town employees shall make every effort to insure compliance with this policy, including contacting law enforcement personnel if necessary.

Section 8-5011 Signage. The signage required by Section 8-5009 must:

- (a) State that smoking, the use of tobacco products and the use of E-cigarettes are prohibited. Signs may include the Universal No Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products Prohibited symbol.
- (b) Be of sufficient size to be clearly legible to a person of normal vision and be conspicuously posted.
- (c) Be posted at entrances to Town Buildings and in other locations reasonably calculated to inform the public and employees of the prohibition.
- (d) Be posted within Town Parks and Sports Facilities in locations and at intervals reasonably calculated to inform the public and employees of the prohibition.

Section 8-5012 Enforcement and Penalties.

- (a) Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not more than \$25.
- (b) A citation may be issued by a sworn law enforcement officer. A citation issued under this Section has no consequence other than as set forth in (a) above and no court costs may be assessed.
- (c) In addition to any penalty under this section, employees of the Town who violate this ordinance shall be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the Town's personnel policies.

Section 8-5013 Severability; Conflict of Laws.

If this ordinance or any part thereof or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid of unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given separate effect and to that end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable. Whenever a provision of this ordinance conflicts with other ordinances of the Town of Valdese, this ordinance shall govern.

This ordinance shall be become effective November 1, 2015.

THIS, the 8th day of September, 2015.

TOWN OF VALDESE
/s/ John F. Black, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Town Clerk

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution adopting the amended smoking ordinance, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL ASSOCIATES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN Town Manager Seth Eckard said the agreement with McGill Associates was for preparation of a Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Valdese in the amount of \$26,300. A 10-year financial analysis model for the enterprise fund would also be generated.

Mr. Eckard said the Town needed a master plan that encompasses the water plant, wastewater plant, distribution/collection systems in order to see the big picture, prioritize and budget. He recommended that the document be tweaked every year.

Mr. Dennie Martin with McGill Associates said they view this as a starting point for a financial process that would be beneficial to the Town for future years and as a tool for capital planning and the budgeting process. He said they would produce a water/wastewater rate model.

Mayor Black said the Town had over 200 miles of water/sewer lines that the Town of Valdese oversees and most are very old and they do not last forever.

Councilwoman Stevenson said it would be good to have an organized plan.

Councilwoman Hildebran said over the past 35 years there had been a lot studies done for Valdese which had been shelved. She was in favor of the plan and recommended the management team use the plan.

Mr. Eckard said this plan would be used by the management team and recommendations would be incorporated into the budget process. He plans to fully implement the plan.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WEST CONSULTANTS FOR PAVEMENT CONDITION STUDY

The agreement with West Consultants to conduct a Pavement Condition Study that would look at the current conditions of Town maintained streets and provide a prioritized list of paving projects with cost estimates. Staff requested the use of Powell Bill Fund Balance to pay for the study that would not exceed \$10,000. Mr. Eckard said there were 37 miles of roads (does not include state maintained roads) in the Town of Valdese and he recommended a pavement condition study by West Consultants. He said they would use a 14 point system to rate the roads, then we would have a roadmap for the highest priority for road repair.

Councilman Ogle asked if we need to pay \$10,000 for the study when police, fire and public works staff travel our streets/roads daily. Mr. Eckard said when you have so many priorities in town and so little funding we needed an expert opinion.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she had served on the street paving and resurfacing committee for the past four years and she believed it would be money well spent.

Councilman Delp said he agreed with Councilwoman Hildebran.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement with West Consultants, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

AGREEMENT WITH SEGAL REVENUE & EXPENSE SPECIALISTS The agreement with Segal Revenue & Expense Specialist for review of the Town's revenues and expenses to make sure the Town is being properly compensated for savings, credits, refunds, or additional revenues. The Company would receive half of funds recovered over a 24 month period. The company would present the findings at which time they would receive half and if no findings they would receive no pay.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned agreement, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF GRIST MILL REPAIRS Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said the grist mill was damaged by a large fallen tree and he reviewed clean up and repairs to the grist mill and the wheel. The wheel was totally demolished. The grist mill needs a roof immediately and staff obtained a cost estimate from Queen Construction in the amount of \$1,500 to repair damaged wood roof with shingles or \$1,350 for a metal or tin roof. F & S Contractors for \$3,000 would remove the demolished wheel and the fallen tree plus three additional trees that need to be taken down.

The Historic Valdese Foundation offered \$5,000 toward repairs and clean up.

Mr. Duckworth said a new wheel would cost approximately \$13,000 and a crane would be needed to install at an estimated cost of \$30,000, plus funds would be needed for a new water trough.

Staff would need to research to see if there are parts for the actual grinder inside the grist mill.

Mr. Eckard said the mill is iconic to Valdese and he said staff was asking for volunteers and checking with nonprofits for assistance. He said there were programs such as Kickstarter and Fundly, where people could donate any amount from \$1 to any amount for this type of project. Community Affairs staff would post information on the programs.

Mayor Black said we need to look for other funding sources.

Councilwoman Hildebran said in 1993 during the Town's 100th Anniversary, the Historic Valdese Foundation renovated the grist mill. She said it was important to preserve the historical landmark which had been in the community since the 20s or 30s.

Councilman Ogle said the roof needs replacing and research the best type roof to use when it was first built.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve \$3,000 to clean up the trees and remove the wheel and \$1,500 to repair the roof with the type of roof that was used when the grist mill was built (total \$4,500), seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATION ON DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner offered a brief update on the sidewalk project. Repairs to the first block from 100 Main to Catawba Valley Staffing proposed at – \$145,000; second block from the new antique store with bump-out estimated at \$99,500 and removal of bump-out - \$79,000.

Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth offered Plan B which could be managed in-house and affordable. He presented the following four parts:

1. Remove six river birch trees and replanting with trident maples - \$4,700
2. Repair existing brick sidewalk (900 sq. ft. @ \$15.60 per square foot and the costs would be the same as replacing with new sidewalk) - \$14,040
3. Replacement of wooden planter boxes (10 large and 4 small) – design to match benches from Powell Welding in the amount of \$10,100
4. Re-landscaping bump-out by removing holly at the 100 block west and replace with crepe myrtles - \$3,000

Mr. Duckworth asked for direction from Council.

Councilwoman Stevenson said she had three visitors downtown recently and two of the three stumped their toe on the sidewalk.

Councilwoman Hildebran recommended that the record reflect why the project was being delayed.

Mayor Black said the Town had planned to borrow the money for the project but since that time financial circumstances had changed and there were other issues on the horizon. He recommended placing the project on hold for a while longer.

Councilman Ogle recommended removing trees and repairing sidewalks.

After a brief discussion regarding funding, Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve \$19,000 for the aforementioned parts 1 and 2, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner said she received word from NC Department of Transportation that there were changes in closing state roads and they needed an ordinance. She said Town Attorney Marc Mitchell prepared the following ordinance and next year Mr. Mitchell would prepare an ordinance for 2016.

