

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016**

The Valdese Town Council met on Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:00 a.m., for a Budget Workshop at Valdese Town Hall Community Room located at 102 Massel Avenue, SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The following members were present: Mayor John F. (Chip) Black, Councilman Keith Ogle, Councilwoman Frances Hildebran, Councilwoman Susan Stevenson, Councilman Gary Delp, and Councilman Roy Sweezy. Also present: Town Manager Seth Eckard, Deputy Town Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney and Finance Director Jerry LaMaster.

Absent: None

A quorum was present. No action was taken.

Others present: Dwayne Wilson, Dwayne Wilson Insurance & Financial Services and HR Officer/Utility Customer Services Manager Debbie Jones.

Breakfast was catered by Myra's Catering.

**CALL TO ORDER** At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Black opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said the purpose of the meeting was for a Budget Workshop.

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE** Mr. Wilson offered an overview of employee insurance since 2012. The current provider was Blue Cross Blue Shield NC (BCBS) with an estimated renewal increase of 18 percent and he mentioned another provider, Corporate Benefit Services, Inc., with an estimated 10 percent increase. The actual estimates should be in within a week.

Town Manager Seth Eckard said the current estimated increase would be \$96,445.64 and employees could participate in the cost or see a reduction in their HSA contributions.

Members of Council recommended that the Town keep BCBS if possible.

Mr. Wilson said he would advise staff as soon as the quote for the renewal rate was received.

At 9:50 a.m., Mr. Wilson and Ms. Jones left the meeting.

**PROPOSED BUDGET - FY 16-17** Mr. Eckard and Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the proposed budget for FY 16-17. They reviewed the General and Utility Funds Revenues and Expenditures.

**PROPOSED TAX AND UTILITY INFORMATION** Mr. Eckard briefly reviewed the cost of a 6 cents tax increase for a home valued at \$75,000, \$100,000, \$150,000, and \$200,000. He also reviewed water and sewer increases and the cost per year and per month.

**BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS – FY 16-17** Mr. Eckard briefly reviewed the budget highlights which would be included in the budget document.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS BUDGET** Mr. Eckard briefly reviewed the departmental special projects budget.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Black adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 2, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor

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