

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
QUORUM PRESENT – Citizens Academy First Session  
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016**

On Thursday, March 24, 2016, 6:00 p.m., the first session of the Town's First Citizens Academy was held at Valdese Town Hall Council Chambers, 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina.

A quorum of the Valdese Town Council was present and no action was taken: Mayor John F. "Chip" Black, Jr., Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Roy F. Sweezy, and Councilman Gary L. Delp. Also present were Town Manager Seth Eckard, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi, Community Affairs Administrative Specialist Ashley Watson Crawley, and all Department Heads.

Hors d'oeuvres were provided by Myra's Catering.

At 6:15 p.m., Town Manager Seth Eckard welcomed everyone and said the class was limited to 20 participants and he asked everyone to please stand and introduce themselves, state where they work or go to school, and where they live.

Following are Citizens Academy participants:

1. Carla Berry, Retired from State of NC
2. Kathy Boutwell, Unemployed
3. Colton Gera, Burke County Public Schools
4. Judy Jones, Retired
5. Rick McClurd, A&M Sound Systems
6. Amanda Ninemire, Burke United Christian Ministry
7. Matt Ninemire, ComServ
8. Finley Morrow, Draughn High School Student
9. Steve Morrow, Connelly Springs Electric
10. Rose Mueller, Artist
11. Will Mueller, Retired
12. Leyton Shoupe, NC National Guard
13. Katelynn Smith, Hamricks
14. Apryl Smith Hollifield, Town Employee (and mother of Katelynn Smith)
15. Tonya Stevens, CVCC Professor
16. Maxwell Teffeteller, Draughn High School Student
17. Sandi Walker, Owner of Dolls & Designs by Sandi
18. LaDonya Edwards, CMC Valdese Hospital

(Applicants not present: Kimberly Wilson, Heather Ward, Waynette Allison)

Mr. Eckard offered a brief overview of the Citizens Academy as well as an overview of city/town, county, and state government and how they are run and the services they offer. He briefly reviewed the budget for the Town's General Fund and Utility Fund.

Mr. Eckard asked the participants, by the next meeting, to elect from the group a president, vice-president and treasurer and he recommended they come up with a project that would help Valdese in a specific way. The project would be presented to Council at the Seventh Academy Session on Thursday, May 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Black welcomed everyone to the Town of Valdese First Citizens Academy. He thanked the Department Heads for their hard work with the Academy. He explained the duties of Mayor.

At 8:15 p.m., there were no additional comments or questions.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor

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