September 8, 2015, MB#30

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE
TOWN OF VALDESE CHRISTMAS PARADE AND A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE
DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE**

WHEREAS, for many years the Town of Valdese has sponsored a Christmas parade and a Draughn High School Homecoming parade; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese desires to schedule a Christmas parade and a Draughn High School Homecoming parade for 2015, and to close the parade route for these parades the town council is required to adopt an ordinance regulating the use of the parade route;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the town council of the Town Of Valdese pursuant to G.S. 20-169 that the following route be closed during the days and times set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

HOMECOMING PARADE

DATE: September 29, 2015

TIME: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Main Street between the intersection of Main Street East and Eldred Street and the intersection of Main Street West and Hoyle Street

CHRISTMAS PARADE

DATE: December 5, 2015

TIME: 9:45 am – noon

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Main Street between the intersection of Main Street East and Eldred Street and the intersection of Main Street West and Hoyle Street

Signs shall be erected giving notices of the limits and times of these parades as required by G.S. 20-169.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

THIS, the 8th day of September, 2015.

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

/s/ Town Clerk

Councilman Ogle made a motion to adopt the aforementioned ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

TAX STATEMENT ANNUAL SETTLEMENT FOR 2014 – PROPERTY AND MOTOR VEHICLE Tax Collector Greg Cannon presented the following report:

Property Valuations

Real Estate	\$262,690,632.
Personal Property	60,374,648.
Senior Citizen Exemptions	-5,052,470.
Total Property Valuation Subject To Tax Rate Per \$100(.485/100)	\$318,012,810.

Gross Levy

Levy	1,542,362.
Discoveries	33,000.
Late List Penalties	1,931.
Total Levy	1,577,293.
Less Collected as of 6/30/2015	1,560,778.
Uncollected 2014 Taxes	16,515.
Ratio of Taxes Collected To Total Levy	98.95%

Annual Settlement of the Classified Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2014:

Levy	\$115,000.
2014 Collection by Burke Co.	\$135,493.
Collection Cost (1.5% Levy)	\$1,725.

Members of Council commended Mr. Cannon on the collection rate of 98.95%.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to accept the aforementioned report, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

CHARGE TO COLLECT TAXES FOR 2015 Mayor Black read the charge for Tax Collector Gregory Cannon to collect taxes for 2015 and Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered the oath.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following six budget amendments:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 06 - FIRE DEPT AIR PAK'S

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5300.740 Capital Outlay	<u>130,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$130,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$130,000 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.

10.3970.765 Loan Proceeds	<u>130,000</u>
Total	<u>\$130,000</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 07 - STREET PAVEMENT STUDY

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5700.040 Professional Services	<u>10,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$10,000 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.

10.3990.001 Powell Bill Fund Balance	<u>10,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,000</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 08 - UTILITY CIP STUDY

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.

September 8, 2015, MB#30

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8100.040 Professional Services	13,000	
30.8110.040 Professional Services	<u>13,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$26,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$26,000 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

30.3990.000 Fund Balance		<u>26,000</u>
Total	\$	<u>\$26,000</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 09 - UTILITY PAYMENT TO THE GENERAL FUND STUDY

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8100.040 Professional Services	1,000	
30.8110.040 Professional Services	<u>1,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 2,000 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

30.3990.000 Fund Balance		<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$	<u>\$ 2,000</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10 - FIRE VIPER RADIO DEBT SERVICE

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5300.911 Debt Service	<u>43,252</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 43,252</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 43,252 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.

10.3970.302 From Capital Project Fund		<u>43,252</u>
Total	\$	<u>\$ 43,252</u>

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 11 - BOBO STREET PARKING LOT

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.6250.151 Parking Lot - New	<u>13,500</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 13,500</u>	\$ 0

This will result in a net increase of \$ 13,500 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.

10.3970.302 From Capital Project Fund		<u>13,500</u>
Total	\$	<u>\$ 13,500</u>

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.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the six aforementioned budget amendments, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

SOUND SYSTEM Councilman Delp thanked Planning Director Larry Johnson for making adjustments to the sound system and he thanked Members of Council for leaning into the microphones when they spoke.

HOUSE ON FAT AVENUE Councilman Delp asked if the Town ever received any money from the house that was destroyed on Fat Avenue. Planning Director Larry Johnson said not yet and it was in the legal process. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said a lawsuit had been filed and there was one additional person that the paperwork needed to be served when they find where that person lives.

FLOWERS FOR PARKS Councilman Delp said last year a group of citizens proposed that folks donate irises, daffodils and daylilies instead of throwing them away. They are collected and dropped off at certain points and planted at McGalliard Falls Park. He said the former manager recommended a plan. He requested authority to pursue the project.

Mr. Eckard said he would consult with staff but it seemed like a good idea. Mr. Eckard noticed staff agreed to go ahead with the project.

WATER RESTRICTIONS Councilman Delp said citizens asked how they would know if there were water restrictions. Mr. Eckard said online presence, media, news print and it could be placed on the water bills.

COMMENDED FIRE CHIEF CHARLIE WATTS Councilman Ogle said his dad had fallen and he commended Chief Charlie Watts for coming to the Ogle residence and for his assistance.

WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL Councilwoman Stevenson said the festival was wonderful and she commended everyone involved.

STATE BOCCCE TOURNAMENT Councilwoman Stevenson said the State Bocce Tournament would be held at the LPDA on Saturday, September 12, 2015, 10:30 a.m. Mayor Black would roll out the first ball.

SONY EVENT Councilwoman Hildebran thanked staff for accommodating the Sony staff. She said there were a lot of people from out of town and from other states that attended the event. Ms. Hildebran said the video presented by Fire Engineer Steve Kiddy was wonderful and very thoughtful. Councilman Delp said Sony would be preparing a video after the tour and Valdese would be featured.

UTILITY AND CEMETERY PROJECT Councilwoman Hildebran mentioned information in Council's agenda packet about a report from the Western Piedmont Council of Government where Valdese was the first municipality with which they worked to create a fully-functional mobile editing capability for utilities. She said Valdese had excellent staff and she was very proud of them. Mr. Duckworth said there was a recent 16" waterline break and due to the GIS Mapping Program, the source was located and water turned off within 20 minutes, losing less water.

Mr. Eckard said the program was a huge asset for staff and he attended a meeting where Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth was training his employees on how to use the program. Mr. Eckard said it was an amazing program and he would like for Mr. Duckworth to present to Council at a future date.

OTHER TOWN FACILITIES Councilman Sweezy recommended a plan for renovating some of our resources that Council had not talked about yet. The Old Rock School is a symbol of this Town and they have had some improvements. There are others that represent this town such as the Outdoor Drama which was in need of some improvements. Someone needed to prepare a list. Mr. Eckard said he would work on a list.

Councilman Ogle said he believed there was a committee to make recommendations regarding the Outdoor Drama. Councilwoman Stevenson said it was an ongoing process.

CITIZENS ACADEMY Mayor Black said some small towns have Citizen Academies to help citizens understand how general functions of the town work. Interested citizens would attend four to six classes offered by Town employees. He said there needed to be more young people to get involved. He would provide an agenda and ask Community Affairs to advertise so participants could apply.

Mr. Eckard said several communities in western North Carolina have had successful citizen academies.

