

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 102 Massel Avenue SW, Valdese, North Carolina. The Council meeting was live-streamed on YouTube @townofvaldese. The following were present: Mayor Charles Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ogle, Councilwoman Rexanna Lowman, Councilwoman Heather Ward, Councilman Glenn Harvey, and Councilman Paul Mears. Also present were: Interim Town Manager Bryan Steen, Town Attorney Tim Swanson, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, and various Department Heads.

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Mayor Watts 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:

GRETCHEN COSTNER - Ms. Costner shared with the Council and citizens the details of the 176th Waldensian Edict of Emancipation Event on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the Old Rock School. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children and can be purchased at the Museum or Old Rock School. Ms. Costner invited everyone to attend. Ms. Costner also noted that this is the 50th year of the Waldensian Museum and asked the Council to mark their calendars for September 21, 2024, for the official museum celebration.

Mayor Watts read the Rules & Procedures for Public Comment:

Rule 5. Public Comment - The council shall provide at least one period for public comment per month during a regular meeting, unless no regular meeting is held that month. Any individual or group who wishes to address the council shall inform the town clerk, any time prior to the start of the meeting, and provide their name, address and subject matter about which they wish to speak. Person(s) must be present if they wish to address the Council. Comments should be limited to five minutes per speaker. Please use the microphone and silence your cell phones.

P&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SCOTT COMPTON, 3247 HOLLY HILLS CIR., VALDESE: Mr. Compton provided his Public Comment to the Clerk: "Members of the Council, My name is Scott Compton. I am the acting President of the Town of Valdese Parks and Recreation Commission. As a reminder, we are a commission of 6 Valdese citizen volunteers accompanied by Council Representative, Gary Ogle. Our role is to advise and make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Director as well as the Town Council, promote community awareness and understanding of, and appreciation for, the value of parks and recreation. I come before you with three recommendations discussed and voted upon unanimously at our most recent meeting on January 22nd.

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the town pursue a permanent structure to replace the aging Bubble. The structure does not necessarily need to be brick and mortar; rather the technology is there to construct a framework, aluminum structure with opening wall panels and architectural fabric. The UV-coated, fabric panels provide for the flexibility for both indoor/outdoor usage. As quoted in The Paper, we have the "best pool in Burke County". Year round usage is a unique selling point for the community, a valuable resource that is fully inclusive. It directly affects and serves all ages of Valdese citizens as a place for exercise and physical rehabilitation. Despite the upfront cost, a fixed, permanent structure will facilitate lower annual operating costs and chemical usage. During summer months, the removable panels will provide ventilation, natural light, and an uncovered deck space for those desiring sunlight. The commission strongly recommends the town council consider this option as a solution to our town's need for a year-round, swimming facility.

Recommendation 2: Any decision the town makes regarding the future of the pool facility is going to require careful consideration of financial impact. In order to make informed, measured, and responsible decisions,

our Commission recommends that we seek the completion of a new, 10-year comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master plan. Since 2003, the plans in place have provided the strategic framework for the greater good of the community. The most recent 10-year comprehensive plan expired in 2023. So, as of this evening, we are currently operating without a comprehensive plan in place. During the establishment of the most recent plan in 2013, we relied heavily on the public input of citizens. During development, a project team met with the Recreation Director and attended several meetings of the Commission. A town-wide survey was developed and utilized. Three focus group meetings were also conducted during this process. The input gained helped the project team to determine what facilities needed to be addressed and the priority for development or renovation. The estimated cost to initiate a new plan is around \$20,000. There are two reasons why the implementation of a Comprehensive Plan in 2024 will be crucial; first, it allows an additional opportunity for citizen input. Secondly though, and most important, being able to provide evidence of citizen input is paramount in pursuing state parks and recreation grants over the next 10 years. Without a comprehensive plan in place, our efforts to secure these funds through grants will be severely hindered. Currently, the inclusion of a Comprehensive Master plan can be found in the budget proposal for fiscal year 2025. However, in order to leverage the grant writing capabilities needed for securing funds for pool improvements, we recommend that the town council consider moving forward immediately with the approval of funds needed to establish a new plan.

Finally, Recommendation 3: Our Commission recommends that the town accept the state funding of \$2.2 million for the Hoyle Creek stream restoration and the concurrent creation of a side-path along the creek and Lake Rhodhiss Drive. The Commission has been briefed on the availability of these funds as well as to the needs of this area. Our recommendation is for the Town Council to accept the funding being provided by the state in order to assist with flooding mitigation and pedestrian safety. It is important to point out that there will be no town funds involved in this project, and long term maintenance costs can be offset by state funds as the side-path will be a part of the Wilderness Gateway State Trail. Thank you for your time and attention to our commission's 3 recommendations."

TOWN THING'S – RICK MCCLURD, 408 GARROU AVE, VALDESE: Mr. McClurd shared that there seems to be no oversight from the Town Manager to the Department Heads, and it needs to be fixed before we get the next Town Manager. Mr. McClurd said he could not find any long-term financial plans provided by the former and present Town Council, Mayors, Managers, and Accountants. Mr. McClurd noted that there must be at least a five-year plan that the Department Heads would develop to replace broken and new equipment. Mr. McClurd said that we need a good person who knows about construction, etc., when requesting grants and planning projects for the Town. Mr. McClurd said that Bill Poteat seems to think that asking questions about a project that is \$500,000 over budget is a bad thing like Councilman Harvey did when he asked a question about it. Mr. McClurd shared that Councilman Harvey was the only person who asked why it was over budget. Mr. McClurd also noted that Allen VanNoppen said the WHO group tried to hide funds, and they did their due diligence to make sure they did everything correctly.

VACANT HOUSE – ANNETTE SKIDMORE, 312 BECKER AVE, VALDESE: Ms. Skidmore informed the Council of a vacant house at 321 Becker Ave in Valdese. Ms. Skidmore gave a background of the house from when it was purchased as a rental property in 1991. Ms. Skidmore shared that homeowners on either side of the house felt the need to build privacy fences. Ms. Skidmore said that the house has dwindled through the years, and it has been vacant for eight years, and she has not seen the property owner. Ms. Skidmore and her neighbors have worked with Town staff and Council over the years to ensure the lawn was maintained. Ms. Skidmore shared that the Burke County building inspector also looked at the house and said it could not be condemned. Ms. Skidmore shared that the owner has not paid their 2023 Town taxes and feels it is time for the owner to do something about their house. Ms. Skidmore hopes that the Council will address her concerns and the problem.

