

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, February 1, 2016, 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:

GARY OGLE – 121 LADY SLIPPER LANE, SW, (MORGAN TRACE) VALDESE Mr. Ogle wanted to know who makes decisions on the groups who come to play music either for Rock School, Family Friday Nights or during the June, July, August concerts when the streets are closed. He believed there could be more input to those decisions whether a music committee or from the community or whatever Council wanted. Mayor Black said he did not know the answers and he recommended Mr. Eckard or Ms. Hefner get back with Mr. Ogle.

Mr. Ogle said to enter Hwy 70 from Tunnel Road, looking west at Pizza Hut and going east towards Valdese, there was a sign that read NC Governors Economic Council (he was not sure of the exact wording) that was installed by the State. There was a gentleman that lives in his neighborhood who said there had been two accidents at Tunnel Road/Hwy 70 and there was a blind spot at that location. He said there were a lot of elderly citizens in his neighborhood.

Mr. Ogle said he attended the question and answer session regarding the Pine Crossing Housing Development last Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, and there was a good turn out and the presenters did a real good job. He understands the community concerns but also understood the economic value and he was in total support of the development.

Councilwoman Hildebran said she lives in the Morgan Trace community also and before the sign was put up along Hwy 70 there had been accidents at that intersection, with her being one of them. She said the issue had been addressed and Public Works staff had cut the banks and trees back and they responded well from complaints from the citizens in the community. This was a state issue and the Town had done everything to protect that intersection.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2016

ADOPTED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR NC MAIN STREET SOLUTIONS FUND – OLD WORLD BAKING COMPANY

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR
NORTH CAROLINA SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET SOLUTIONS FUND**

WHEREAS, The Town of Valdese has been actively involved in the North Carolina Main Street Program in order to improve the economic wellbeing of its community; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Valdese has proposed a project to bring new jobs to the downtown district and improve surrounding buildings façade; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Commerce has available a fund known as the Main Street Solutions Fund and is authorized to award grants through this program which is a reimbursable matching (two for one) grant program; and

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WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese Mayor and Council have endorsed and support the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese agrees to the guidelines set forth in the grant agreement; and resolves to carry out the proposed project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Valdese authorizes its Town Manager to submit an application for the Old World Baking Company Project to the North Carolina Main Street Solutions Fund.

Adopted this 1st day of February, 2016.

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

ATTEST: /s/ Town Clerk

APPROVED REQUEST FROM WALDENSIAN HERITAGE WINES TO SELL WINE AT THE ROCK SCHOOL ART GALLERY RECEPTIONS ON MARCH 13, 2016 (2:00 – 4:00 P.M.); JUNE 9, 2016 (5:30 – 7:30 P.M.); AND OCTOBER 2, 2016 (2:00 – 4:00 P.M.)

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BARBARA HEFNER AND NEWLY APPOINTED COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MORRISSA ANGI Mayor Black presented Ms. Hefner with the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BARBARA HEFNER

WHEREAS, Barbara Hefner for the past 12 years has served the Town of Valdese with distinction as a committed and dedicated Town employee; and

WHEREAS, these 12 years of service have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interests of the community as she worked constantly to support tourism and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hefner served on numerous State and Local Boards and Commissions and served as Staff Liaison for the Town of Valdese Rock School Advisory Commission; Valdese Tourism Commission; Valdese Youth Council; and served on the Western Piedmont Sister Cities Association; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hefner, while serving as Community Affairs Director, coordinated the Annual Waldensian Festival, Family Friday Nights, Bluegrass at the Rock, Christmas in November, and the Valdese Farmers Market; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hefner has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she has encountered and she also earned the affection of her fellow public servants, who are proud to call her "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 BARBARA HEFNER for her outstanding contributions to the Valdese Community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Barbara Hefner for her leadership during the past 12 years as its Community Affairs Director and extends congratulations and best wishes as she begins a new chapter in her life called, "Retirement."

Adopted this the 1st day of February, 2016.