COMMENT REGARDING OPEN FORUM REQUEST FOR A BREWERY Councilman Ogle asked if there was no place in Valdese for Mr. Smith (who spoke during Open Forum) to start a micro-brewery. Planning Director said he understood that the Town Manager would instruct staff to take the issue to the Planning Board for a recommendation. The issue would come back before Council.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

NCLM ANNUAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 10-13, 2015) WINSTON-SALEM -- DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE Mr. Eckard said that he and Councilman Sweezy were the only two attending the conference.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to appoint Councilman Sweezy as Delegate and Mr. Eckard as Alternate, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS WOULD BE HELD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL PARADE, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 6:30 P.M.

WORKSHOP MID TO LATE OCTOBER FOR NEW DOWNTOWN PARK UPDATE Mr. Eckard said Council recently approved an agreement for design work for the new downtown park. He would like to hold a workshop for Members of Council to get feedback.

LETTER FROM FIRE ENGINEER STEVE KIDDY REGARDING SONY PLAYSTATION Mr. Eckard read into the record the following letter from Mr. Kiddy:

"To the Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Council,

Regarding the PlayStation Event.

First, I would like to apologize that I could not be there in person tonight. I am currently in Alabama for a week long fire class.

The PlayStation Event on August 22nd that was held at the Old Rock School was an absolute success. We far surpassed even the highest of estimates for the number of people that would attend. The crew running the event told me at one point that they were optimistically expecting around 500 people for the entire event. Their max capacity for a one day stop is around 850. We brought approximately 2,000! There were people from as far away as Raleigh and Tennessee. One of the crew members told me that our crowd was more than all four of the winners combined the previous year.

And all of this would not have been possible without the tremendous support I received from everyone in town. After hearing some of the issues that the team had getting set up with their first winner event, it made me realize how great our staff and community are. I would like to offer special thanks to Barbara and Morrissa for their dedicated work to the event. I would also like to thank Chief Charlie Watts for his support, not only of me, but the event as a whole; to Officers Berryhill and Williams for providing security up to and during the day; and to the Merchant's Association for the welcome party for the whole crew the night before. To the Mayor and Council, thank you for allowing me to share this great day with everyone at a town facility. For anyone that I missed, thank you as well.

One final note. As part of my winnings there was a special surprise. PlayStation is very involved with several national charities. I was made an honorary PlayStation Hero, and a donation will be made on behalf of me and the Fire Department/Town. The donation will be split up between several charities including Make-A-Wish, The V Foundation for Cancer research, and the USO. The amount: \$10,000.

Best Day Ever!

Thanks for everything,

Steve Kiddy"

At 7:34 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, October 5, 2015, 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, Councilman Gary L. Delp, 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

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:

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PILOT CLUB OF VALDESE Mayor Black presented the following proclamation to Pilot Club Representatives:

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE PILOT CLUB OF VALDESE**

WHEREAS, the Pilot Club of Valdese, a volunteer service organization of executive, business and professional leaders, was chartered in 1940 to serve Valdese and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pilot International is to transform communities by developing youth, providing service and education, and uplifting families; and a major focus of Pilot International has been brain related disorders focusing on brain safety and research, as well as providing assistance to those who have brain-related injuries and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the historic inspiration for the name of Pilot International was the brave riverboat pilots who would steer a true course through calm or troubled waters, and for 75 years the Pilot Club of Valdese has continued to uphold the principles of Pilot International exemplifying at all times the Pilot motto, "True Course Ever"; and

WHEREAS, during its 75 years of service, the Pilot Club of Valdese has played a vital role in working to improve the quality of life for all persons by making numerous contributions to the Town of Valdese such as the Project Lifesaver Program through the Valdese Police Department and providing an Automatic External Defibrillator for the Valdese Fire Department and other public institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, wishes to acknowledge and express its appreciation to the Pilot Club of Valdese for 75 years of dedicated service not only to the citizens of Valdese but also to our Firefighters, Policemen and Emergency Medical Response Personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of Valdese, North Carolina, and on behalf of the entire Town Council recognizes the Pilot Club of Valdese as a Leader in service to our community. We honor the members of the Pilot Club of Valdese for their dedication to serving others, and for the many contributions made to this community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Valdese to be affixed this 5th day of October, 2015.

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

Mayor Black asked if anyone in the audience wished to address Council. No one spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2015

APPROVED REAPPOINTMENT TO VALDESE HOUSING AUTHORITY Rev. Timothy Horltdt was reappointed for another five-year term as recommended by the Valdese Housing Authority. The term would expire October 31, 2020.

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT AT THE OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH DAVID HARMON STUDIOS, LLC Lease Agreement with David Harmon Studios, LLC (photography/architecture), for rental space at the Old Rock School in the amount of \$270 per month.

AUTHORIZED DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY – FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS The Fire and Public Works Departments requested disposal of surplus property. The Fire Department requested to surplus an Eagle Air System, which was purchased used in 1982 and was used to fill the breathing apparatus bottles. Fire Chief Charlie Watts requested that the existing Eagle Air System be transferred to Patton High School for use in the Fire Academy Program, and the equipment would continue to serve as a back-up system for Burke County Fire Departments. Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth requested to surplus tires/wheels (8 – 16 inch snow tires – tires and wheels that fit older model Crown Vic no longer in fleet; 4 – 225 60R16 - tires (Goodyear); and 4 – 245 75R16 – truck tires). The tires/wheels would be auctioned on GovDeals or sold as scrap.

APPROVED AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH MARTIN MCGILL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FOR FUNDS TRANSFER ASSESSMENT FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND Engineering Services Agreement with Martin McGill Management Consulting for Funds Transfer Assessment for Water and Wastewater Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$6,500.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS REGARDING ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SIGNAGE Mayor Black said at the June 29, 2015 Council meeting, staff recommended that the public hearing be continued on text amendments regarding sign regulations. During the month of July, staff met with representatives of the Main Street Design Committee and Council Members to review the proposed amendments. At the August 3, 2015 Council meeting, staff requested a continuance of the public hearing until the October 5 Council meeting. Mayor Black continued the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

Planning Director Larry Johnson said after hearing comments from Members of Town Council, Main Street Design Committee representatives, as well as further discussion by Planning Board members regarding amendments to Article H of the Zoning Ordinance, he presented the proposed amendments.

(NOTE: Amendments regarding Electronic Display Signage may be found in Ordinance Book No. 9, pg. 104.)

Mayor Black asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak for or against the proposed amendments, there being no one, he closed the public hearing.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the zoning amendments for electronic display signage, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL EVENT ORDINANCE Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner said an amendment was required due to the change of date for the Draughn Parade due to weather issues.

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE
RESCHEDULED DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE**

WHEREAS, for many years the Town of Valdese has sponsored a Draughn High School Homecoming parade; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese desires to reschedule a Draughn High School Homecoming parade for Tuesday, October 13, 2015, (previously scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2015 and canceled due to weather) and to close the parade route for the parade the Town Council is required to adopt an ordinance regulating the use of the parade route.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese pursuant to G.S. 20-169 that the following route be closed during the day and times set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

RESCHEDULE OF THE DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE

DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2015

TIME: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Main Street between the intersection of Main Street East and Eldred Street and the intersection of Main Street West and Hoyle Street

Signs shall be erected giving notices of the limits and times of these parades as required by G.S. 20-169.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

THIS, the 5th day of October, 2015.