ROCK SCHOOL – KEVIN FARRIS, 225 MAIN ST E, VALDESE: Mr. Farris talked about our jewel in Valdese, the Old Rock School. Mr. Farris shared the history of attending the Old Rock School as a freshman and what fun he had there. Mr. Farris recently enjoyed watching The Little Mermaid, Jr. and saw joy in the people attending. Mr. Farris believes that the Old Rock School needs upgrading and wants the facility back up to speed so we do not miss opportunities for people to have a good time. Mr. Farris understands that the stadium seating was not in the contract proposal. Mr. Farris shared he is 1,000 times

for approving the contract and donated \$1,000 towards the seats. Mr. Farris also encouraged others who enjoy the Old Rock School to give money.

POOL – KAREN LINKOUS, 301 SAINT GERMAIN AVE SE, VALDESE: Ms. Linkous urged the Council to decide on the pool situation soon so everyone can swim next season. Ms. Linkous expressed her appreciation for the leader of the Aquatic Center, David Andersen. Ms. Linkous feels that Mr. Andersen has the knowledge to guide the Council in making the best decision.

POOL – BECCA RAMSEY, 5415 JOHNSON BRIDGE RD, HICKORY: Ms. Ramsey shared that her son goes to East Burke High School and uses the pool for the swim team. Ms. Ramsey said swimming gives kids an outlet and feels it is essential. Ms. Ramsey also used the pool when homeschooled and remembers when the bubble first went up. Ms. Ramsey urges the Council to think about this decision.

POOL – HALEY OXENTINE, 758 ABEES GROVE CHURCH RD, VALDESE: Ms. Oxentine shared that she is the Lady's Swim Team Coach for East Burke High School. Ms. Oxentine shared the timeline of the different pool bubble challenges they have experienced with maintenance issues. Ms. Oxentine said that East Burke has used the Valdese Aquatic Center for over 20 years and has had a long-standing relationship. Ms. Oxentine said their practice times are from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm each day of the swim season, but if they have to go somewhere else, it would likely be 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and they would have to bus the students due to it being farther. Ms. Oxentine also said it could cost them more money, possibly leading them to close the program.

POOL – JEAN-MARIE COLE, 705 BERTIS ST, VALDESE: Ms. Cole remembers when the pool bubble went up, and she and her granddaughter have used it. Ms. Cole said there is no point in rehashing the past and that the bubble cannot be fixed anymore. Ms. Cole asked the Council to find a solution to continue year-round swimming. Ms. Cole feels our pool is multi-generational and a very good quality-of-life program. Ms. Cole said this affects many people, not just Valdese citizens.

PUBLIC SAFETY – BROOKE HEAVNER, 207 FOREST DR, VALDESE: Mr. Heavner shared that we have been talking about the Public Safety Building for at least two years. Mr. Heavner said that at the last meeting, we did not spend time talking about it, and he feels that the employees deserve a better building. Mr. Heavner feels we need to get our priorities right and care for the people who care for us. Mr. Heavner is not against the pool, but it is not a priority right now; it is the Public Safety Building, Old Rock School, and then fix the pool when we can. Mr. Heavner said we need to refocus and prioritize.

POOL – JENNY HUDSON, 412 FAET ST NW, VALDESE: Ms. Hudson said that the Council has a priority to do both, Public Safety Building and Pool bubble; you do not get to prioritize. Ms. Hudson thanked the Council for the Strategic Planning meetings and hoped something good would come out of it. Ms. Hudson said that as she watched the January meeting, she took away the focus of questioning how we got there, why we did not do this, why we used this fund or that fund, and questioning the past. Ms. Hudson said you can spend a lot of time focusing on why you got there, or you can turn that effort into coming up with a good solution to fix a problem in front of you and move forward. Ms. Hudson encouraged the Council to change their focus. Ms. Hudson talked about Town leadership and shared that we have some phenomenal Town leaders with good people in place. Ms. Hudson identified the values that David Andersen brings to the table from leadership, mentorship, and aquatics perspectives. Ms. Hudson encouraged the Council to listen to what David had to say. Ms. Hudson said she wanted to stress this because she was disturbed by how Ms. Angi was questioned last month regarding the Rock School. Ms. Hudson said if we treat our Town employees like that.... (Ms. Hudson's 5 minutes ran out.)

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion) Councilman Harvey requested to remove item 6 F, Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events, from the consent agenda.

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024

APPROVED CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024

APPROVED STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2024

APPROVED STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2024

APPROVED ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENT – JAUBERT AVE.

(the above space is left blank for recording purposes)

Excise Tax: \$0.00

PREPARED BY/RETURN TO:

Timothy D. Swanson, Attorney
Young, Morphis, Bach & Taylor, LLP
Post Office Drawer 2428
Hickory, North Carolina 28603

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

**DEED OF EASEMENT
(Sewer/Water)**

BURKE COUNTY

This Deed of Easement is made this _____ day of _____, 2024, by and between **DIANNE BRITTAIN MOBLEY, DONALD M. BRITTAIN, and WILLIAM MICOL BRITTAIN**, residents of North Carolina having an address of 7395 Mobley Lane, Connelly Springs, North Carolina 28690 (collectively “Grantors”), and **TOWN OF VALDESE**, a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina located at 102 Massell Avenue SW, Valdese, North Carolina 28690, (“Grantee”).

WHEREAS, Grantors are the owners of that certain tract or parcel of real property (the “Grantor Property”) situated in Lovelady Township, Burke County, North Carolina, commonly known as 1000 Jaubert Avenue SE, Valdese, North Carolina 28690, Parcel ID No. 2743249363, which Grantor Property is more particularly described in Deed Book 715, Page 488, Burke County Registry; and

WHEREAS, Town Council for the Town of Valdese, Grantee, has determined that it is in the public interest to install, construct and maintain a perpetual, non-exclusive 25-foot wide sanitary sewer easement and a perpetual, non-exclusive 20-foot wide waterline easement over,

**TOWN OF VALDESE/MOBLEY
PERMANENT SEWER EASEMENT AND PERMANENT WATERLINE EASEMENT**

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across, under and through a portion of the Grantor Property for establishing, extending, enlarging, or improving water and sewer lines and systems in the Town of Valdese and to enter into certain covenants and agreement with Grantors in connection with said easements, all as more fully set forth in this Deed of Easement.

