

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following were present: Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Town Attorney Marc Mitchell, Deputy Town Clerk Courtney Kennedy, and various department heads.

Absent: Councilman Roy F. Sweezy.

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:

NANCY TUCKER PROCLAMATION Mayor Black presented the following proclamation to Ms. Nancy Tucker:

HONORING NANCY TUCKER

WHEREAS, North Carolina Senior Games is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing year-round health promotion and education in a quest to improve the health and overall well-being of over 300,000 senior adults fifty years of age and better; and

WHEREAS, Unifour Senior Games is sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games and is part of a statewide network of fifty-three local games that are held annually to qualify participants for State Finals; and

WHEREAS, the Unifour Senior Games is an artistic and athletic event for seniors age 50 and better living in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Tucker won a total of 11 gold medals and 3 silver medals in the Unifour Senior Games and North Carolina Senior Games in 2016 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, Nancy's success in the Unifour Senior Games and North Carolina Senior Games qualified her to compete in the 2017 National Senior Games in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Nancy competed in the 50 and 100 freestyle and backstroke swimming competitions; and

WHEREAS, Nancy has achieved extraordinary success in her swimming career; and

WHEREAS, the officials and citizens of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby extend congratulations and express their gratitude and appreciation to Nancy Tucker for her dedication, sportsmanship, and hard work that helped bring this recognition and honor to the Town of Valdese;

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 Nancy Tucker for her success.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Valdese to be affixed this 4th day of December, 2017.

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

LADDER TRUCK AND ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING – FIRE CHIEF CHARLIE WATTS Fire Chief Charlie Watts informed Council that training on the new ladder truck will be conducted in the upcoming week, once all of the equipment is installed. The ladder truck is expected to be in service by the end of the month. Chief Watts also discussed the necessity of holding an active shooter training program. Council will determine a date to schedule a mock meeting for the purpose of this training.

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; Councilman Gary Delp, Ward 1, and Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Ward 2, while her sister, Nancy Tucker, held the Bible. Deputy Town Clerk Courtney Kennedy will administer the Oath of Office to Councilman Roy Sweezy, Ward 3, at a later date.

Mayor Black thanked Ms. Lowman for administering the oaths.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2018 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR

**TOWN OF VALDESE
RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2018 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 2018:

- January 2, 2018, Tuesday, due to New Year’s Day Holiday
- January 8, 2018, Strategic Planning for Council at WPCOG Offices
- February 5, 2018
- March 5, 2018
- March 19, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Annual Budget Retreat, Waldensian Room
- April 2, 2018
- April 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Council Budget Workshop Dinner - Town Hall Community Room
- May 7, 2018
- June 4, 2018
- June 25, 2018, Budget Public Hearing; also serves as the July Council Meeting
- August 6, 2018
- September 4, 2018, Tuesday, due to Labor Day Holiday
- October 1, 2018
- November 5, 2018
- November 15, 2018, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Annual Dinner Meeting with Valdese Merchants Association, Waldensian Room
- December 3, 2018

This 4th day of December, 2017.

/s/ John F. “Chip” Black, Jr., Mayor

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2018 Board and Commission Appointments/Reappointments

Planning Board & Board of Adjustment (4-year terms)

Reappointment of Roy Sweezy, Chairman

Reappointment of Paul Mears
Appointment of Libby Braswell to replace Carlton "Carley" Caruso who is completing the unexpired term of Jean Dalmas

Parks and Recreation Commission (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Beth Heile
Reappointment of Grayson Turner
Reappointment of Gary Delp
Reappointment of Meghan Armour
Appointment of Nancy Tucker to complete the unexpired term of Linda Brinkley who resigned as she has moved away

Arbor-Beautification (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Keith Ogle
Reappointment of Ronnie Pruitt

Public Art Commission (3-year terms)

Reappointment of Linda Rostan
Reappointment of Elizabeth Furr
Reappointment of Gary Delp
Appointment of Gretchen Lane-Costner

Valdese Youth Council

Appointment of the following students: Hannah Johnson, Gillian Abee-Freeze, Trey Blackwood, Alex Hoover

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None.

COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Susan T. Stevenson as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr.	Black & Associates Financial Mgmt.
Elected 11/04/97: Term 12/01/97 - 12/03/01	BDI Board
Reelected 11/06/01: Term 12/03/01 - 12/05/05	WPCOG Policy Board Delegate
Reelected 11/08/05: Term 12/05/05 - 12/07/09	2010 Vice President
Reelected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 - 12/02/13	2011 President
Reelected 11/05/13: Term 12/02/13*	2012 President
<i>*Appointed Mayor 2/2/15 and required to run for reelection in November 2015 for the Mayor's unexpired term which ended 12/4/17</i>	Community Foundation of Burke Co
Elected Mayor 11/03/2015	2015 President
Reelected 11/07/17: Term 12/04/17 - 12/06/21	Rotary Club Burke Sunrise

Ward 1 Gary L. Delp	Retired School Teacher
Appointed by Council 05/04/2009	Treasurer
Elected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 - 12/02/13	Recreation Commission
Reelected 11/05/13: Term 12/02/13 - 12/04/17	Public Art Commission
Reelected 11/07/17: Term 12/04/17 - 12/06/21	Street Paving Committee
	Former Planning Board Alternate

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Ward 2 Susan T. Stevenson Retired Physical Therapist
Appointed by Council 01/10/2000 Mayor Pro Tem
Elected 11/06/01: Term 12/03/01 – 12/05/05 Assistant Treasurer
Reelected 11/08/05: Term 12/05/05 – 12/07/09 WPCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization
Reelected 11/03/09: Term 12/07/09 – 12/02/13 Railroad Committee
Reelected 11/05/13: Term 12/02/13 – 12/04/17 OCP Exploratory Committee
Reelected 11/07/17: Term 12/04/17 - 12/06/21

Ward 3 Roy F. Sweezy Retired School Teacher
Appointed by Council 03/02/2015 Planning Board Chairman
** Required to run for reelection in November 2015 for WPCOG Policy Board Alternate
the Ward 3 Councilman's unexpired term which ended Agape Board of Directors, Vice Chairman
12/04/17*
Elected 11/03/15
Reelected 11/07/17: Term 12/04/17 - 12/06/21

Ward 4 Frances M. Hildebran Blue Ridge HealthCare, Executive Assistant
Elected 11/08/11: Term 12/05/11 – 12/07/15 Town Clerk
Reelected 11/03/15: Term 12/07/15 – 12/02/19 Library Board
Retired Local Government
Citizens for Affordable Housing
Street Paving Committee

Ward 5 B. Keith Ogle A Caring Alternative, LLC, H.R. Director
Elected 11/04/03: Term 12/01/03 – 12/03/07 Retired Military
Reelected 11/06/07: Term 12/03/07 – 12/05/11 Arbor-Beautification Committee
Reelected 11/08/11: Term 12/05/11 – 12/07/15 Downtown Revitalization
Reelected 11/03/15: Term 12/07/15 – 12/02/19 Former WPCOG MPO and Policy Board Alt.

Town Manager Seth Eckard Burke County Narcotics Task Force
Assistant Town Manager 06/18/15 – 06/30/15 Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group
Appointed Town Manager: 07/01/2015 WPCOG Water Resources Committee, Vice Chair
VEDIC Member
Valdese ABC Board – Chairman
Valdese Tourism Commission
BDI Board
Valdese Rotary
LPDA Member

Town Attorney Marcus W. H. Mitchell, Jr. Marc Mitchell, P.A., Attorney at Law
Public Art Commission

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to approve the aforementioned Valdese Town Council Organizational Plan, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

MCGALLIARD CREEK WATERSHED STUDY John Wear of Western Piedmont Council of Governments provided a presentation of the draft McGalliard Creek Watershed Plan. Mr. Wear informed Council that the process of creating a plan began in 2016; after identifying issues in McGalliard Creek, such as sediment runoff and erosion. The implementation of a watershed plan will qualify the town to apply for project funding through various sources, such as the EPA and other grant opportunities. Town Manager Seth Eckard informed Council that plan implementation and application for funding will likely occur in the next two to three years.