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

/s/ Town Clerk

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to adopt the aforementioned ordinance, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK PROJECT Town Manager Seth Eckard said there were some great questions that had come up about the sidewalk project and at the last Council meeting parts one and two of four options for Plan B were approved to take care of the immediate needs for the sidewalks. The concerns that arose were if the two parts of Plan B were completed and at a later date decided to go with more expensive options would there be a double expense.

Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said after the initial cost estimates, staff was asked to look at the main issues with the sidewalks and staff came up with the four items in Part B that was presented at the September meeting and he reviewed the work to be done. A question was if the current trees were removed when would be a good time to plant the trident maples and an arborist said you could plant during any time except January.

Mr. Eckard said there was a safety issue with the sidewalk. The following budget amendment was for the sidewalk issues that were approved at the September meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENT Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following budget amendment:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 12 - DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK REPAIRS

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4350.150 Maint & Repair Bldgs	<u>19,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$19,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 19,000 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.

10.3970.302 from Capital Project Fund		<u>19,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$19,000</u>

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.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to adopt the aforementioned budget amendment, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

DOWNTOWN MURAL Councilman Delp asked if the Town was going to financially participate in the proposed downtown mural.

Mr. Eckard said there two pathways. One involved direct decision making and financial responsibilities by the Town and the other path would be the Town would be independent of the decision. Staff was not sure of the direction and there may be a decision at the November Council meeting.

Mr. Delp said what he was hearing from citizens that if the Town contributed financially it needs input and he needed to know how to answer the citizen's questions.

Mr. Eckard said the Town may be responsible for upkeep of the mural but there was no request for funding at this time. There were some generous donators in the community that was very passionate about this project.

CHICKENS Councilman Delp asked if chickens were allowed within the Town limits. Planning Director Larry Johnson said no, and he requested that Councilman Delp let staff know the location so animal control could look into the situation.

FLOWER BULBS Councilman Delp said a bushel of flower bulbs had been received and the group was meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m., to walk through McGalliard Park to decide where to plant. They would not plant in areas that would be intrusive for the Annual Fishing Day.

LIBRARY BOARD – COLE HOUSE PROJECT Councilwoman Hildebran said she served as Council Representative on the Library Board, and they had a four year fund drive for the renovation of the Cole House. They raised \$450,000 for a proposed \$600,000 project. The bids came in a lot higher than anticipated at \$1.3 million. She briefly reviewed the project and said they plan to solicit contractors and rebid. Currently the project is on hold.

STATE OF EMERGENCY Mayor Black said last Friday, he and Fire Chief Charlie Watts met with the Burke County Manager, Burke County School Officials, Emergency Management and Mayors from all municipalities regarding the State of Emergency due to predicted heavy rain/high winds. He said Chief Watts was totally prepared for what could have occurred. He commended Chief Watts for the great job.

Mr. Eckard commended staff for the preparation in the recent State of Emergency and was glad the adverse weather did not hit the Town of Valdese. He thanked staff for planning and also for educating him in the process.

TRASH RECEPTACLES Councilwoman Stevenson said a citizen recommended that we have garbage receptacles on streets other than Main Street. Perhaps the two trash receptacles at the bakery could be placed at each end of the block instead of both at the doors of the bakery. Citizens walk a lot and pick up litter and have no place to put it.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

RESCHEDULED DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL PARADE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015, 6:30 P.M. Mr. Eckard asked the Members of Council who would be riding in the parade to please meet at the Valdese Fire Department at 5:30 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON NEW DOWNTOWN PARK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015, 11:30 A.M., VALDESE TOWN HALL

"TREATS IN THE STREETS," FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015, 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M., WITH COSTUME CONTEST AT WELLS FARGO PARKING LOT AT 5:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRAND MARSHAL FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015 Town Manager Seth Eckard requested that Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner make the announcement.

October 5, 2015, MB#30

Ms. Hefner said the Valdese Merchants Association recommended that Benton Blount be the Grand Marshal for the 2015 Annual Christmas Parade. Mr. Blount was an East Burke native and attended East Burke High School and was in the top ten finalists in "Americas Got Talent." She said Mr. Blount was honored to be asked to serve as the Grand Marshal.

2016 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE Ms. Hefner said all four Burke County High School parades would be marching in the 2015 Christmas parade. She received word from Burke County Public Schools that there would be no Burke County High School bands available for the 2016 Valdese Christmas Parade due to all bands competing in Hawaii during that time.

Mr. Eckard said perhaps a college band could be invited to participate in the 2016 Christmas parade. Councilwoman Hildebran said perhaps the date of the parade could be changed. Staff would work on these issues.

BLUE GRASS AT THE ROCK Ms. Hefner said the Blue Grass Series would begin Friday, October 9, 2015 with "Third Time Out." Three years ago they started season ticket sales and they had 14 season ticket holders and in the third year they now have 60.

UPDATE ON GRIST MILL PROJECT Town Manager Seth Eckard said the Crowdfunding Campaign goal of \$25,000 had been launched with \$450 donated and 190 days remaining. He said one could go to youcaring.com and search gristmill to locate the website.

At 6:36 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a special called meeting (workshop regarding the new downtown park) on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 11:30 a.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015, 11:30 A.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 11:30 a.m., for the purpose to adopt a Resolution for the NC Department of Commerce for a Building Reuse Grant and a workshop on the New Downtown Park.

Members of Council met in the Town of Valdese Community Room 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 Sweezy. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, Finance Director Jerry LaMaster, Planning Director Larry Johnson, Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth, and Recreation Director Doug Knight.

Also present: Sharon McBrayer, "Morganton News Herald," and McGill Associates: Mike Norris and R.J. Mozeley

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle and Councilman Gary Delp

A quorum was present.

At 11:30 a.m., Mayor Black called the meeting to order and asked everyone to enjoy lunch catered by Myra's. He said this was a Special Called Council Meeting for the purpose to adopt a Resolution for the NC Department of Commerce for a Building Reuse Grant and a workshop on the New Downtown Park.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM APPLICATION - OLD WORLD BAKING COMPANY, LLC Town Manager Seth Eckard presented the following resolution needed for the Town to apply for a grant:

Town of Valdese

Authorizing Resolution Rural Economic Development Division North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Program Application Old World Baking Company, LLC at 149 Main St West, Valdese, NC

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized in 2014 funds to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division to stimulate economic development and job creation. A portion of the funding authorized the making of grants to aid eligible units of government to stimulate the creation of jobs through the expansion and renovation of buildings currently in use that will spur economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Valdese desires to assist through grant funding the economic renovation of the former law office recently purchased by Faet Properties, LLC, by Anthony Pizzelanti at 149 Main Street West in Valdese, North Carolina, that is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Valdese intends to request from NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division grant assistance for the project from the Building Reuse Program for the renovation and restoration of the facility allowing Anthony and Theresa Pizzelanti to open the Old World Baking Company, LLC, as a restaurant and bakery with a commitment to create 6 new full-time jobs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL:

That Valdese will provide a minimum 5% cash match for an application request of \$60,000 if approved for a grant.