NOW, THEREFORE, Grantors, for and in consideration of the sum of **TEN AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$10.00)** and other valuable consideration paid to Grantors by Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the Grantee, its successors and assigns, a perpetual right and easement to construct, install, operate, maintain, repair and replace a perpetual, non-exclusive 25-foot wide sanitary sewer easement and a perpetual, non-exclusive 20-foot wide waterline easement, together with the attendant customary uses, including drainage and utilities, over, under, through, across, along and upon all that certain lot, tract, or parcel of the Grantor Property situated in Lovelady Township, Burke County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

PERMANENT SEWER EASEMENT

Being all of that 25-foot wide sewer easement as shown on that certain Plat recorded in Plat Book _____, Page _____, Burke County Registry, entitled "TOWN OF VALDESE (WATER/SEWER EASEMENT-MOBLEY/BRITTAIN PROPERTY)," said plat being prepared by Dolphus E. Harmon, PLS L-3333, and being dated October 11, 2023, to which reference is hereby made for greater certainty in description.

Said Permanent Sewer Easement Area running perpendicular 12.5 feet on each side of the centerline described as follows:

Beginning at a point located North 64-07-22 West 115.50 feet from the southeast corner of the property of Dianne Brittain Mobley, Donald M. Brittain, and William Micol Brittain as described in Deed Book 715, Page 488 (Tract II); thence North 73-48-57 West 8.17 feet; thence from said point of beginning North 15-18-00 East 214.11 feet; thence North 15-27-26 East 154.16 feet to a point in the northern line of the property of Dianne Brittain Mobley, Donald M. Brittain, and William Micol Brittain as described in Deed Book 715, Page 488 (Tract II).

PERMANENT WATERLINE EASEMENT

Being all of that 25-foot wide waterline easement as shown on that certain Plat recorded in Plat Book _____, Page _____, Burke County Registry, entitled "TOWN OF VALDESE (WATER/SEWER EASEMENT-MOBLEY/BRITTAIN PROPERTY)," said plat being prepared by Dolphus E. Harmon, PLS L-3333, and being dated October 11, 2023, to which reference is hereby made for greater certainty in description.

Said Permanent Waterline Easement Area running perpendicular 12.5 feet on each side of the centerline described as follows:

Beginning at a point located South 83-22-50 West 10.14 feet from the northeast corner of the property of Dianne Brittain Mobley, Donald M. Brittain, and William Micol Brittain as described in Deed Book 715, Page 488 (Tract II); thence from said beginning South 03-00-53 East 71.08 feet; thence North 67-55-45 West 21.52 feet; thence North 69-33-19 West 56.91 feet; thence North 75-43-09 West 48.70 feet; thence North 78-26-19 West 34.79 feet; thence North 75-25-54 West 36.89 feet; thence North 71-49-15 West 37.07 feet to a point in the northwestern line of the property of Dianne Brittain Mobley, Donald M. Brittain, and William Micol Brittain as described in Deed Book 715, Page 488 (Tract II).

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said grant of right and easement unto them, Grantors, their successors and assigns forever.

Grantors acknowledge that the Grantee is acquiring the easements described herein for the purpose of constructing, installing, operating, maintaining, repairing and replacing water and sewer lines and systems within the described easements, and specifically grant unto Grantee the right to construct and maintain such structures or make the improvements on that grade according to such plans and specifications, as will, in Grantee's opinion, best serve the public purpose. Grantors further grant unto Grantee or its agents the right to exceed the easements to cut and fill slopes, construct drainage structures and erosion control structures beyond the described easements. The payment of the purchase price for the easements conveyed shall be considered full compensation for the easements, and for any diminution in value that may result to the remaining Grantor Property by virtue of proximity to the project, grade alignment, utility installation, or the alteration of drainage patterns and facilities.

The said grants shall include the right of ingress and egress over the easements on the Grantor Property for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, repairing and enlarging said water and sewer lines and systems or removing any obstruction interfering with the enjoyment of these lines and, in general, any rights and privileges which may be necessary for the permanent maintenance of said water and sewer lines and systems; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall directly or indirectly be construed as authorizing Grantee or its successors or assigns to injure, damage or remove any structure upon said land, and Grantors herein expressly retain for themselves, their heirs and assigns, the right to construct and maintain any and all buildings they may desire upon the said premises, provided the water and sewer lines and systems are protected in the manner required by Grantee.

Grantee shall use its best efforts to minimize the removal of grass, shrubbery, plants, or other vegetation occasioned by Grantee in constructing, maintaining, or altering said water and sewer lines and systems.

Should one or more of Grantors be natural persons not joined by their respective spouses, it is conclusively presumed that the land conveyed is not the residence or business homestead of such Grantors. Should one or more of Grantors be a legal entity other than a natural person, it shall be conclusively presumed that the person signing on behalf of that party has been duly and legally authorized to so sign and there shall be no necessity for a seal or attestation.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights and appurtenances belonging thereto, unto Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, and Grantors are hereby bound, together with all heirs, executors, administrators, or successors, to warrant and forever defend the easements granted herein unto Grantee, its successors and assigns, against every person lawfully claiming the easement or any part thereof.

**THIS SPACE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.
SIGNATURES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING
PAGES.**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Grantors have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

By: Dianne Brittain Mobley (Seal)
DIANNE BRITTAIN MOBLEY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BURKE

I, Laurie Powell, a Notary Public of BURKE County, State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that DIANNE BRITTAIN MOBLEY personally came before me this day and signed the foregoing instrument as his or her act and deed.

Witness my hand and notarial stamp or seal, this 11th day of August, 2023.



Laurie Powell
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11/11/2024.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Grantors have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

By: Donald M. Brittain (seal)
DONALD M. BRITTAIN

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BURKE

I, Laurie Powell, a Notary Public of BURKE County, State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that DONALD M. BRITTAIN personally came before me this day and signed the foregoing instrument as his or her act and deed.