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

Town Manager Seth Eckard introduced the next Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS – ARTISAN FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCERS Planning Director Larry Johnson reviewed the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Artisan Food and Beverage Producers. He said Mr. Donald Smith approached Council in September 2015 regarding brewing and craft distilling in the Town of Valdese. Council directed staff to take the issue to the Valdese

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Planning Board. The Planning Board said there were at least 10 craft distilleries within a 50 mile radius of Valdese and 31 currently across the state. He offered a PowerPoint presentation. There is a law that dictates what a distillery can and cannot do and they can offer tastings and most offer several brands and they can only sell one bottle per person per year to a customer. The products are also sold in the local ABC Stores. The Planning Board visited Carolina Distillery in Lenoir. They cannot have off-site tasting rooms or offer drinks by the glass. The Planning Board recommended that Council approve the proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance as presented.

Mayor Black opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against.

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

Councilman Ogle asked if a distillery could be opened on Pineburr Avenue in a residential community. Mr. Johnson said yes if the property was zoned M1 Manufacturing (existing manufacturing) and the limitation was that the property could not be zoned residential.

Councilman Ogle asked if the Planning Board looked at issues such as the ABC store which may be state laws and not local laws. Mr. Johnson said the Planning Board did discuss location provisions but since this was a small micro set-up, tourist incentive, with the product sold elsewhere that there was no need to limit locations.

Mr. Eckard said no one would be going to these facilities to become intoxicated because the tasting was a small amount.

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve the zoning amendments for Artisan Food and Beverage Producers, seconded by Councilman Delp.

Voting aye: Stevenson, Delp and Sweezy

Voting nay: Ogle and Hildebran

Mayor Black said the motion did not receive a 2/3 vote required (4 votes) for an ordinance amendment adoption. Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said this would need to be placed on the March 2016 agenda for a second reading.

(NOTE: Amendments will be included in the March 7, 2016 minutes.)

REQUEST FOR FAÇADE GRANT – BRINKLEY INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Current Community Affairs Administrative Specialist Morrissa Angi said they received a request from Brinkley Insurance Agency, 142 Main Street East, for a Façade Grant to upgrade the back of their building along Bobo Avenue by installing a new steel entry door, light fixtures, commercial grade guttering, and painting at an estimated \$2,240. The match provided by the Town would be \$1,120.

Councilman Ogle asked about the guttering and Ms. Angi said it was the back of the building which was allowed since the parking lot was installed.

Councilman Delp said the grants needed to be spread out throughout Town and he also asked about the timeframe since they were allowed a previous grant.

Councilman Sweezy explained that they could only receive up to \$2,500 match for a façade grant for the front of the building and \$2,500 match for the back of the building for a total of \$5,000.

Community Affairs Director Barbara Hefner said the committee visited West Jefferson and the back of their buildings were very nice.

After continued discussion, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to approve the Façade Grant to Brinkley Insurance in the amount of \$1,120, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson.

Voting aye: Hildebran, Stevenson, and Sweezy

Voting nay: Ogle and Delp

Mayor Black said the motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONNECT NC PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BOND Mayor Black said this resolution was recommended by BDI. Town Manager Seth Eckard said voters would have an opportunity on March 15, 2016, to vote on the bond, and Burke County would do well if the bond passed. He presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONNECT NC PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BOND

WHEREAS, North Carolina has seen its population grow by 2 million people since 2000, and there is a need to expand and repair existing infrastructure to ensure we can meet the demands of our growing population, continue the development of new jobs, and grow our economy; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has voted to include a \$2 billion bond referendum on the March 2016 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the bond will provide \$58 million to build a Western NC School of Science and Math School of Technology and Engineering in Burke County; and

WHEREAS, the bond will provide \$23.3 million that will be used to locate a NC National Guard Readiness Center in the old Western Youth Institution High-Rise building in Burke County; and

WHEREAS, Western Piedmont Community College will receive \$5.9 million for necessary improvements to its campus located in Morganton; and

WHEREAS, the bond will provide in excess of \$5 million for needed improvements for facilities, campgrounds and hiking trails for South Mountain State Park and Lake James State Park; and