That Seth Eckard, Town Manager, and successor Town managers, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Valdese with The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division for a grant to assist in the re-development of the project described above.

That Seth Eckard, Town Manager, and successor Town managers, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That Valdese has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 28th day of October, 2015 at Valdese, North Carolina.

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

After a brief discussion, Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

NEW DOWNTOWN PARK WORKSHOP – PRESENTATION BY MCGILL ASSOCIATES Mr. Eckard introduced Mr. Mike Norris with McGill Associates, assisted by R. J. Mozeley.

Mr. Mike Norris offered a presentation on the proposed new park. He said constraints were drainage, site depression, site grading/fill, sanitary sewer, and connectivity/ADA accessibility. The park elements include a multi-purpose building, picnic shelter, splash pad, playground, and cornhole. He reviewed the multipurpose building floor plan containing a seminar room, exercise room, picnic shelter, restrooms, and storage. He reviewed the project schedule and preliminary project cost of \$730,075. He said other considerations were unsuitable soils, site furnishings, pedestrian connection and removal of existing utility poles.

Planning Director Larry Johnson said two parcels would need to be combined into one, then the parcel would need to be rezoned.

Councilwoman Hildebran asked about a wall around the splash pad so parents could sit and watch their children.

Councilwoman Stevenson recommended a Bocce court due to the strong support of Bocce in our Town. Mr. Norris said you would have to give up something, which could be parking, to add Bocce. Mr. Eckard said space could be allowed for Bocce courts.

Councilman Sweezy asked about the surface for the play area. Mr. Norris said wood chips and they would propose an alternate for some rubberized surfacing, which was expensive.

Councilman Sweezy had questions about drainage issues and water issues from the splash pad. Mr. Mozeley briefly explained how the water would drain.

Mr. Eckard said landscaping could be completed by Scouts for their Eagle Projects.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked about shade. Mr. Knight said two or three shade sails (fabric material) could be provided for shade.

Mr. Eckard said Councilman Ogle recommended appropriate buffering between the park and adjoining residential property and was concerned about fencing.

Mr. Eckard said funding was \$200,000 - \$300,000 short. He said the plan could be updated to include Bocce, bench wall around the splash pad, and fencing

Councilwoman Hildebran asked about outdoor basketball. Mr. Knight said that was taken off the plan early on because the negatives outweighed the positives. Mr. Eckard said there were a large number of uses in the original plan but many had been scaled back due to budgetary constraints and to stay within the perimeters of the PARTF grant.

Mr. Norris said they would revise the plan to include space for Bocce, exercise stations adults could use while children were playing. He said there could also be a future Phase II.

It was proposed that the exterior would be rock that matched Town Hall. After a brief discussion, Council recommended a cheaper exterior that would match the recreation center, not Town Hall.

Mr. Eckard reviewed possible funding sources. Mr. Eckard asked if Council wanted to meet again to review revised plans. Council recommended that changes be sent to them.

At 12:48 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 2, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, November 2, 2015, 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, 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 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:

Mayor Black asked if anyone wished to address Council. There being no one wishing to speak he requested that Fire Chief Watts present the following item.

BEST OF BURKE – FIREFIGHTER Fire Chief Watts said Steve Kiddy had served with the Valdese Fire Department for the past nine years and excelled in his performance and maintained high response numbers. Mr. Kiddy had received the First Responder of the Year Award for four years because of his high level of responses when off duty. Mr. Kiddy continues to upgrade his education and training and is certified as a paramedic. Chief Watts said Mr. Kiddy was an asset to the fire department and the community. Chief Watts presented Mr. Kiddy with the Best of Burke Firefighter Award for 2015.

Mayor Black thanked Mr. Kiddy.

Councilwoman Hildebran said Mr. Kiddy was the reason Sony came to Valdese recently.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – OCTOBER 5, 2015

APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO VEDIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS The VEDIC Office recommended the appointment of Christian Ramazzini to replace Lia Yang on the VEDIC Board of Directors for a three-year term. The term would be considered a first term and would expire July 1, 2018.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE (DECEMBER 7, 2015, 6:00 P.M.) FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES – "PROJECT GRAY"

APPROVED REQUEST FROM AMERICAN LEGION TO SELL BEER AT THE DECEMBER 18, 2015, ALZHEIMER'S BENEFIT CONCERT – OLD ROCK SCHOOL, ROOM 139, 6:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

APPROVED VALDESE ABC BOARD THIRD INSTALLMENT LOAN The third installment loan was approved in the amount of \$30,000.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

REQUEST FOR TWO FAÇADE GRANTS – MICHAEL SHOUBE AND REQUEST FOR TWO FAÇADE GRANTS – ANTHONY PIZZELANTI Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner presented the façade grants as follows: Mr. Shoupe, owner of the downtown building located at 128/130 Main Street West, requested two façade grants each in the amount of \$2,500 for a total of \$5,000. The estimated cost of Mr. Shoupe's project was \$19,950. Mr. Pizzelanti, owner of the downtown building located at 141/149 Main Street West, requested two façade grants each in the amount of \$2,500 for

a total of \$5,000. Mr. Pizzelanti may be opening a bakery/coffee shop. The estimated cost of Mr. Pizzelanti's project was \$21,589.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned four grants in the total amount of \$10,000, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Hildebran thanked Ms. Hefner for her hard work with all improvements to the downtown area.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH WEST CONSULTANTS FOR SEWER SYSTEM I & I IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth offered a timeline on the project which began in 2012. He requested Council approval of Amendment No. 1 with West Consultants for increased scope of services for the Sewer System I & I Improvements Project in the amount of \$18,873.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the aforementioned amendment with West Consultants in the amount of \$18,873 and to hold any surplus until the project was complete and then pay ourselves back, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENT Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following budget amendment:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 13 - COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WINDOWS & SOUND EQUIPMENT

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.6250.150 Maint & Repair Bldgs	3,000	
10.6250.330 Supplies-Sound Equipment	<u>13,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 16,000 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.

10.3970.302 from Capital Project Fund		<u>16,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 16,000</u>

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.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned budget amendment, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

FIRE TRUCKS ENTERING GATES Councilman Ogle asked Fire Chief Watts about fire trucks entering the gate at Valdese Manufacturing recently and was there an issue entering the gate. Fire Chief Watts said it was a false alarm and there were no issues with the gate.

WALKING TRACK BEHIND OLD ROCK SCHOOL AND DAYLILIES Councilwoman Hildebran said some citizens in her ward walk at the Old Rock School and she received a complaint about the walking track or trail having breaks and cracks. They also mentioned there were a lot of daylilies at that area. Town Manager Seth Eckard said there was a recent cost estimate of \$40,000 to repair the track.

Councilman Ogle said the town did not own that property as it was owned by Burke County Public Schools.

Mr. Eckard said this could be added to the budget process.