Witness my hand and notarial stamp or seal, this 11th day of August, 2023.



Laurie Powell
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11/11/2024.

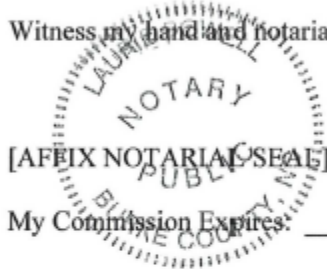
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Grantors have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

By: William Micol Brittain (Seal)
WILLIAM MICOL BRITTAIN

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BURKE

I, Laurie Powell, a Notary Public of BURKE County, State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that WILLIAM MICOL BRITTAIN personally came before me this day and signed the foregoing instrument as his or her act and deed.

Witness my hand and notarial stamp or seal, this 11th day of August, 2023.



Laurie Powell
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 11/11/2024

ACCEPTANCE

Accepted by the Town Council for and on behalf of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, this ____ day of _____, 2024.

THE TOWN OF VALDESE,
a North Carolina municipal corporation

By: _____ (Seal)
CHARLES WATTS, Mayor

Attest: _____
JESSICA LAIL, Town Clerk

Approved as to form on behalf of the Town of Valdese this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Attorney for the Town of Valdese

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF _____

I, _____, a Notary Public of _____ County, State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that JESSICA LAIL personally came before me this day and acknowledged that she is the Town Clerk of the TOWN OF VALDESE, a North Carolina municipal corporation, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the Town Council of the TOWN OF VALDESE, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name and by its Mayor, CHARLES WATTS, sealed with its corporate seal, and attested by her as its Town Clerk.

Witness my hand and notarial stamp or seal, this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Notary Public

[AFFIX NOTARIAL SEAL]

My Commission Expires: _____.

APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF ABC BOARD CHAIRMAN, INTERIM TOWN MANAGER BRYAN STEEN Interim Town Manager Bryan Steen was appointed to the Valdese ABC Board, filling the unexpired term of Seth Eckard. The term expires on April 1, 2026.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the aforementioned items on the Consent Agenda minus Item 6 F (Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events), seconded by Councilman Harvey. The vote was unanimous.

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: One item 6 F, Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events

ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE TOWN OF VALDESE 2024 ANNUAL EVENTS

Councilman Harvey has heard Merchants talk about this for several years, and one that has a store that is affected by it has to shut down every year during these special events. Councilman Harvey believes this needs to be done but wants to make sure that the Police and Public Works Department talks with the Merchants that are impacted by it and gives us an assurance to approve it.

Councilman Harvey made a motion to schedule a special Council meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm, in the Council Chambers to complete anything that is left over from items 6 F (Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events), 7 D (Recruitment of a Town Manager Discussion), 7 F (Consideration of Approval of Contract for Old Rock School Renovations), 7 H (Consideration of Approving Resolution for the Sale of Town-Owned Property – Fat Ave.), seconded by Councilman Ward.

Discussion: Councilman Harvey said we need to move forward with these items and discuss them tonight, but we need more time to get more information and finalize them. Councilwoman Lowman is concerned about the Old Rock School grant and that we may lose it. Councilwoman Ward wants to know exactly what the Old Rock School contract numbers are. Councilwoman Lowman said we already have a Strategic Planning session with WPCOG scheduled for February 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Mayor Watts asked if we could have the special called meeting on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 3:00 pm. Council members were good with that date.

Vote: Councilman Harvey – Yes, Councilman Ogle – Yes, Councilwoman Ward – Yes, Councilwoman Lowman – No, Councilman Mears – No. The motion was approved.

Mayor Watts announced the motion carried, and the special meeting would be on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 3:00 pm, in the Council Chambers.

PRESENTATION OF HOYLE CREEK RESTORATION: Parks & Recreation Director David Andersen shared that this is State allocated funds for the Hoyle Creek stream restoration and sidepath, and no Town of Valdese funds are required for this project. Mr. Andersen said this was needed to help with the flooding problem along Hoyle Creek, decrease stream sediment deposits, and improve pedestrian safety. Mr. Andersen shared that this would be a part of the Wilderness Gateway State Trail so that we would be eligible for maintenance funding from the State for any large maintenance problems. Mr. Andersen reminded Council that the 2016 WalkRCV pedestrian plan identified the sidepath.

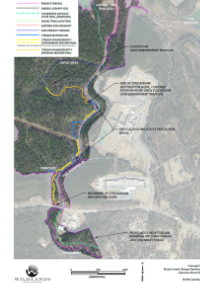
Councilman Harvey asked how this came about. Mr. Andersen shared that this was part of a discussion with the Town, with Representative Blackwell, Catawba River Keeper, and other individuals to see reduced flooding along the way. Councilman Harvey asked what the process was for getting started. Mr. Andersen said it would begin with an RFQ, and then we would go from there on selecting qualified individuals/firms. Councilman Mears asked what the next step would be. Mr. Andersen said the next step would be for the Council to accept the funding from the State.

Hoyle Creek Stream Restoration and Sidepath Budget Allocation

David Andersen, Director Parks and Recreation

What are we talking about?

- State awarded Town of Valdese \$2.2 Million in current state budget for Hoyle Creek Stream Restoration and Sidepath
 - Direct Allocation supported by Rep. Blackwell
 - Funds from North Carolina Water Resiliency Fund administered by NC Department of Public Safety
 - Catawba Riverkeeper/ Foothills Conservancy Support Project
 - The allocation from the state helps enhance other current and future funding requests
 - No Town of Valdese funds required



Why is this needed?

- Improve resiliency during flood events
 - Flood mitigation
 - Shift water away from roadway
 - Decrease sediment deposits in stream and at Lake Rhodhiss
 - Protect sewer infrastructure
- Provide pedestrian and cyclist safe path
 - Move pedestrians and cyclists off of the road where school buses, trucks to wastewater plant, and park visitors drive
 - More natural path for visitors without having to venture deep in to the park
- Routine maintenance provided by town staff with funding from state funds specifically for state trail maintenance for any larger repairs.



