

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2016**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, March 7, 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:

DOWNTOWN BUILDING CODES Mr. David Wronko, 120 Davis Drive, SE, Valdese, said he served on the Small Town Design Committee and he found there were no downtown building codes. There were minimum setbacks and no maximum setbacks and nothing taller than 50 feet. There were two buildings built in the 1920s that defines our town center, the buildings were built by the sidewalks. His concern was the building at Faet/Main plus the two empty lots could end up with a drive-in/drive-out business, like Auto Zone. He recommended that Council adopt new codes, there was a maximum setback of five feet, the width of a sidewalk and zero setback on the sides of the buildings. Seventy percent of the storefronts are windows and of course this would only be applied to new buildings. He is working with a contractor in West Asheville on Haywood Road and they just enacted new codes and this was where he got his inspiration. He said Merrimon Avenue in Asheville had drive-in/drive-out businesses and they did not want that to happen on Haywood Road. He said West Asheville is a hot spot in Asheville. He recommended the four or five blocks on Main Street in Valdese be preserved.

Mayor Black asked Planning staff to look at this situation.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES – QUORUM OF JANUARY 27, 2016 COMMUNITY MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016

APPROVED ARBOR DAY 2016 PROCLAMATION

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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, 2016 is the 144th 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 28 years.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, John F. Black, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 18, 2016, as the 144th Anniversary celebration of

“Arbor Day 2016”

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 18, 2016, 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 7th day of March, 2016.

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

APPROVED SURPLUS PROPERTY – POLICE DEPARTMENT Police Chief Moss requested to surplus an old printer, HP LaserJet 4240, previously used by the police/fire departments. The value of the printer was approximately \$100 and if the printer is not sold on gov.deals, it would become recycled material.

APPROVED WAIVER OF FEE FOR “VALDESE REMEMBERS” The “Valdese Remembers” Committee was working on a tribute to Valdese High School for the faculty, staff and students who were involved with the school from 1938 – 1974. The event would be held on Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the Old Rock School Auditorium and the committee requested the Town waive the rental fee of \$260.

APPROVED FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016 AS TAX LIEN ADVERTISING DATE FOR REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY

APPROVED PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016 FOR ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS - ANIMAL KEEPING

APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO VALDESE ABC BOARD Mark Rostan, a charter member of the Valdese ABC Board, submitted his resignation effective April 1, 2016 due to the demands of a new business venture. Staff recommends that W. T. Sorrell be appointed to fill Mr. Rostan’s unexpired term, which would expire April 1, 2018.

APPROVED REAPPOINTMENT OF ABC BOARD CHAIRMAN Staff recommended the reappointment of Town Manager Seth Eckard as Chairman of the Valdese ABC Board.

APPROVED APPOINTMENT TO WESTERN PIEDMONT SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi was appointed to the Western Piedmont Sister Cities Association replacing former director Barbara Hefner.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY HIRED TOWN EMPLOYEES Town Manager Seth Eckard asked the Department Heads to introduce their new employees:

Ashley Watson Crawley, Administrative Specialist, Community Affairs Department
Philip Timothy Pons, II (Tim), Treatment Plant Operator, Wastewater Department
Nathan Ryan Hefner, Police Officer, Police Department
Joseph Glenn Winebarger, Police Officer, Police Department
Carson Dean Berry, Police Officer, Police Department

PRESENTATION OF HEARTSAVER HERO AWARDS – FIRE CHIEF CHARLIE WATTS Chief Watts offered a presentation on the Heartsaver Hero Awards and he also offered a brief video aired on WBTV. He introduced Michael Kiddy (father of Valdese Firefighter Steven Kiddy) who collapsed February 2, 2016, at Food Lion in Valdese with a heart attack. Chief Watts said this was the fourth CPR Save within one year which was awesome. He said when he arrived on the scene there were two Food Lion employees, three nurses and one off duty Lenoir firefighter who were working with Mr. Kiddy, and out of 16 people who responded to the call 12 actually touched Michael Kiddy with patient care. The EMS Operations Chief presented this situation to the Heartsaver Hero Program which was chosen with a lot