MANAGER'S REPORT:**NOVEMBER EVENTS:**

Event	Day	Date	Location	Note
Town Hall – Voter Precinct	Tuesday	November 3, 2015	Valdese Town Hall	
“My Nails” Grand Opening	Saturday	November 7, 2015 11:00 a.m.	Corner of Church and Main Streets	
Town Offices Closed	Wednesday	November 11, 2015	Observance of Veterans Day	
Christmas in November	Saturday	November 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Old Rock School	Entry \$1 or free with one can good donation (first 300 shoppers get complimentary shopping tote)
Annual Dinner Meeting with Valdese Merchants Association	Thursday	November 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.	Old Rock School, Waldensian Room	
Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon	Friday	November 20, 2015, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Old Rock School, Waldensian Room	
Trail of Faith Lighting Ceremony	Tuesday	November 24, 2015, 6:00 p.m. (lights will be on 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., through December 24)	Trail of Faith	
Town Offices Closed	Thursday & Friday	November 26 and 27, 2015	Observance of Thanksgiving	
Opening Reception for Holiday Art & Handcrafted Gifts – Hosted by Pilot Club of Valdese	Sunday	November 29, 2015 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Old Rock School	

VALDESE CHRISTMAS PARADE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015, 10:00 A.M., BENTON BLOUNT WOULD BE THE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

CLOSED SESSION Mayor Black called for a Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations

At 6:28 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ogle and carried unanimously.

Mayor Black said he did not anticipate further action after the Closed Session.

November 2, 2015, MB#30

At 6:53 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

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

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Old Rock School – Waldensian Room for the Annual Joint Council/Valdese Merchants Association Dinner.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL/JOINT DINNER MEETING WITH VALDESE MERCHANTS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015, 6:30 P.M.**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met jointly with the Valdese Merchants for the Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at the Old Rock School, Waldensian Room.

The following were present: Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Councilwoman Frances Hildebran; and Councilman Roy Sweezy.

Also present: Town Manager Seth Eckard, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth, Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner, and Administrative Specialist Morrissa Walker Angi.

Absent: Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Keith Ogle, and Councilman Gary Delp

There was no quorum.

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 invited everyone to enjoy dinner catered by Myra's, after Ronnie Pruitt, Owner of Grace Jewelry offered the invocation. There were approximately 58 downtown merchants and building owners in attendance.

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. They also sponsor downtown events.

Community Affairs Director gave a brief overview of the Main Street Project and recognized members of the Economic Restructuring Committee, Design Committee, and Promotions Committee.

Town Manager Seth Eckard offered a brief overview of a downtown survey recently conducted. Parking issues were briefly discussed and he said staff would work with downtown merchants regarding parking.

There was interest in music on Main Street. Trees needed trimming near the bakery.

Ms. Carla Berry said the parking issues mean we have people coming to town.

Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth commented about garbage collection in the downtown district. He offered a brief update about the plantings on Main Street and brick repair.

Mayor Black thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he said it would take everyone working together to make our downtown better.

At 7:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2015**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, December 7, 2015, 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 (arrived at 6:55 p.m.), 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 Thelda B. Rhoney, and various department heads.

Absent: Councilman Keith Ogle

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.

OATHS OF OFFICE Burke County Clerk of Superior Court Mabel H. Lowman administered Oaths of Office to Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., while his wife, Tammy, held the Bible, and to Councilman Roy Sweezy – Ward 3, while his wife, Phyllis, held the Bible. Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney will administer the Oath of Office to Councilman Keith Ogle - Ward 5 at a later date. (Note: See page 860 for Oath of Office for Councilwoman Hildebran.)

Mayor Black thanked Ms. Lowman for administering the oaths.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

CHICKENS: Jon Mercer, 800 Zeline Avenue, NE, Valdese and he introduced his wife Kristina and sons Jonathan and James. Mr. Mercer said his family had been a part of Valdese for the past 17 years since he started working for Valdese Hospital in 1998. In 2006 they moved into their new home on Zeline Avenue and due to some health issues they grew some of their vegetables and decided to add chickens and they contacted Town offices on two different occasions and was told they could have chickens in their backyard and by October they were getting a few eggs. They received a letter from the Town on October 16th that they were in violation of the zoning code that chickens were not allowed. Mr. Mercer said he is a rule follower and would not have spent \$1,000 dollars on chickens, coop, fence, etc., if he had known he was violating the zoning code. Some zoning classifications can have chickens in Valdese but not the classification where his house is located.

James Mercer asked that the code be changed and that his family be allowed to keep their chickens.

Jonathan Mercer said there may be two concerns such as noise but there would be no noise if there were no roosters and they actually had one for a few weeks but the rooster was too loud for their environment so they sent him off to the farm. The second issue was smell and there would be no odor with a well maintained coop.

Kristina Mercer said the City of Morganton recently allow chickens in their corporate limits. She referred to an article which was distributed to Council that studied the top 100 most populated cities in the United States and 84 percent of the cities allow chickens. She said her family would anxiously await a response.

Mayor Black said the issue would be sent to the Planning Board for review. Town Manager Seth Eckard said there would be no enforcement while the issue was under review.

Councilman Delp recommended equity on distances for someone with one third of an acre along with someone with more acreage. Planning Director Larry Johnson said the Planning Board would be mindful of the zoning code as well as the animal code. Councilman Delp also said that citizens need to know who to contact. Town Manager Seth Eckard said there is now a process in place that the questions go to the right person.

SONY VIDEO: Planning Director Larry Johnson offered a video prepared by Fire Engineer Steve Kiddy that was submitted to Sony for the Road to Greatness Contest to bring Sony PlayStation to Valdese which was a winner and the video also included the Sony event in Valdese.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2015, REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION OF NOVEMBER 2, 2015, COUNCIL/VALDESE MERCHANTS JOINT DINNER MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015

ADOPTED RESOLUTION FOR 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR

**TOWN OF VALDESE
RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-1011 of the Town of Valdese Code of Ordinances, there shall be a regular meeting of the council at the town hall, on the first Monday in each month, at 6:00 p.m., unless another place, date or time shall be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Valdese Town Council adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2016:

January 4, 2016
February 1, 2016
March 7, 2016
Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Annual Budget Retreat – Waldensian Room
April 4, 2016
May 2, 2016
June 6, 2016
June 27, 2016 – Budget Public Hearing; also serves as the July Council Meeting
August 1, 2016
September 6, 2016, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., due to Labor Day Holiday
October 3, 2016
November 7, 2016
November 17, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Annual Dinner Meeting with Valdese Merchants Association, Old Rock School, Waldensian Room
December 5, 2016

This 7th day of December, 2015.