Piece of the Pedestrian Puzzle

- Complete restoration and sidepath at one time to take advantage of economies of scale
- Sidepath identified in the 2016 WalkRCV pedestrian plan (page 51)
- Fits within 2023 CORE plan under Goal 1.3
 - Advocate for and facilitate progress of state and regional trail projects.
 - Part of larger Wilderness Gateway State Trail
 - Part of the Burke River Trail
- Funds can also be leveraged as matches for additional grant funding for trailhead
 - Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant
 - Recreational Trails Grant



Councilman Mears made a motion to accept the funding, 2.2 million to create this pedestrian sidepath and Hoyle Creek restoration project, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Lowman thanked Representative Hugh Blackwell for helping with getting these funds.

POOL ENCLOSURE DISCUSSION Parks & Recreation Director David Andersen feels that the bubble needs to be removed from the pool for the remainder of this year and seek some additional forms of deck heat. Mr. Andersen said that he and his staff would do what they need to do to heat the water appropriately. Mr. Andersen believes we can retrieve some scrape metal from the bubble to assist with costs. Mr. Andersen would also like to move forward with a solution. Mr. Andersen has received questions on what other pools are used. Mr. Andersen shared that the City of Hickory uses the YMCA, City of Morganton utilizes Mountain View Aquatics Center(brick and mortar), and City of Lenoir uses Lenoir Aquatics & Fitness Center(brick and mortar). Both Morganton and Lenoir also have outdoor pools. Mr. Andersen said many patrons still want to be able to lay out in the sun and Mr. Andersen does not see a brick and mortar as a practical solution for us with both cost and what our patrons want. Mr. Andersen said that we have 660 average swimmers that utilize the space in the wintertime and it is hard to track who lives in the city limits and who does not. Councilwoman Lowman asked what kind of timeline we are looking at in these proposals. Mr. Andersen said one contractor would not give a time frame until the design and engineering work was completed and the other said once they get the site work prep completed they could have a structure completed in two weeks with the construction work prep being a month. Councilman Mears asked if the Park Master Plan that Scott Compton mention earlier would help us get grants. Mr. Andersen said absolutely. Councilwoman Lowman asked how long that would take and Mr. Andersen said we would have to discuss that with WPCOG. Councilman Harvey said that we have hard working employees and for the last two months, Ms. Angi and Mr. Andersen were the hardest working because they have been pursuing their passion and they are appreciated. Councilman Harvey would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to bring a recommendation to the Council during budget time on the best solution and pursue funding options. Councilwoman Lowman asked if we wait until budget time, would we have time to get this completed by winter. Mr. Andersen feels it would be difficult to pursue funding through grants. Interim Town Manager Bryan Steen recommended Mr. Andersen coming back at our next meeting with recommendation from the Parks & Rec Commission with potential cost estimates and any work that can be done between now to July 1, 2024.

Councilman Mears made a motion as originally presented by Scott Compton with Parks & Rec Commission that we fund a new 10-year Park Master Plan that has expired, in the amount of \$25,000 from the unassigned fund balance, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman.

Discussion: Councilman Harvey asked who would do the Master Plan. Councilman Ogle shared that at the last Parks & Rec Commission meeting they requested that we provide \$20,000 in the Recreation budget to do this Master Plan and Councilman Ogle feels it needs to be done again. Councilwoman Ward asked if we could defer this motion to the February 16 meeting so that we have all the information and what it covers. Councilman Harvey asked if we start this would it help give us funding for grants. Councilman Mears said yes, you get certain points to have an updated Master Plan, which would move us up in ranking to secure grants. Councilman Harvey noted that this cost more than what the WPCOG did for the Town's strategic planning.

Vote: Councilman Mears – Yes, Councilwoman Lowman – Yes, Councilman Harvey – No, Councilman Ogle – No, Councilwoman Ward – No, Motion failed.

ADDED TO THE FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING – CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED PARK MASTER PLAN Councilwoman Ward made a motion to add to the special agenda Consideration of an updated park master plan, seconded by Councilman Harvey.

Discussion: Councilman Ogle would like to know how much it cost, what all is covered, and who is responsible for it, in writing.

Vote: Councilman Harvey – Yes, Councilman Ogle – Yes, Councilwoman Ward - Yes, Councilman Mears – No, Councilwoman Lowman – No, Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel shared that in the agenda packet was a RFQ for the existing public safety building to obtain an architect. Mr. Weichel said that we would have to have a committee to review the submittals from the architect firms and then we start the interview process. Councilman Harvey would like to include the Charlotte and Raleigh/Durham area in the search. Mr. Weichel shared we can post it in the State Procurement website that will reach across the State.

Councilman Harvey made a motion to authorize the RFQ process and to expand to the Charlotte and Raleigh/Durham area, seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous.

TABLED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING - RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN MANAGER DISCUSSION Interim Town Manager Bryan Steen asked that the Council direct staff in what way we should go with the Town Manager search. Councilman Harvey shared the Mr. Steen asked him to help track down executive search firms and he has received two proposals and is expecting two more to present on the February 16, 2024 special meeting.

ADDED TO THE FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING – ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE TOWN OF VALDESE 2024 ANNUAL EVENTS Town Attorney Tim Swanson stated that we still have Consent Agenda Item 6 F Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events hanging that we need to address.

Councilman Harvey made a motion to post pone item 6 F Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for the Town of Valdese 2024 Annual Events to the March 4, 2024, Council meeting so that the Main Street Committee can meet and talk about it. Mr. Swanson said that this item would appear on the Special Meeting agenda for February 16, 2024, but you could postpone it then. Councilwoman Ward seconded the motion. Councilman Mears agrees that we do need to talk to the business owners because some of the road closures have affected them.

Vote: The vote was unanimous.

POTENTIAL VALDESE TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY CITIZENS Councilman Harvey shared that he commented on this before and it is in the minutes and this is something we would look at farther down the road.

