

**TOWN OF VALDESE****TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING****NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, November 24, 2025, 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 Charles Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ogle, Councilwoman Rexanna Lowman, Councilwoman Heather Ward, Councilwoman Melinda Zimmerman, and Councilman Glenn Harvey. Also present were: Town Manager Todd Herms, Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel, Town Attorney Tim Swanson, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, various Department Heads, Mayor-Elected Keith Huffman, and Council-Elect Shannon Radabaugh.

Absent:

A quorum was present.

Mayor Watts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

VPD Volunteer Chaplain Matt Matthews, Co-Pastor at the Waldensian Presbyterian Church, offered the invocation and Mayor Watts led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

VPD Officer George Isbell sang the National Anthem.

**OATHS OF OFFICE:**

Burke County Clerk of the Superior Court Crystal Carpenter administered Oaths of Office to Councilwoman Shannon Radabaugh – Ward 1, Councilwoman Melinda Zimmerman – Ward 2, Councilwoman Rexanna Lowman – Ward 3, and Mayor Keith Huffman.

November 04, 2025 Municipal Election Results by Contest

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Contest	Choice	Party	Total Votes	Election Day	Early Voting	Abs Mail	Provisional
TOWN OF VALDESE MAYOR	Keith A. Huffman		753	327	425	1	0
	Sandi Walker		222	126	94	0	2
TOWN OF VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL WARD 01	Shannon Radabaugh		642	266	375	0	1
	Ron Blancaflor		332	183	147	1	1
TOWN OF VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL WARD 02	Melinda Zimmerman		870	404	464	1	1
TOWN OF VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL WARD 03	Rexanna Lowman		695	291	402	1	1
	William (Rick) McClurd		284	159	124	0	1

**RECESS FOR 10 MINUTES – COUNCIL CONGRADULATIONS AND PHOTOS**

Mayor Huffman requested a motion for a short, ten (10) minute, recess. A motion was provided by Councilwoman Melinda Zimmerman. Seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARD: ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE:**

Mayor Huffman announced that there was a special presentation. Mayor Huffman spoke to the history of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award, where he expounded that the Award was an honor granted by the Governor of North Carolina to public employees that had shown extraordinary service to the State. Mayor Huffman continued that this award typically required 30-years of dedicated service and that it was one of the highest awards of state service in North Carolina. Mayor Huffman then requested former Mayor, Charlie Watts, to meet him at the podium, where the award was presented. Mayor Huffman presented the award, stating that on behalf of the Governor's Office, Mayor Huffman wanted to thank former Mayor Watts for his exemplary service and his lifetime of public service.

Former Mayor Watts then gave a speech, indicating that he had not earned the award himself, that the award had come from the citizens that elected and supported him throughout his 40 years of service, expressing that most of them were present at the meeting. Former Mayor Watts continued by thanking his family, his wife, and the speech police, Town Clerk Jessica Lail. Former Mayor Watts proclaimed that if he had been deemed successful during his time as Mayor and during his time with the Fire Department, that it had been due to people such as, Jessica Lail, Morrissa Angi, Todd Herms, Greg Stafford, all the Town's Firefighters, and the Town Council. Mayor Watts concluded that the takeaway was that one man or one woman could not alone push Valdese to success, that it took everyone to make Valdese what it was and to continue said success.

# State of North Carolina



*Josh Stein*  
Governor

*Reposing special confidence in the integrity, learning and zeal of*  
**Leonard Charles Watts**

*I do by these presents confer*

## **The Order of the Long Leaf Pine**

*with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary privileged to enjoy fully all rights granted  
to members of this exalted order, among which is the special privilege to propose the following  
North Carolina Toast in select company anywhere in the free world:*

*Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,  
The summer land where the sun doth shine,  
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,  
Here's to "down home," the Old North State!*

*Josh Stein*  
Governor

November 10, 2025

*Date*



### **OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:** Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ogle read the following open forum/public comment guidelines: 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.

Open Forum is not intended to require Council or staff to answer impromptu questions. Speakers will address all comments to the entire Council as a whole and not one individual member. Discussions between speakers and the audience will not be permitted. Speakers will maintain decorum at all times. Speakers are expected to be courteous and respectful at all times regardless of who occupies the Council chairs. These guidelines will help ensure that a safe and productive meeting is held and all those wishing to address the Council will be afforded the opportunity.

