

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 2016**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, May 2, 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:

MR. BUD LEVAN, 1006 CURVILLE STREET, said he was opposed to the proposed tax increase and he was unaware as he did not receive the "Morganton News Herald." He believed a lot of people did not receive the newspaper and were unaware of an increase. He asked if the increase would be on the tax bills this July or August. Mayor Black said if Council approved a tax increase it would be effective July 1, 2016.

Mr. Levan recommended that a notice be mailed or placed on the water bill. He said he received a nice letter from the Town about a month ago that explained a bike race. He said he received nothing about a proposed tax increase which affected him a lot more than a bike race.

He wondered how many fires the Town had within the past five years that would require a ladder fire truck.

Mayor Black said the budget would be presented June 6 and the Budget Public Hearing would be held on June 27, 2016.

Town Manager Seth Eckard said the Town did a great job with social media online, the Town's website and the newspaper. There was a communication gap for those who did not have access to Internet; however, in the upcoming budget a phone tree system for the entire town is proposed.

Mayor Black said most people have a cell phone and can access the Town's website which has a lot of information.

MS. JEAN MARIE COLE, 705 BERTIS STREET, spoke against the proposed tax increase. She would like to attend the June 27 Council meeting to hear more about the proposed increase. She believed funds should be in every budget for items such as a new garbage truck and street repairs. She understood that you could not budget for state mandates. She said her Social Security check did not go up and there was a 65 plus population in this town. She said a 6 cents increase this year and what about next year.

Mayor Black said there had been two citizen input meetings this year and several civic presentations and there could be more informational meetings if needed. He thanked Ms. Cole for her comments.

Councilman Sweezy said regarding the fire truck and fire personnel if we lost our fire rating that would cost our citizens more for insurance.

Councilman Ogle said the senior citizens, 65 plus, could apply for lower taxes and the information was on the Town's website for the contact information in Burke County. He said no one had voted yet for a tax increase and citizens should speak with their Council Members.

Mr. Eckard said he would meet with anyone regarding the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED MINUTES: FIRST CITIZEN INPUT MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED TAX INCREASE - APRIL 1, 2016; REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 4, 2016; MERIDIAN GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY - APRIL 12, 2016; SECOND CITIZEN INPUT MEETING - APRIL 19, 2016; AND BUDGET WORKSHOP - APRIL 23, 2016

APPROVED ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURES FOR TOWN OF VALDESE SPECIAL EVENTS

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURES FOR TOWN OF VALDESE SPECIAL EVENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese desires to schedule a Christmas parade, an Independence Day Celebration and the Annual Waldensian Festival; and

WHEREAS, part of US 70/Main Street in Valdese will need to be closed for each of these special events; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 20-169 provides that local authorities shall have power to provide by ordinance for the regulation of the use of highways by processions or assemblages;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the town council of the Town of Valdese pursuant to G.S. 20-169 that the following portion of the State Highway System be closed during the times set forth below:

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

DATE: JULY 1, 2016

TIME: 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

ROUTE: Main Street (US 70) from Hoyle Street to Eldred Street

WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL KICK OFF CELEBRATION

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2016

TIME: 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

ROUTE: Main Street (US 70) from Hoyle Street to Eldred Street

WALDENSIAN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2016

TIME: 5:30 AM – 11:00 PM

ROUTE: Main Street (US 70) from Hoyle Street to Eldred Street

VALDESE CHRISTMAS PARADE

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2016

TIME: 9:45 AM – NOON

ROUTE: Main Street (US 70) from Hoyle Street to Eldred Street

Signs shall be erected giving notice of the limits and times of these street closures as required by G.S. 20-169.

THIS, the 2nd day of May, 2016.

John F. Black, Jr., Mayor

Attest: /s/ Town Clerk

APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO AGREEMENT WITH WEST CONSULTANTS FOR SEWER SYSTEM I & I IMPROVEMENTS (3013 CWSRF PROJECT) The amendment is for the Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) project to investigate other known I & I issues within the Town's Collection System. With available project funds, staff plans to investigate the Campbell Avenue outfall and the Church Street outfall for sources of I & I since large amounts of I & I have been discovered in these areas during heavy rain events. The cost for Amendment No. 2 is \$5,000 and funds will come from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

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

End Consent Agenda

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF HEFNER REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 508 MAIN STREET EAST (NAPA/FLOWERS BUILDING) Town Manager Seth Eckard recommended this item be tabled until the June 6, 2016 meeting as more information was needed.

Councilwoman Stevenson made a motion to table the aforementioned agenda item until the June 6, 2016 Council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

AWARD OF 2016 SAFEST CITIES FROM SAFEWISE Police Chief Moss said Valdese was ranked the 17th safest city in North Carolina and he was proud of his staff.

RECOGNITION OF FIRE PERSONNEL FOR RECEIVING ADVANCED FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATIONS Fire Chief Watts presented Advanced Firefighter Certifications to Mark David Icard and Thomas Heath Oxentine. He reviewed requirements in order to receive the advanced certification, and he said three in the Fire Department now held advanced certificates.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH BOONDOCK STANDARD, LLC Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth said the agreement with Boondock Standard, LLC, in the amount of \$2,000 per year which would supply Boondock Cities software so staff could prepare maps, share maps, and engage the public via map comments. Data could be entered from smart phones. Potholes could be tracked, and maps would show which roads would be blocked off at events, etc.