TABLED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING - CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR OLD ROCK SCHOOL RENOVATIONS Community Affairs Director Morrissa Angi shared the following PowerPoint presentation:

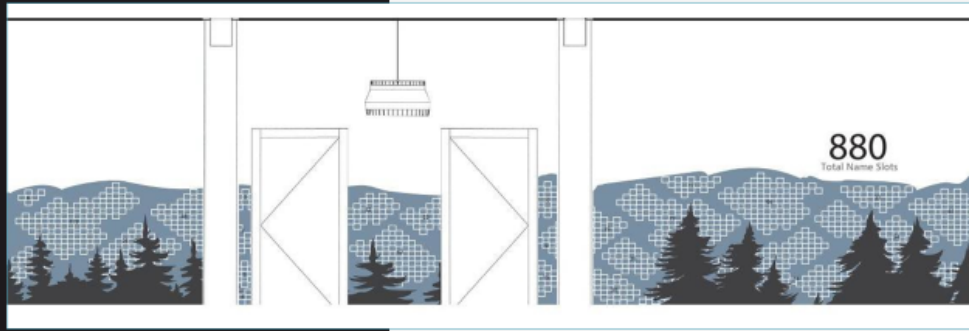
**Community Affairs
Old Rock School Renovations**

2024

**Contract with Houck Contracting, LLC
Old Rock School**

**SGA|NW certified low bid with
Houck Contracting, LLC.**

Base Bid:	\$743,545.00
Alternative 1:	\$743,545.00
Alternative 2A:	\$713,275.00
Alternative 2:	\$64,575.00
Total:	\$1,225,940.00



Fundraising Option #1
Old Rock School

Artwork will be acrylic and feature the mountains bordering Valdese to the south. The installation will showcase students, community members and organizations who have made contributions to the Old Rock School during its 100 years.

Front Lobby Donor Wall

6



Fundraising Option #1
Old Rock School

Front Lobby Donor Wall

7

Donor Wall		Black Listing	Bold Listing	Gold Listing	Business Listing (Bold)
		\$100	\$125	\$150	\$200
880	100% Sold	\$88,000	\$110,000	\$132,000	
440	50% Sold	\$44,000	\$55,000	\$66,000	
220	25% Sold	\$22,000	\$27,500	\$33,000	

Who?

- Over 50 years of students attended + teachers
- Over 125 Bluegrass at the Rock Season Ticket Holders
- Community Members – Organizations

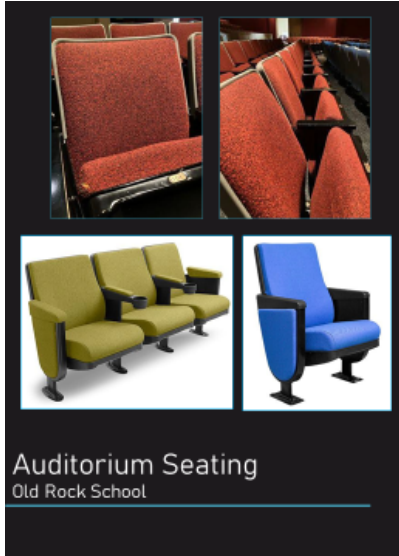
Events to Promote Fundraising:

- Festival Meet & Greet
- Grand Re-Opening
- Online – Websites
- Press Releases
- Social Media "Class of" Groups

Fundraising Option #1
Old Rock School

Front Lobby Donor Wall

8



Auditorium Seating
Old Rock School

Currently = 433 fixed with 40 moveable = 473
Proposed = 449 fixed with option to add 30 moveable = 479

Pros:

- Larger Seat Size (Additional 2" per seat)
- Designated Handicap Seating Availability
- Seating has been underwritten by a local donor

Cons:

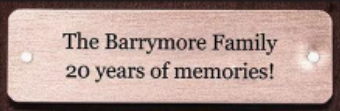
- Cost - Grants Funds cannot be used for Seating
- Storing the old seats 5 months
- Labor Costs to remove twice if seating is replaced at a later date

Notes:

- Auditorium renovation will be complete with seating replacement
- Seats have been included in CA 10-year CIP

Auditorium Seating

Seating Sponsorships		Center \$200	Balcony \$150	Wings \$100
449	100% Sold	\$89,800	\$67,350	\$44,900
224	50% Sold	\$44,800	\$33,600	\$22,400
112	25% Sold	\$22,400	\$16,800	\$11,200



Seat Sponsorships will include sponsor's name on a gold plaque.
Estimated installation cost \$3,000 - \$3,500.

Options for Row Sponsorships for businesses

Fundraising Option #2
Old Rock School

Seat Sponsorships

Auditorium Rentals	<i>(Not including add ons)</i>	
Profit Weekend Rate	4-6 hours	6-12 hours
Now	\$600	\$700
After Renovations	\$800	\$1,000

Classroom Rentals	<i>(Not including add ons)</i>	
6 Hours of use	With Aud. Rentals	
Now	\$60	\$20
After Renovations	\$75	\$40

Ticket Sales for featuring National Bluegrass Musicians		
Bluegrass at the Rock Concert Series		
Sell Out Show	449 Seats	
Now	\$30-\$35	\$13,470 - \$15,715
After Renovations	\$40-\$45	\$17,960 - \$20,205
Season Revenue Now	\$80,820 - \$94,290	
Season Revenue After Renovations	\$107,760 - \$121,230	

- Revenue increases for Old Colony Players & other local groups who use the auditorium for productions
- Venue renovation will leverage higher ticket sales = higher caliber of entertainment the ORS can host
- With rentals additional fees will also increase (concessions, setup, tech, merchandise, etc.)
- Increased Tourism = Increased Sales Tax & Patronage to local businesses
- Keeps ORS competitive with other venues in the region
 - Ticket costs, entertainment caliber & rentals

Potential Revenue Increases
Old Rock School

Seat Sponsorships

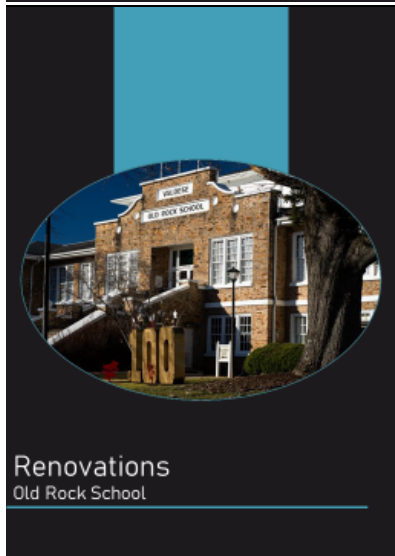


Statistics
Old Rock School

Old Rock School Annual Statistics Comparison

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Attendees	31,550	32,846	8,012	10,566	29,877	41,349
◆Events	424	425	184	321	303	358
16% growth from 2022 to 2023						
Bluegrass at the Rock Statistics						
October - April	2018-2019 6 Shows	2019-2020 6 Shows	2021-2022 7 Shows	2022-2023 6 Shows	2023-2024 5 Shows	
Attendees	1555	1226	1969	1453	1309	
Revenue	\$22,609	\$22,891	\$46,257	\$38,161	\$35,998	
◆of Season Ticket Holders	43	50	102	87	126	
Increase		16%	104%	-14%	45%	
23% growth in Season Ticket Holders from 2022 to 2024						