PUBLIC HEARING - INTENT TO CLOSE A SECTION OF WHISNANT STREET Mayor Black opened the Public Hearing and informed Council that the project is not complete at this time. A notice calling for the public hearing to be held at this Council meeting was published; however, staff has requested that the public hearing be continued at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to continue the public hearing at the January 2, 2018 Council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE (2) 24" BUTTERFLY VALVES Water Resources Director Greg Padgett requested approval to purchase two 24" butterfly valves from Clearwater Inc., in the amount of \$30,400.00. Funds for this purchase were allocated in the budget through the Capital Improvement Plan as part of the Meridian Incentive Agreement.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the purchase of two 24" butterfly valves from Clearwater Inc., in the amount of \$30,400.00, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment No. 08

Subject: Whisnant Street Relocation

Memorandum:

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.

Action Suggested:

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, 2018:

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

<u>Acct.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4900.452 Whisnant St	61,490	
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 61,490	\$ 0
	=====	=====

This will result in a net increase of \$61,490 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.

<u>Acct.</u> <u>No.</u>		
10.3820.000 Sale of Real Property		61,490
	-----	-----
Total	\$	\$61,490
	=====	=====

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

Subject: Fire Truck Purchase

Memorandum:

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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.

Action Suggested:

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, 2018:

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

Acct. No.		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.5300.740	Capital Equipment	851,097	
		-----	-----
Total		\$851,097	\$ 0
		=====	=====

This will result in a net increase of \$851,097 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.

Acct. No.			
10.3970.762	Loan Proceeds		851,097
		-----	-----
Total		\$	\$851,097
		=====	=====

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

Subject: WiFi Project

Memorandum:

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.

Action Suggested:

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, 2018:

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

Acct. No.		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.4900.721	WiFi	18,905	
		-----	-----
Total		\$ 18,905	\$ 0
		=====	=====

This will result in a net increase of \$18,905 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.

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Acct.		
<u>No.</u>		
10.3970.490 Grant Proceeds		18,905
	-----	-----
Total	\$	\$18,905
	=====	=====

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 three aforementioned budget amendments, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilman Ogle thanked Public Works and everyone who contributed, for the Christmas parade. Mr. Ogle stated that he wasn't sure if it was the best crowd but there were a lot of kids and that is what this parade is all about. Mr. Ogle expressed his appreciation to the businesses in Valdese for going above and beyond with Christmas decorations. Mr. Ogle finished by expressing his concerns about the street lights in town; how often they are not operational and our inability to hang anything on them. Town Manager Seth Eckard agreed with Councilman Ogle and explained that staff is keeping a weekly report that is filed with Duke. Duke indicates in their system that the issue has been resolved when it has not. Staff is exploring alternatives to find a resolution with this matter.

Councilman Delp shared with Council that he has received a lot of positive comments about the entrances into town. Mr. Delp stated the town is off to a good start for the future with regard to Christmas decorations.

Councilwoman Hildebran expressed her appreciation to the committee that was in charge of Christmas decorations this year; acknowledging their hard work, especially with a lack of financial resources. Ms. Hildebran provided an update on the library project, informing Council that the Cole House was demolished today.

Mayor Black informed Council that the Western Piedmont Council of Government Policy Board has voted in favor of an increase in the rate for annual dues for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, in the amount of 10 cents. The current rate of 50 cents has not increased in over 20 years. Mayor Black indicated that this will not be a significant increase for Valdese.

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

Staff will surplus the old fire truck, seeking a starting bid of \$20,000.00.

Mr. Eckard recognized the downtown merchants and staff for their efforts with Christmas decorations this year, expressing his appreciation for them going above and beyond.

Christmas in Valdese with Christmas Tree Lighting is being held on Friday, December 8, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Old Rock School.

The Council and Department Head Christmas Gathering is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2017 at Waldensian Heritage Winery, at 6:30 p.m.

Mingle with Kris Kringle is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2017, 8:30 a.m., at Old Rock School.

A Christmas Fellowship Lunch is being held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, from 11:45 a.m-1:00 p.m., at the Fire Department Engine Bays.

Town Offices will be closed December 25-27, 2017 in observance of Christmas and January 1, 2018 for New Year's Day

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2018 due to New Year's Day.

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The Council Strategic Planning Workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at WPCOG Offices.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:58 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 meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk
ck

Mayor