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of publicity, untold amount of magazines, WBTV, ABC National News, and ABC International in Denmark. The following 16 people received awards:

Steve Kiddy, Valdese Firefighter (3rd Heartsaver Award in less than a year)
James Crossno, Draughn High School Student
Tim Street, Food Lion
Deanna Cole, nurse
Kristen Carswell, nurse
Erika Micol, nurse
Anthony Smith, off duty Lenoir Firefighter
Captain Tim Williams, Valdese Fire Department (2nd Heartsaver Award in less than a year)
Lt. Tom Oxentine, Valdese Fire Department (2nd Heartsaver Award in less than a year)
Mark Icard, Valdese Fire Marshal (2nd Heartsaver Award in less than a year)
Sharon Morgan, Valdese Fire Department
Travis Maltba, Triple Community Fire Department
Courtney Clark, Paramedic
Nikki Carswell, Paramedic
Zack Arnesman, Valdese Fire Department
Fire Chief Charlie Watts (2nd Heartsaver Award in less than a year)

Chief Watts said there was quick recognition, quick CPR, quick activation of the EMS System, quick defibrillation, and quick transport and Mr. Michael Kiddy was a living example.

SECOND READING OF ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS – ARTISAN FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCERS Mayor Black said this was the second reading as a public hearing was held at the February 1, 2016 Council meeting regarding proposed text amendments for artisan food and beverage producers. The motion did not receive a 2/3 vote (4 votes) required for an ordinance amendment adoption. **(Note: Amendments may be found in Ordinance Book No. 9, pg. 123.)**

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Planning Board to adopt the zoning ordinance text amendments regarding Artisan Food and Beverage Producers on second reading, seconded by Councilman Delp.

Voting aye: Stevenson, Delp, and Sweezy

Voting noe: Ogle and Hildebran

Mayor Black said the motion carried.

CDBG SECOND PUBLIC HEARING - MERIDIAN SPECIALTY YARN GROUP, INC. Mayor Black opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against. He invited WPCOG Senior Planner Leah Martin to make the presentation.

Ms. Martin said this was a public hearing to receive input regarding a Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Project to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for the Meridian Project in Valdese. Through the pre-application process \$1 million in CDBG funds have been set aside for public water improvements to benefit the proposed expansion. The company committed to invest \$8.5 million and to retain 146 full-time employees documented as of November 2015 until the estimated close of the project. The work to be done with the \$1 million would be a back-up generator for the water treatment plant which was the most significant portion of the grant application and two valves to be replaced on a 20" main that also serves the industry. The cost estimate for the construction, engineering, and contingency was \$975,000. The grant terms and security that Meridian Specialty Yarn Group would be required by the program to commit to the retention to their existing full-time positions and for every position not retained the town would repay commerce \$6,850 until the entire million dollars was expended. The 20 percent match for the program had already been committed by the town. Ms. Martin said there was no action to be taken at this point, just a public hearing.

Mr. Eckard said the committed match was the incentive that the Town already provided for Meridian. Ms. Martin said typically there would be a 20 percent match.

Mayor Black explained that was time for the public to speak regarding the project and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak. There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Black closed the public hearing.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURES FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS Mayor Black said many Councils had rules and procedures for meetings and all members of council received information from the NC School of Government which was tweaked for the Valdese Town Council meetings.

(NOTE: Rules of Procedures may be found in Ordinance Book No. 9, pg. 126.) Mr. Eckard said the Rules of Procedures would also be posted on the Town's website.

Councilman Sweezy made a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedures for the Valdese Town Council Meetings, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO FLAT ROOF AND BARREL ROOF – RECREATION CENTER Recreation Director Doug Knight recommended replacement of the flat roof over the bowling alley, the barrel roof over the gymnasium, and the small flat roof over the porch of the gymnasium due to issues with leaks and deterioration caused by heavy rains. He offered a brief PowerPoint of the condition of the roof and interior of the building caused by the water leaks and he described the product to be used for repairs. He recommended Council approve a quote with Custom Coatings in the amount of \$68,850 plus quote from Hardware Distributors for new door and frame in the amount of \$4,200 for a total of \$73,050. (Other quotes: Johnson Roofing in the amount of \$75,256, and Conover Roofing in the amount of \$86,250.) Mr. Knight said after 15 years a quote could be obtained for the company to come back and pressure wash the coating and add another layer which would extend the warranty by an additional 15 years.