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

APPROVED APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2015 Board and Commission Appointments/Reappointments

Recreation Commission (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Linda Brinkley

Appointment of Jonathan Dameron to replace Carl Beck

Firemen's Relief Fund (2-year terms)

Reappointment of Ed Plemmons and Fire Chief Charlie Watts

Rock School Advisory (4-year terms)

Reappointment of Clint Bernard and Ron Shuffler

Appointment of Will Mueller to replace Josie McCoy

Arbor-Beautification (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Maxine Molter and Lu Griffin

Appointment of Sandi Walker from a Volunteer Representative to a Committee Member replacing Richard Whisnant

Public Art Commission (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Hamilton Williams and Greg Mastin

APPROVED REQUEST FROM WALDENSIAN HERITAGE WINERY TO SELL WINE AT THE BLUE CHRISTMAS ALZHEIMER'S BENEFIT CONCERT AT THE OLD ROCK SCHOOL, ROOM 139, DECEMBER 18, 2015, 6:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

REQUEST FROM FIRE CHIEF TO SURPLUS PROPERTY (BREATHING APPARATUS) AND DONATE TO JIMMY C. DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAM Fire Chief Charlie Watts requested authorization to surplus 15 old breathing apparatus that had no current value and donate to Jimmy C. Draughn High School for use in their Fire Academy Program.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING Mayor Black presented the following:

**VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL
Four Year Alternating Terms for Council and Mayor
Terms Ending December 2017**

John F. "Chip" Black

Mayor – 2017
Elected 11/04/97: Term 12/01/97 - 12/03/01
Reelected 11/06/01: Term 12/03/01 - 12/05/05
Reelected 11/08/05: Term 12/05/05 - 12/07/09
Reelected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 - 12/02/13
Reelected 11/05/13: Term 12/02/13*
*Appointed Mayor 02/02/2015 and required to run for reelection in November 2015 for the Mayor's unexpired term which will end 12/04/17
Elected Mayor 11/03/15 to fill unexpired term–12/04/17

Mayor

BDI Board
WPCOG Policy Board Delegate
2010 Vice President
2011 President
2012 President
Community Foundation of Burke Co
2015 President
Rotary Club Burke Sunrise

Black & Associates
Financial Mgmt.

Gary L. Delp (Ward 1)

Ward 1 – 2017
Appointed by Council 05/04/09
Elected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 – 12/02/13
Reelected 11/05/13 Term 12/02/13 – 12/04/17

Treasurer
Recreation Commission
Public Art Commission
Street Paving Committee
Former Planning Board Alternate

Retired School Teacher

Susan T. Stevenson (Ward 2)

Ward 2 – 2017
Appointed by Council 01/10/2000
Elected 11/06/01: Term 12/03/01 – 12/05/05
Reelected 11/08/05: Term 12/05/05 – 12/07/09
Reelected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 – 12/02/13
Reelected 11/05/13: Term 12/02/13 – 12/04/17

Mayor Pro Tem
Assistant Treasurer
WPCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Railroad Committee
OCP Exploratory Committee

Retired Physical Therapist

Roy F. Sweezy (Ward 3)

Ward 3 - 2017
Appointed to Council 03/02/2015 and required to run for reelection in November 2015 for the Ward 3 Councilman unexpired term which will end 12/04/17
Elected 11/03/15 to fill unexpired term–12/04/17

Planning Board, Chairman
WPCOG Policy Board Alternate
Agape Board of Directors - Vice Chairman

Retired School Teacher

Frances M. Hildebran (Ward 4)

Ward 4 – 2019
11/08/11: Term 12/05/11 – 12/07/15

Town Clerk
Library Board
Citizens for Affordable

Retired Local Government Elected
Blue Ridge HealthCare

December 7, 2015, MB#30

Reelected 11/03/15 Term 12/07/15 – 12/02/19 Housing
Street Paving Committee Executive Assistant to
President & CEO

B. Keith Ogle (Ward 5)

Ward 5 – 2019

Elected 11/04/03: Term 12/01/03 – 12/03/07

Reelected 11/06/07: Term 12/03/07 – 12/05/11

Reelected 11/08/11: Term 12/05/11 – 12/07/15

Reelected 11/03/15 Term 12/07/15 – 12/02/19

Arbor-Beautification Committee Retired Military
Downtown Revitalization H.R. Director
Former WPCOG MPO and Rescare Homecare
Policy Board Alternate Rescare, Inc.

Seth Eckard

Served as Assistant Town Manager 6/18 – 6/30/15
(Appointed Town Manager July 1, 2015)

Town Manager

Burke County Narcotics Task Force
Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group
WPCOG Water Resources Committee (Vice Chair)
VEDIC Member
Valdese ABC Board – Chairman
Valdese Tourism Commission
BDI Board
Valdese Rotary

Marcus W. H. Mitchell, Jr.

Marc Mitchell, P.A., Attorney at Law

Town Attorney

Public Art Commission

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES FOR “PROJECT GRAY” Mayor Black opened the Public Hearing and said some details were needed and he requested the public hearing be continued at the January 4, 2016 Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to continue the aforementioned Public Hearing until the January 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CDBG CLOSEOUT OF MILLSTONE WATER PROJECT Mayor Black requested WPCOG Assistant Director Sherry Long offer an update on the project. Ms. Long said the project required a parallel line because there was a high pressure line on one side along Millstone Avenue and the reason the project had not been completed before was the cost to serve 23 houses was expensive due to pressure issues. The proposed cost of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) infrastructure grant was \$379,413 and fire hydrants were included in the project. In order to close out the project a public hearing must be held to accept citizen comments and funds in the amount of \$4,243.86 need authorization from Council to de-obligate the funds that were not used and the money would be returned and rolled into another block grant for someone else. She said the project was a success.

Mayor Black opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to close out the CDBG Millstone Water Project and de-obligate funds that were not used in the amount of \$4,243.86, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR CDBG PROGRAM– NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AVAILABLE FUNDING

WPCOG Assistant Director Sherry Long said in order to develop new projects a first public hearing is required for the CDBG Program requiring citizen input. This year the State of North Carolina received \$45 million and in the past they did a lot of activities such as housing and economic development in small business entrepreneurialships and this year the focus narrowed to two categories: 1) INFRASTRUCTURE (CDBG-IF) There will be approximately \$25 million available this year from the NC Department of Environmental Quality (used to be NC DENR) for this program. The funds can be used for water and wastewater transmission lines or improvements to water and sewer treatment facilities to serve low to moderate-income areas to correct severe health or environmental needs. Maximum grant amount \$2,000,000 with no required match. Applications are expected to be accepted in the fall of 2016; and 2) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CDBG-ED) The North Carolina Department of Commerce will have approximately \$15 million available in 2016 to assist local governments. The funds may be used for the construction of public facilities or may provide low interest loan funds in tandem with a bank for private investment. The industry or business must

commit to create or retain permanent full-time jobs, of which 60% are for persons in households with low to moderate income. The grants available for public facilities may include water, sewer, street, gas, etc. The match is 25% of the grant request. The maximum amount of funds available per project is \$1 million. These applications are received on a continuous basis. Funds would come to the Town to be administered.

Mayor Black opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

Mayor Black said there would be no action required. Ms. Long said if the Town should chose to apply for a grant an additional public hearing would be held to discuss the project prior to submitting an application. This was the first of two public hearings should there be a proposed project.

Mayor Black said the Town relied a lot on the Western Piedmont Council of Governments as they assisted the Town in receiving a lot of grant funds. He said the Town appreciated WPCOG staff.