Mr. Eckard said this company was formed by a group of UNC graduates and was based in Durham, North Carolina. He recommended using the maps for one year and the agreement could be continued.

Town Attorney Marc Mitchell said it would need to be determined before one year if the town wished to continue the three year agreement at \$2,000 per year.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Sweezy made a motion to approve the agreement with Boondock Standard, seconded by Councilman Delp.

Voting aye: Hildebran, Stevenson, Delp, and Sweezy

Voting nay: Ogle

Mayor Black said the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REVISED FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi presented the revisions to the Façade Grant Application and she said the area along Main Street was extended from Eldred Street to Morganton Street.

Councilman Ogle made a motion to approve the Revised Façade Grant Application, seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. The vote was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF LOAN RESOLUTION FOR THREE POLICE VEHICLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY LIGHTING AT THE RECREATION CENTER Police Chief Jack Moss described the police vehicles that were being replaced and they would be ordered on the state contract now to be ready by July 1. Mr. Eckard said if the budget were adopted without any tax increase the vehicles could be replaced by the debt service contained in the budget every year.

Councilman Ogle asked about Ford Expeditions instead of Dodge Chargers. Chief Moss said they would be replaced as needed.

Councilwoman Hildebran asked Chief Moss if he would be requesting cars in next year's budget and he said no.

Councilman Delp said we have the best police force and we do not pay them enough nor provide adequate vehicles such as take home cars which would last longer.

Mr. Eckard said the resolution also included energy efficiency lighting.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

WHEREAS: The Town of Valdese has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing of police vehicles and energy savings equipment, (the "Project"), and the Finance Director has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. Valdese hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T"), in accordance with the proposal April 22, 2016 and the addendum dated April 27, 2016. The amount financed shall not exceed \$139,198.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 2.00%, and the financing term shall not exceed three (3) years from closing.
2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of Valdese are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.
3. The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Director is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Valdese officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Director shall approve, with the Finance Director's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.
4. Valdese shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. Valdese hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).
5. Valdese intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of Valdese's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the BB&T financing described above. Valdese intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Valdese's general fund, or any other Valdese fund related to the project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.
6. All prior actions of Valdese officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this 2nd day of May, 2016.

By: /s/ Frances M. Hildebran, Town Clerk

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

After a brief discussion, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adopt the aforementioned Loan Resolution, seconded by Councilman Delp. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS Finance Director Jerry LaMaster presented the following two budget amendments:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 21 - COMMUNITY CENTER REPAIRS

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10.6200.150 Maint & Repairs	\$ 11,000	
Total	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 11,000 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.

10.3970.300 From Utility Fund		<u>\$11,000</u>
Total	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>

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. 22 - COMMUNITY CENTER REPAIRS

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.

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, 2016:

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

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
30.8100.920 Contribution Gen Fund	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$ 11,000 in the expenditures of the Utility Fund. To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased. These additional revenues have already been received.

30.3990.000 From Fund Balance		<u>11,000</u>
Total	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>

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 aforementioned two budget amendments, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Delp thanked Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth for repairing a water leak on Laurel Street.

Councilman Delp said he recently observed a child fishing for trout at McGalliard Falls Park.

Councilman Delp said a friend of his had an issue at the Food Lion parking lot where someone tried to steal something from his vehicle and he was complimenting the Valdese Police Department.

Councilwoman Hildebran said there were some ladies in her neighborhood who were walking and saw a snake, and a Valdese Police Officer was patrolling the area and he moved the snake to a wooded area.

Councilwoman Stevenson asked about the Granville Morrow Fun Fish Day. Recreation Director Doug Knight said the date was Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Councilman Delp said volunteers assisting (Barber Shop) with the Fun Fish Day needed to know the date.

VALDESE YOUTH COUNCIL Councilwoman Stevenson asked Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi about updates on the Valdese Youth Council. Ms. Angi said normally it was included in the Reading Material and presently the attendance had been low and she was working on projects for the Youth Council. Councilwoman Stevenson requested that Ms. Angi continue adding information about the Youth Council in Reading Materials.

NEW DOWNTOWN PARK Councilman Sweezy said citizens were concerned about a new building at the park. He commended Mr. Eckard about the PARTF Grant plus additional grants.

Mr. Eckard said Former Town Manager Jeff Morse was responsible for obtaining those grants and staff would continue working on the project.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

UPDATE ON MCGAILLARD FALLS WATER WHEEL Mr. Eckard said there was a water wheel designed from 13 foot to a proposed 16 foot which had been sent to the Historic Valdese Foundation and the Rostan Foundation, funders for the project, for final approval. The Bridge Crew would be contacted to build the trough. There would be a ribbon cutting celebration for the new water wheel.

TOWN OF VALDESE CITIZENS ACADEMY, SESSION SEVEN, FOR CONCLUSION & GRADUATION ON THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016, 6:00 P.M., VALDESE TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS Mr. Eckard said he was proud of the Citizens Academy participants, a dynamic group, and he recognized Sandi Walker, Rose and Will Mueller who were all in the audience. He said they would present a community service project for the Town of Valdese.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS BEGIN MAY 6, 2016 AND CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

FARMERS MARKET BEGINS MAY 20, 2016 THROUGH SEPTEMBER; WEDNESDAYS 9:00 A.M. – NOON; AND FRIDAYS 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 30, 2016, IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

At 6:58 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, June 6, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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