Councilman Ogle asked where the funds would come from and how many other roofs needed repair such as Tiger Gym and the Teachers Cottage. He recommended they be added to the upcoming budget. Mr. Eckard said since this was an emergency repair the funds would come from the General Fund.

Councilman Delp asked about the interior repairs. Councilman Ogle recommended that staff bring a quote for painting and repair of the damaged interior areas due to water leaks at the next Council meeting. Mr. Knight said he would obtain quotes.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Delp made a motion to approve the aforementioned quote with Custom Coatings in the amount of \$68,850 plus quote from Hardware Distributors for new door and frame in the amount of \$4,200 for a total of \$73,050, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Ogle asked if Councilman Delp would amend his motion to include directing the Manager and Recreation Commission Chairman for costs to repair the damaged areas.

Councilman Delp said he had no problem amending his motion if Councilman Ogle felt it was necessary.

Councilman Delp made a motion to direct the Manager and the Recreation Department Director to bring repair estimates for the damage previously done by the water leaks to Council for approval of repairs, seconded by Councilman Ogle.

Ms. Sandi Walker asked if the Town had insurance coverage for water damage. Mr. Eckard said this type of damage was not eligible for an insurance claim.

Mayor Black called for the vote which was unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF 2016 BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE Mayor Black recommended that all Members of Council be invited to attend a Budget Workshop on Monday, April 25, 2016, either 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. Mayor Black said the date and time would need to be confirmed within the next few weeks and it would need to be advertised.

Councilman Ogle requested that the Budget Workshop be moved to Saturday, April 23, 2016, because he would probably be out of town on April 25, 2016 due to work and would not be traveling on Saturday and Sunday. Mayor Black said the recommendation would be taken into consideration.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

MCGALLIARD FALLS PARK Councilman Delp said there were a lot of weddings at McGalliard Falls Park and a lot of people using the park. He thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth for taking care of the bridge by cleaning debris, etc. He said they were planting more bushes so it will become even more beautiful in the future.

INDUSTRIAL PARK – WESTERN END OF BURKE COUNTY Councilman Delp asked how many years would the Town be required to pay \$15,000 towards the industrial park since nothing had happened there.

Mayor Black said the Town of Valdese along with Burke County, the City of Morganton and several other municipalities agreed to purchase that property as the industrial park. All municipalities involved made a commitment to make payments until the debt was paid which could be paid through regular payments or if there were an industrial location at the park then any funds generated would be used to reduce the debt. He said as long as the Town was part of BDI it would need to contribute.

Councilman Delp said it seemed like Valdese was paying for things for Burke County. Mayor Black said the BDI contribution was changed to a per capita formula and the contribution would be less. Mayor Black said if an industry were to come to Drexel, people of Valdese work there, Valdese gets additional tax revenues over and above what the county receives in taxes which was a good investment.

LIGHTS – MAIN STREET Councilman Ogle said lights had been out on Main Street for several weeks from the Bakery down to East Valdese Baptist Church.

Town Manager Seth Eckard said staff met with Duke Energy this date and he requested Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth report on the findings.

Mr. Duckworth said the Main Street poles were what Duke Energy called non-stock poles, meaning they had to be ordered from their supplier. When Duke orders they order extra but are currently out of stock. Duke Energy representatives said it would be two weeks before they received the poles.

Councilman Ogle requested street lights be added to the budget. He asked if we were using the right type of street lights as there are several always out.

Mr. Eckard said Councilman Ogle's concerns regarding lighting was what staff began discussing with Duke Energy this date. Staff would continue working with Duke Energy for proposals within the next few months.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

ANNUAL BUDGET RETREAT, TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016, 2:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., OLD ROCK SCHOOL

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016 FOR GOOD FRIDAY

At 6:54 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Sweezy. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting, Annual Budget Retreat, on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Old Rock School.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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