PUBLIC HEARING TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 408 HILL STREET, SE (NEW DOWNTOWN PARK)

Mayor Black opened the Public Hearing and asked Planning Director Larry Johnson for comments. The property is the site for the New Downtown Park, adjacent to the Parks & Recreation Center, which contain two parcels that need to be combined before the park can be constructed, but they first need to have the same zoning designation. The Valdese Planning Board recommended Council approve rezoning the property from R-12A Residential to O-I Office-Institutional. Mr. Johnson said one adjoining property owner stopped by his office to inquire if their property was being rezoned and he answered their questions.

Mayor Black asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against the proposed rezoning.

Jason Teffeteller, 308 Hill Street, SE, Valdese, and he introduced his son Ben. Mr. Teffeteller said he and his son attended the PlayStation event and it was nice. He said regarding the WPCOG grants that natural gas was not available on his street but was available on Laurel Street and with several rental properties on his street could natural gas be an option down to the park. They get a lot of street traffic and he asked about the possibility of sidewalks and the possibility of dead-ending Hill Street at the curve to eliminate the traffic. Neighbors in the area were interested in steps to correct noise or traffic attracted to the park. Would there be fences or noise barriers. He welcomed the park and wanted it to be beneficial to the residents on Hill Street.

Town Manager Seth Eckard requested that Mr. Teffeteller leave his name and number with Planning Director Larry Johnson. Mr. Eckard said the plans for the park had not been completed and staff would get back with Mr. Teffeteller to answer his questions.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to rezone the property at 408 Hill Street SE from R-12A Residential to O-I Office-Institutional, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BOND SAFEGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY

Mayor Black asked Mr. Jeff Morse to make the presentation. Mr. Morse said the bonding company reached out to him to help them finalize the project in accordance with the settlement agreement. He is not a Town employee, just acting as a consultant to serve as a point person as the company was located in Chicago. He offered a quick summary of the project. The contractor completed water, sewer and roads in Section 1A. The bonding company had until December 31, 2016 to complete final Phase 1 and 2A and they are currently on schedule but have stopped for the winter. If they were to leave the project they would not receive incentives for the project. The bonding company plans to move forward and plans to have water, roads and sewer completed by the end of summer 2016 and plan to sell the remaining 100 lots. The issue of power was outside the settlement agreement. As a developer they plan to move forward with power and he presented a First Amendment to the Settlement Agreement which allows the bonding company to use \$397,760.98 of their \$500,000.00 deposit for power installation. This was previously approved by Council several months ago.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Delp made a motion to approve the aforementioned First Amendment to the Settlement Agreement, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

REQUEST FOR FAÇADE GRANT – MARK PONS Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner said Mr. Mark Pons, owner of the downtown building located at 142 Main Street West, requested a façade grant in the amount of \$2,500. The estimated cost of the project was \$7,025.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned facade grant in the total amount of \$2,500, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BURKE DEVELOPMENT, INC. (BDI) AMENDED BYLAWS Mayor Black said the Town had been a member of BDI for many years and he offered a brief update about the membership which was amended from 24 board members and out of that number were an executive committee of 14. The amended bylaws change the membership to combine membership to reduce to 15 which eliminates the executive committee. The Town of Valdese has two designated representatives on the former and current BDI Board of Directors.

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve the amended BDI Bylaws, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

AT 6:55 P.M., COUNCILWOMAN FRANCES HILDEBRAN ARRIVED.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER TO THE BDI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Mayor Black said the Valdese Mayor and Valdese Town Manager would serve on the BDI Board.

Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to appoint Mayor Black and Town Manager Seth Eckard to the BDI Board of Directors, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

POLICE PERSONNEL – INFORMATION ONLY Town Manager Seth Eckard said there was a need to reinstate a full-time, vacant patrol officer position which was cut from the budget approximately five years ago. He said some of the benefits would reduce department turnover by creating flexibility in scheduling, increase safety of all officers on duty by ensuring that each shift is sufficiently staffed, and provide increased police presence at Town sponsored events. To reinstate this position, for the second half of the 2015-2016 budget year, Chief Moss proposed converting \$10,448 in the overtime line-item and using \$6,600 from the part-time line-item, (totaling \$17,048) to the salary line-item to help pay for this position. Staff requested that Council consider approving a \$6,000 budget amendment to cover the funds needed for the position (budget amendment follows).

Councilwoman Hildebran asked how many Reserve Officers there were and Chief Moss said nine and normally he had up to twelve.

Police Chief Jack Moss said the full-time police position would solve a lot of problems in his department with staffing issues.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following five budget amendments:

Budget Amendment No. 14 - Community Affairs Façade Grants

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.6250.930 Economic Development	<u>12,500</u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>\$ 12,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 12,500 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.

10.3970.302 From Capital Project Fund	<u> </u>	<u>12,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 12,500</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 15 - Restore Police Department Position

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5100.200 Salaries & Wages	6,000	
10.4200.990 Contingency		<u>6,000</u>
Total	<u>\$6,000</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 0 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.

Total	\$	\$
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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.

Budget Amendment No. 16 - Planning Board iPads

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4900.330 Dept Supplies	<u>2,500</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 2,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 2,500 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.

10.3970.302 From Capital Project Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 2,500</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 17 - Waste Water Treatment Plant Repairs

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8110.150 Maint. Building	30,000	
30.8100.990 Contingency		30,000
Total	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 0 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

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.

Budget Amendment No. 18 - Library Supplement for Repairs

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4200.930 Burke County Library	\$ 0	\$17,500
Total	<u>\$ 17,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 17,500 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.

10.3970.302 From Capital Project Fund	\$ 17,500	\$ 0
Total	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 17,500</u>

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.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned five budget amendments, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

LAUREL/MAIN STREET TRAFFIC LIGHT HOLDING TOO LONG Councilman Delp said he had received complaints about recent changes causing the light to hold too long. Staff was directed to contact the NC Department of Transportation.

TENNIS COURTS – McGALLIARD FALLS PARK Councilwoman Hildebran said she received a complaint about the tennis courts at the park and that the gates were locked. She went out to look at the courts and they were not in good condition.

Parks & Recreation Director Doug Knight said there were cracks on the tennis courts and it would need to be replaced which was cost prohibitive.

She said if the Town could not financially replace the tennis courts they needed to be torn down. She said new parks have been discussed but we need to make sure we take care of the parks we currently have and make sure they are in good condition.

Mayor Black said the tennis courts need to be maintained sufficiently so the courts do not look abandoned.

BULBS Councilman Delp said they have put in approximately 800 bulbs plus other plantings at McGalliard Falls Park and they made sure the plants would not interfere with mowing or maintenance of the park. He said they would always check with Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth prior to future planting of bulbs in the spring. Councilman Delp said a nursery donated several small bushes and trees.

BRIDGE FROM BALLFIELD TO PARK AT McGALLIARD FALLS PARK Councilman Delp said the water had not subsided across the bridge for the past month or two.

PARADE Councilwoman Stevenson commended Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner on another successful parade.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 23-25, 2015, IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016, IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY

CLOSED SESSION Mayor Black called for a Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

Mayor Black said he did not anticipate further action after the Closed Session.

At 7:22 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran and carried unanimously.

At 7:40 p.m., Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

OATH OF OFFICE Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Frances Hildebran – Ward 4.

At 7:43 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.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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