### **TRIBUTE TO JIM JACUMIN – SANDI WALKER – 124 MAIN ST. W, VALDESE:**

Ms. Walker proclaimed that the reason she was present was to present a tribute to a citizen of Valdese, Mr. Jim Jacumin. Ms. Walker shared that Mr. Jacumin had passed away on November 23, 2025. Ms. Walker continued that Mr. Jacumin had probably done more for Valdese than any other individual and that she was present on the dais to honor a man that those present at the meeting thought they may had known, but did they really. Ms. Walker questioned if anyone had ever listened to Mr. Jacumin's stories of his youth, his family, or his ancestry, things Ms. Walker stated Mr. Jacumin was very proud of. Ms. Walker expressed that Mr. Jacumin was a man that loved the Lord with all his heart, and that he walked with his God as the early Waldensians had done, as a way of life and not as a religion. Ms. Walker continued that Mr. Jacumin's love for the Town of Valdese was deep and sincere, that he had fought to do things to make the Town better and help the citizens have a better quality of life. Ms. Walker declared that Mr. Jacumin's drive and results oriented attitude had often been misunderstood by many. Ms. Walker continued that she could have spent much more time than she had in her public address to outline Mr. Jacumin's efforts and dreams for the Town.

Ms. Walker recalled that Mr. Jacumin was once asked why he was doing a project, that had been considered self-serving by the questioner, she stated that Mr. Jacumin's reply was a question, where he asked if the questioner had ever read Proverbs 3:27. Ms. Walker stated she had been there when the question was asked and that she had later looked up this verse, which read, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is within your power to help them." Ms. Walker expressed that over the years she had seen Mr. Jacumin repeat this act of helping others, noting it was too many times to count. Ms. Walker asserted that Mr. Jacumin was not afraid of work and had still been very active up until his recent decline in his health. Ms. Walker noted that Mr. Jacumin had more projects than there was time to count, also expressing that those that knew Mr. Jacumin and loved him were going through the pain of loss and separation, but that she knew Mr. Jacumin's legacy would encourage everyone to step into the void that he had led, and that everyone would take strength in his example to continue the fight to see Valdese the Town God had intended it to be.

Ms. Walker concluded with the following poem, by Richard Kipling, as a tribute to Mr. Jacumin, "if you can keep your head when all about you are listening theirs and blame it on you, if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you but make allowance for their doubting too; if you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise: if you can dream, and not make your dreams your master; if you can think, and not make your thoughts your aim; if you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same; if you can bear to hear the truth about you spoken, twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build them up with worn-out tools: if you can make one heap all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, and lose, and start again at your beginnings and never breathe a word about your loss; if you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to them: Hold on. If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with kings-nor lose the common touch, if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, if all men count with you, but none too much; if you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the earth and everything that's in it, and-what is more-you'll be a man, my son!" Ms. Walker ended her statement with the following: "God bless you, Jim Jacumin, Godspeed, good and faithful servant."

#### **A FRESH LOOK – JEAN MARIE COLE – 705 BERTIS ST., VALDESE**

Ms. Cole stated that as a new year begun with a new Town Council, that she wished to express that citizens were hopeful for true transparency and wise decision making. Ms. Cole continued that this led into the consideration of citizens input, or else surveys should not be sent out. Ms. Cole gave an example in the context of transparency, where she identified the mobile food service ordinance. Ms. Cole pointed out that the mobile food service ordinance had been on agendas for months and that every time it had been brought up the update had been similar, that the Planning Board was working on it and when they had finished it, it would be presented to Council for their approval. Ms. Cole prompted the Council to think about local merchants who would be affected by this, as well as the patrons who patronize their business, questioning how this would support them, and when they would get a say in the process. Ms. Cole stated there was a document in the council packet that no one had seen except the planning board, noting that this did not seem very transparent. Ms. Cole asserted that the mobile food service ordinance did not need to be discussed, it just needed to be voted on.

Ms. Cole identified a high survey priority had been facilities for the Town's Police and Fire Departments, but that month after month this had just been kicked down the road under the guise of doing further

research. Ms. Cole recalled that the last suggestion had been to waste part of the money the Town had tearing apart the Town Hall, even though experts had stated that doing so was not a good option. Ms. Cole affirmed that failure to take an action was also making a decision. Ms. Cole suggested letting people know what the plans were, how those plans were progressing, and when the firemen and policeman could see some hope at the end of the tunnel.