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Renovations
Old Rock School

Appalachian Regional Commission	\$60,000
+ Private Donation Match	\$60,000
	\$120,000

Equipment Upgrades

- Wi-Fi Upgrades
- Dressing Room/Classroom Space Cabinetry
- Tech Upgrades (5 Meeting Spaces)
- Sound Panels
- Furniture – Tables, Chairs, Lecterns
- Automatic Shades
- Smart TV's

13

Construction Timeline – March – July 2024



Staff recommends the Town of Valdese enter into a contract with Houck Contracting, LLC. to include:

- Base Bid = \$743,545
- Alternate 1 = \$266, 915
- Alternate 1A = \$151,225
(Seating underwritten by local donor)

(Alternate 2 = \$64,975 omitted)

= Estimated Project Cost of \$1,226,660

- \$125,000 to \$150,000 (3rd floor improvements)

= **\$1,076,660 to \$1,101,660 total**

Ms. Angi shared that we should have the exact numbers from the contractor at the February 16, 2024 Special meeting. Councilman Mears asked if Ms. Angi was ready to make a recommendation tonight on what Council should do. Ms. Angi said that if you want an exact number, it should be tabled to February 16, 2024. Councilwoman Ward said it would be good to let the citizens see an exact number. Councilman Harvey stated that what Ms. Angi has presented is a model of how we should be doing things in this Town and thinks it is wonderful on how hard she has worked on this and this is in good shape. Councilman Mears asked Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel if we had enough money in our unassigned fund balance to pull \$150,000 for this. Mr. Weichel stated that last year we had a little over 5 million in the fund balance so we do have enough money.

FY 24-25 AUDIT PROPOSALS AND APPROVAL OF FY 24-25 AUDIT CONTRACT: Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel said that out of the audit proposal that we received he recommends going with Lowdermilk Church & Co. and if Council gives direction to proceed with them, a contract will be presented at the March 4, 2024 regular meeting.

AUDITOR	LOCATION	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
RH Accounting, PLLC	Lexington	45,750 (audit fee) 5,100 (travel)	50,323 (audit fee) 5,100 (travel)	55,354 (audit fee) 5,100 (travel)	\$166,727
Martin Starnes Associates	Hickory	DECLINED			
Lowdermilk Church & Co.	Morganton	17,900	18,795	19,735	\$56,340
Burleson & Earley, P.A.	Asheville	DECLINED			
Misty Watson, P.A.	Boone	16,000 (16,100*)	16,500	17,000	\$49,600
Gould Killian CPA Group	Asheville	NO RESPONSE			
Sharpe Patel, PLLC	Raleigh	NO RESPONSE			
Bernard Robinson & Co.	Greensboro	NO RESPONSE			
Butler & Stowe	Gastonia	NO RESPONSE			
Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co.	Whiteville	DECLINED			

Councilman Harvey made a motion to enter into a contract with Lowdermilk Church & Co., seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

TABLED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING - CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY-FAT AVE.: Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel presented the Resolution authorizing the upset bid process to start the sale of town-owned property. Councilman Harvey asked if there are any other properties that the Town owns that we are not using. Councilman Harvey wants to look at all the properties we have available that we are not fully using on February 16, 2024, and then decide if we want to put this one up for upset bidding. Councilman Harvey noted that the asset value of this is about double the offer.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UPSET BID PROCESS

Sale of 0.41 Acre Tract at 118 Fat Ave NE, Valdese, NC (REID: 693)

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese (the "Town") is the owner of that certain tract or parcel of real property (the "Property") situated in Lovelady Township, Valdese, North Carolina commonly known as 118 Fat Ave, Valdese, North Carolina, PIN: 2743541703, REID: 693, which Property is more particularly described in Deed Book 2284, Page 883-885 as follows:

BEGINNING on a point at the west edge of US Highway 70, the same being the southeast corner of the C.L. Parris Tract III property (Book 823, page 61, Burke County Registry) and runs with the west edge of US Highway 70, South 32° 31' West 103 .07 feet to a ½-inch iron pin set at the west edge of US Highway 70; thence with the north line of the Denise G. Cannon property the following two (2) courses and distances: (1) North 63° 57' 30" West 61.75 feet to a ¾-inch iron pipe set, (2) North 36° 38' 20" West total distance 144.44 feet to a point in the centerline of Fat Road (SR 1589); thence with the centerline of Fat Road the following two (2) courses and distances: (1) North 47° 38' 30" East 63.97 feet, (2) North 59° 6' 10" East 46.57 feet; thence with the south line of the C.L. Parris property South 41 ° 44' 30" East total distance 165.00 feet to the point of BEGINNING and containing 0.49 acres, more or less. The above description is taken from a survey entitled "Property of Roland Gonzalez and wife, Janice Gonzalez" prepared by Associates Surveyors dated October 16, 1996, revised October 28, 1996.