WHEREAS, funding for the UNC System and the NC Community College System will focus on STEM programming to better prepare our students for the 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, there will be more than \$309 million dedicated to modernizing water and sewer in small rural towns and larger cities across North Carolina to improve quality of life and ensure economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, state leaders have indicated that there will be no new taxes created by the passage of this bond and neither will the passage of the bond jeopardize the state's strong credit rating since interest rates currently are at historically low levels; and

WHEREAS, the Connect NC Public Improvement Bond is subject to voter approval on the March 15, 2016 ballot and deserves rightful consideration of the citizens of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese supports the Connect NC Public Improvement Bond that invests in the future of Valdese and Burke County and North Carolina.

Adopted this 1st day of February, 2016

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

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

NEW UTILITY TRUCK – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth requested approval to purchase a new Ford F150 for the Public Works Department – Utility Division. The department would be replacing a 2000 GMC with 180,000 miles. Purchase to be made off the State Term Contract. Supplier would be Capital Ford Raleigh in the amount of \$24,007, with an estimated delivery time of 60-150 days.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the purchase of the aforementioned utility truck in the amount of \$24,007, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

REAPPOINTMENT - VALDESE ABC BOARD MEMBER Town Manager Seth Eckard said staff recommended the reappointment of Jennifer “Jenny” Hudson to a third term on the Valdese ABC Board. The three-year term will expire April 1, 2019.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the reappointment of Jennifer Hudson to a third term on the Valdese ABC Board, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE – SEWER I & I Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following Capital Project Ordinance:

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE
Sewer System Inflow/Infiltration Improvements (CWSRF No. CS370396-08)**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project authorized is the construction of the rehabilitation and/or replacement of certain sanitary sewer manholes, services, and line segments in the Cline Avenue Pump Station area. (Contract A: Sewer Pipe Rehabilitation; Contract B: Various Sewer System Improvements)

Section 2. The officers of the Town are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the loan documents, and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Construction:	68,8120.450	\$193,447.60
Engineering Planning and Design:	68,8120.040	35,000.00
Construction Administration:	68,8120.041	9,000.00
Observation:	68,8120.042	9,873.00
Contingency (5% of construction)	68,8120.570	9,672.38
Future Contracts	68,8120.451	28,924.02
Closing Costs	68,8120.571	<u>5,718.00</u>
Total		<u>\$291,635.00</u>

Section 4. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

NC Clean Water State Revolving Fund (loan)	68,3970.000	285,917.00
Capital Reserves	68,3970.999	<u>5,718.00</u>
Total		<u>\$291,635.00</u>

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grant and loan agencies.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced from the Utility Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grant and loan agencies in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7. The Finance Officer is directed to report, on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 and on the total grant and loan revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this capital project in every budget submission made to the Town Council.

Section 9. Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Town Council, and the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this 1st day of February, 2016

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

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

SNOW REMOVAL Councilman Delp thanked Public Works Staff for the fine job with snow removal. He also commended Fire Department Personnel and asked Fire Chief Charlie Watts to offer a report from the recent snow storm.

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Chief Watts said during the recent snow an elderly couple's smoke detector caused problems and fire personnel installed a new smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector and while at the resident the firemen shoveled the couple's driveway. Chief Watts said there were no complaints about snow removal and he thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth.

DOG LITTER Councilwoman Stevenson said citizens were most appreciative of the sidewalks on Gardiol Avenue and Laurel Street and a lot of citizens walk along the sidewalks. She was approached by someone that some citizens do not collect their dog litter. Perhaps a sign and a doggie waste bag dispenser could be installed at the corner of Gardiol/Laurel.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Mr. Eckard said he would be attending the Annual NC City/County Management Seminar in Durham from Tuesday afternoon through Friday.

CHARLOTTE'S CAROLINA PANTHERS Mr. Eckard encouraged everyone to cheer on The Panthers for the Super Bowl 50 this Sunday.

At 6:45 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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