Ms. Cole identified another example in the swimming pool, where she stated everything had been set for a permanent structure, that surveys had indicated this was the preference of the citizens. Ms. Cole erroneously stated she was surprised that the pool bubble had not been on the Agenda, and that subsequently the contract had been canceled and a nonpermanent structure was being moved towards. Ms. Cole expressed concern that the Town's pool continued to be torn up and unusable, that in the previous winter, weather permitting, individuals were still able to use the pool, but that this was no longer an option. Ms. Cole specified that citizens were told the completion date would be in October, but that this had not happened, so there would be no swimming this winter. Ms. Cole stated it had been three (3) months and that those with health issues were paying the price of not being able to use water therapy. Ms. Cole determined that if one were to factor in weather conditions, she did not believe concrete would be able to be poured, as it would be too cold; and that this may move the competition date out to March. Ms. Cole concluded by pleading for citizens to be listened to, kept in the loop, and that the Council should take the needed actions to move the Town forward.

**CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)**

**APPROVED PRE-AGENDA MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

**APPROVED CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2025**

**APPROVED SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**End Consent Agenda**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

Mayor Huffman asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilwoman Ward to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PROCLAMATION FOR BURKE COUNTY, NC NONPROFIT DAY (AKA 1BURKEGIVES)**

Mayor Huffman recognized Burke County United Way member, Sheri Watts, to present on this matter. Ms. Watts thanked the Council for the invitation and introduced Ms. Roberta Eztkorn, another member of the United Way. Ms. Watts exclaimed that she wanted to discuss 1BurkeGives, which was coming up on December 2, 2025. Ms. Watts informed the Council that, nationally, the second Tuesday of December was considered Giving Tuesday, but that it was called 1BurkeGives in Burke County, and that this had been done since 2020. Ms. Watts shared that this had come about during Covid, and gave individuals an opportunity to donate to a qualified 501(c)3 charities within the County, and to fundraise to help individuals that were in need. Ms. Watts stated that the fundraiser had grown since the first year it had been done. Ms. Watts explained that the program was a 24-hour program, that it was hosted online at 1burkegives.org, and that the Burke County United Way sponsored the online platform that nonprofits used. Ms. Watts identified that it was typical for them to have approximately 30 to 40 nonprofits participate annually, that currently there were 33 nonprofits signed up, and that she was hopeful there would be more signed up. Ms. Watts reported that traditionally the funds raised totaled more than \$75,000, identifying that this was a great deal of money for the small nonprofits that were in the community. Ms. Watts stated that this was the sixth year of fundraising and that they were hoping to exceed \$75,000 raised. Ms. Watts requested the Council's support through the proclamation of Tuesday, December 2, 2025, as 1BurkeGives Day.

Mayor Huffman read the proclamation as follows:

**Proclamation**  
**Burke County, NC Nonprofit Day**  
**(aka 1BurkeGives)**

**Whereas**, charitable nonprofit organizations throughout Burke County save taxpayers thousands of dollars through their services and contribute significantly to the high quality of life for all citizens; and

**Whereas**, these organizations are committed to serving the educational, cultural, civic, health, religious, human and animal services, recreational, philanthropic, environmental, and other diverse needs of Burke County; and

**Whereas**, the staff and volunteers of all Burke County nonprofit organizations are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of community service, donating their time and effort to making a difference in the lives of others; and

**Whereas**, Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, observance of ‘Burke County, NC Nonprofit Day’ (aka 1BurkeGives) provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of Burke County to join in appreciation and support of the many contributions made by nonprofit organizations to our continued wellbeing while boosting awareness for continued growth.

**Now, therefore**, I, Keith Huffman, Mayor of the Town of Valdese, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, as Burke County, NC Nonprofit Day (aka 1BurkeGives) and encourage all citizens to recognize the positive impact nonprofit organizations have on the quality of life of the citizens of Burke County.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Mayor Huffman stated he would accept a motion to nominate a Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Radabaugh made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Lowman as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Radabaugh explained that Councilwoman Lowman had received the most electoral votes from the previous election, that she had been on the Council for the previous four (4) years, and that she would serve on Council for the next four (4) years. Seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Huffman expressed that there were several committee assignments. Mayor Huffman listed the following boards, commissions, and committees for appointments.