BACK REFERENCE: Tax Foreclosure File No. 15 CvD 426, in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Burke County. See Estate File Nos. 99 E 471 and 99 E 472 in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Burke County and Book 871, page 508, Burke County Registry

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-269 permits the Town to sell property by upset bid, after receipt of an offer for the property;

WHEREAS, on or about December 22, 2023, the Town received an offer to purchase the Property from Brian Shuping for \$8,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Brian Shuping has paid the required five percent (5%) deposit of his offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Town Council authorizes sale of the Property through the upset bid procedure of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
2. The Town Clerk shall cause a notice of the proposed sale to be published. The notice shall describe the Property and the amount of the offer and shall state the terms under which the offer may be upset.
3. Persons wishing to upset the offer that has been received shall submit a sealed bid with their offer to the office of the Town Clerk within ten (10) days after the notice of sale is published. At the conclusion of the 10-day period, the Town Clerk shall open the bids, if any, and the highest such bid will become the new offer. If there is more than one bid in the highest amount, the first such bid received will become the new offer.
4. If a qualifying higher bid is received, the Town Clerk shall cause a new notice of upset bid to be published, and shall continue to do so until a 10-day period has passed without any qualifying upset bid having been received. At that time, the amount of the final high bid shall be reported to the Town Council.
5. A qualifying higher bid is one that raises the existing offer by not less than ten percent (10%) of the first \$1,000.00 of that offer and five percent (5%) of the remainder of that offer.
6. A qualifying higher bid must also be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid. The deposit may be made by cashier's check or by certified check. The Town will return the deposit on any bid not accepted, and will return the deposit on an offer

subject to upset if a qualifying higher bid is received. The Town will return the deposit of the final high bidder at closing.

- 7. The terms of the final sale are that:
 - (a) the Town Council must approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will do within thirty (30) days after the final upset bid period has passed;
 - (b) the buyer must pay the purchase price in certified funds at the time of closing;
 - (c) the Property shall be sold “as is” and subject to all existing easements;
 - (d) the Town will reserve easements for all town utility lines located on or under the Property; and
 - (e) the Property shall be conveyed by special warranty deed.
- 8. The Town reserves the right to withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the final high bid is accepted and the right to reject all bids at any time.

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THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

THE TOWN OF VALDESE,
a North Carolina Municipal Corporation

APPROVED CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL RULES 31 AND 32(A) OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURES AND AMENDING SECTION 2-1021 OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE CODE OF ORDINANCES: Councilman Mears noted that this has been tweaked several times and this would include the Mayor and Council to be able to nominate appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL AMENDING THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL RULES 31 and 32(a) OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND AMENDING SECTION 2-1021 OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the Town Council for the Town of Valdese operates pursuant to a Code of Ordinances (the “Ordinance”) and Rules of Procedure (the “Rules of Procedure”); and

WHEREAS, Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure provides that the Rules of Procedure may be amended at any regular meeting or at any properly called special meeting that includes amendment of the rules as one of the stated purposes of the meeting, so long as the amendment is consistent with the city charter, general law, and generally accepted principles of parliamentary procedure. Adoption of an amendment shall require an affirmative vote equal to or greater than two-thirds of all the actual membership of the council, excluding vacant seats, and not including the mayor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-75, no ordinance nor any action having the effect of any ordinance, except an ordinance on which a public hearing must be held pursuant to G.S. 160D-601 before the ordinance may be adopted, may be finally adopted on the date on which it is introduced except by an affirmative vote equal to or greater than two thirds of all the actual membership of the council, excluding vacant seats and not including the mayor unless the mayor has the right to vote on all questions before the council; and

WHEREAS, Town Council has determined that Rules 31 and 32(a) are unclear and are also potentially inconsistent and/or in conflict with Section 2-1021 of the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Town Council desires to amend Rules 31 and 32(a) of the Rules of Procedure and further desires to adopt/amend Section 2-1021 of the Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by at least two-thirds of all the actual membership of Town Council, that:

1. Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety to read as follows:

Rule 31. Appointments.

The council may consider, make appointments, and fill vacancies to other bodies, including its own committees, if any, only in open session. The council may consider and fill vacancies among its own membership only in open session.

Town staff liaisons to boards and commissions shall make recommendations to council and the mayor for appointments/reappointments to such temporary and standing committees, boards or other bodies created by council.

2. Rule 32(a) of the Rules of Procedure is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety to read as follows:

Rule 32. Committees and Boards.

(a) Establishment and Appointment. Council may establish such temporary and standing committees, boards or other bodies as are needed to help carry on the work of town government. Members of such committees, boards or other bodies may be nominated by council or the mayor and shall be appointed by council. Any specific provisions of law relating to particular committees and boards shall be followed.

3. Section 2-1021 of the Ordinance is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety to read as follows:

Section 2-1021 Committees generally.

Committees of town council shall be appointed by council. All reports of committees shall be in writing. Committee members shall receive such compensation for extra and special service as council may designate. Any committee member may be removed at any time by council, with or without cause. Any committee member who fails to attend the requisite number of meetings as set out in the attendance policy adopted by council and/or the committee shall be automatically removed from the committee. All vacancies shall be filled by council.

4. If any portion of this Section is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

5. All Rules of Procedure and provisions of the Ordinance which are not in conformance with the provisions of this Resolution occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Resolution.

6. The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption. THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED this day of , 2024.

THE TOWN OF VALDESE,
a North Carolina Municipal Corporation

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/ Town Clerk

Councilman Mears made a motion to amendment of the Valdese Town Council Rules 31 and 32(a) of the Rules of Procedures and amending Section 2-1021 of the Town of Valdese Code of Ordinances, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

ADDED TO THE FEBRUARY 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING

Councilman Harvey made a motion that we add, Consideration of Appointments to the Committees at the February 16, 2024, meeting, seconded by Councilman Mears. The vote was unanimous.

INTERIM MANAGER'S REPORT: Interim Town Manager Bryan Steen made the following announcements:

Council's Strategic Planning Session with WPCOG is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Valdese Town Hall, Community Room.

Bluegrass at the Rock presents: Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., at the Old Rock School

Next Agenda Review Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mayor Watts shared that he forwarded Council members an application of someone that wanted to serve on the facilities committee. Mayor Watts asked if citizens want to serve on the three new committees, who do they contact for that. Councilman Harvey said they should notify the Mayor or any Council member if they would like to serve on the committees. Councilman Harvey shared that the facilities review board is the only one that requires qualifications; the other two are task forces.

Councilman Mears thanked the citizens for their attendance at the January 17 & 24, 2024, strategic plan public input meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Watts called for a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. At 8:33 p.m., Councilwoman Lowman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mears. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:46 p.m., Councilman Ogle made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:48 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Harvey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Valdese Town Hall.

Town Clerk

Mayor

jl