

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP  
APRIL 14, 2022**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, April 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Room at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor Charles Watts, Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Rexanna Lowman, Councilman J. Andrew Thompson, and Councilman Paul Mears. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, and Finance Director Bo Weichel.

Absent: None

A quorum was present and took no action.

Others present: Dwayne Wilson of Dwayne Wilson Insurance & Financial Services

Mayor Watts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and invited members of Council to enjoy dinner catered by Twin Brother's Pizza.

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE** Mr. Wilson discussed Blue Cross Blue Shield's first renewal quote for Medical insurance, which showed a 20% increase to the premiums. However, Mr. Wilson has it down to 13.5% so far if we keep the same plan. Mr. Wilson informed Council that he is working on getting that number lowered and is shopping out other providers. Mr. Wilson will update staff as soon as updated quotes are received.

**FY 22-23 PROPOSED BUDGET AND HIGHLIGHTS** Town Manager Seth Eckard and Finance Director Bo Weichel presented the proposed budget for FY 22-23. They reviewed the General and Utility Funds Revenues and Expenditures. Mr. Weichel shared that the General Fund Budget reflects expenditures of \$405,000 in capital projects across the departments. The Utility Fund shows a total of \$764,600 of capital improvement needs. Mr. Weichel shared that the chemicals for the Water Plant have increased significantly. Council discussed the proposed Valdese Library budget line item. After a brief discussion, the majority of Council wants to keep the amount at \$40,000. Councilman Ogle encouraged staff to advertise the children's programs at the Recreation Department more.

**FY 22-23 PROPOSED RATE STRUCTURE & FEE SCHEDULES** Town Manager Seth Eckard and Finance Director Bo Weichel briefly reviewed the proposed rate structure, which was also presented at the budget retreat. Mr. Weichel shared that the Rec Commission has proposed a ten-percent increase to the gym membership fees and a minimal increase on some rental rates. Council discussed a rate increase for sanitation and decided not to increase the rates this year. Mr. Weichel shared there is a solid waste construction debris fee of \$50.00 that was added to Public Works. Lastly, Mr. Weichel shared a proposed four percent increase to the water/sewer rates and an increase in the utility fee deposits. Council asked staff to include an insert in the water bills to let the citizens know of the increase.

**ADJOURNMENT** At 8:17 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor

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