- Burke Development, Inc (BDI):
  - Previous Appointee: Former Mayor Watts
  - Appointment: Mayor Huffman
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments Representative:
  - Previous Appointee: Former Mayor Watts

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- Appointment: Mayor Huffman
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):
  - Previous Appointee: Former Councilman Harvey
  - Appointment: Councilwoman Zimmerman
- Parks and Recreation Commission:
  - Previous Appointee: Councilman Ogle
  - Appointment: Councilwoman Radabaugh
- Animal Control Appellate Board:
  - Previous Appointee: Former Mayor Watts
  - Appointment: Mayor Huffman

Mayor Huffman entertained a motion to accept the committee assignments as presented. A motion was made by Councilwoman Ward. Seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**APPROVED RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mayor Huffman asked the Council what their preference was in adopting the Council Schedule for the following year. Mayor Huffman specified that there were two options presented, where option one (1) had twenty-two (22) meetings and the option two (2) had eleven (11) meetings.

Option 1

**TOWN OF VALDESE**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-1011 of the Town of Valdese Code of Ordinances, there shall be a regular meeting of the council at the town hall, on the first Monday in each month, at 6:00 p.m., unless another place, date or time shall be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Valdese Town Council adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2026:

<i>Council Chambers, Unless Noted</i>		<i>Council Chambers, Unless Noted</i>	
2026 PRE-AGENDA MONTHLY MEETINGS (Preview of Regular meeting agendas)		2026 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS	
December 29, 2025	Review Jan Meeting	January 5	
January 26	Review Feb Agenda	February 2	
February 23	Review Mar Agenda	March 2	
March 23	Review April Agenda	March 30	April Meeting (moved one week earlier due to Easter week)
		April 14	Budget Retreat, 9:00 am, Community Room
May 4	Review May Agenda	May 11	Budget Presented, 5:00 pm Regular Meeting, 6:00 pm
May 26	Review June Agenda - Tuesday	June 1	Budget Hearing
July (No Regular meeting in July.)		July	No Meeting
July 27	Review August Agenda	August 3	
September 8	Review Sept Agenda - Tuesday	September 14	Moved one week later due to Labor Day Holiday
September 28	Review Oct Agenda	October 5	
October 26	Review Nov Agenda	November 2	
November 30	Review Dec Agenda	December 7	

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

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Keith Huffman, Mayor

**TOWN OF VALDESE**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-1011 of the Town of Valdese Code of Ordinances, there shall be a regular meeting of the council at the town hall, on the first Monday in each month, at 6:00 p.m., unless another place, date or time shall be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Valdese Town Council adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2026:

January 5, 2026	
February 2, 2026	
March 2, 2026	
March 30, 2026	April Meeting (moved one week earlier due to Easter week)
April 14, 2026	Annual Budget Retreat, Town Hall – Community Room 9:00 a.m.
May 11, 2026	Budget Presented @ 5:00 p.m., Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
June 1, 2026	Budget Public Hearing/Approval
July 2026	No Meeting
August 3, 2026	
Sept 14, 2026	Moved one week later due to Labor Day Holiday
October 5, 2026	
November 2, 2026	
December 7, 2026	

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Huffman, Mayor

Councilwoman Zimmerman made a motion to approve option two (2) of the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule, with the expectation that the full agenda packet would be made available on Monday, the week prior to the meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lowman.

Mayor Huffman asked if there was any discussion. Councilwoman Ward clarified that this motion was contingent on the agenda packet being available a week prior to allow citizens to review the packet. Councilwoman Ward also shared that there were avenues for citizens who were curious as to what was happening within the Town. Councilwoman Ward encouraged citizens to reach out to Town Manager Herms, expressing that he was an open book, and could be called at the Town Hall if anyone had any questions on agenda packet materials. Councilwoman Ward also urged citizens to sign up to the Sunshine List, managed by Town Clerk Lail, identifying that there were currently only 32 people signed up to that list. Councilwoman Ward stated that those on the list would receive an email, notifying them that the agenda packet was available, and that it provided more detail along with packet. Councilwoman also requested that staff look into an alert system, where citizens signed up on the website, making such communication easier to find. Mayor Huffman requested if information regarding the Sunshine List could be added to the newsletter. Town Manager Herms and Town Clerk Lail responded in the affirmative.

The proceeding vote was four (4) to one (1), with Councilman Ogle, Mayor Pro Tem Lowman, Councilwoman Zimmerman, and Councilwoman Radabaugh voting Aye and Councilwoman Ward voting Nay. The motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT** Town Manager Todd Herms reported:

Numerous events were scheduled for the months of November and December. A Holiday Event Calendar had been included in the reading materials for reference. Please review the calendar for detailed information on upcoming activities.

Town Offices Closed on November 27 & 28, 2025 in Observance of Thanksgiving

Special Called Meeting, Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing – Special Use Permit – Pineburr Property, Monday, December 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

Next Regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

Councilman Ogle asked whether the Agenda Review meeting would be held on December 1, 2025. The Town Manager confirmed it would not.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Ward shared that Mr. Jacumin was the one who had introduced her to the Waldensian heritage, expressing that he had taught her a lot. Councilwoman Ward expressed she had been looking for volunteer opportunities, as she would be a professional volunteer if it paid more. Councilwoman Ward continued that she had stepped up to work at the Trail of Faith as it was so close to her home and she had fallen in love with the history, which had made her fall in love with Valdese even more. Councilwoman Ward stated she wanted to notify everyone of Mr. Jacumin's funeral arrangements, that this service would be held on Saturday, November 29, 2025, from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM at the East Valdese Baptist Church, that the funeral service would begin at 2:00 PM, and that the burial would follow the service at Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church Cemetery in Rutherford College, welcoming anyone to attend. Councilwoman Ward expressed that Mr. Jacumin was quite a character, that he was someone that loved Jesus with all of his heart, and that he had done a phenomenal job spreading the love of God to his community. Councilwoman Ward continued that Mr. Jacumin had done a lot for Valdese and that she had greatly appreciated his work. Councilwoman Ward concluded by welcoming the Mayor and Council-Elects, expressing that Mayor Huffman had done a good job in leading proceedings that night, and that she looked forward to working with them.

Mayor Pro Tem Lowman welcomed her new comrades, Mayor Huffman and Councilwoman Radabaugh, and articulated that she looked forward to continue working with Councilwoman Zimmerman, Councilman Ogle, and Councilwoman Ward. Mayor Pro Tem Lowman congratulated former Mayor Watts on the Order of the Long Leaf Pine recognition, spoke to what an honor it was, and stated that no one deserved it more than former Mayor Watts.

Councilwoman Zimmerman expressed that she was glad to be back on the Council, working with everyone, and that she looked forward to their time together. Councilwoman Zimmerman shared that the Christmas Parade was going to occur on December 6, 2025, that the Grand Marshal would be Ms. Emma Draughn, and that she thought this was an honor, and wanted to have Ms. Draughn recognized.

Councilwoman Radabaugh thanked Mayor Huffman, her fellow Council members, and the citizens of Valdese. Councilwoman Radabaugh stated that she was truly humbled that she had been elected to serve the people of Valdese, and that this was not an accomplishment that she had reached alone. Councilwoman Radabaugh thanked her family for their unwavering support, and everyone in the community who had believed in her, encouraged her, and taken the time to vote. Councilwoman Radabaugh shared that her military background had taught her the value of service, commitment, and integrity, and that those were the values that she would bring to the Council. Councilwoman Radabaugh continued that her faith guided her daily and that she was thankful for the strength and clarity it provided as she stepped into this responsibility. Councilwoman Radabaugh resolved that she loved the Town and that she believed deeply in the power of community involvement, that if everyone showed up, worked together, and supported one another, there was no limit to what Valdese could accomplish. Councilwoman Radabaugh stated that moving forward, her goal was to listen, truly listen, to the people of Valdese, and that she would like to be their voice after having listened to their thoughts and ideas. Councilwoman Radabaugh continued that she would work together with fellow Council members to strengthen the community, support the Town's first responders, the youth, and would ensure Valdese continued to be the safe and thriving town for years to come, while preserving its small-town values. Councilwoman Radabaugh concluded that she was honored to serve and was eager to get to work for the Town's families, neighborhoods, and future.

Mayor Huffman expressed his gratitude to the citizens of Valdese for electing him as Mayor. Mayor Huffman continued that he would do his best and that nothing less should be expected. Mayor Huffman stated that the present Council represented not only their individual Wards, but all of Valdese, and that one should be

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proud of the men and women who had been called to serve, and asked that one extended the Council the courtesy and respect that was befitting of them and the positions of trust that they held. Mayor Huffman affirmed that for Valdese to move forward the Council would have to work together with the citizens to identify and solve issues of today, to make the Town a better place well into the future. Mayor Huffman concluded the Town needed to get back on track, that they must do better, that they could do better, and that they would do better.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:59 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Pro Tem Lowman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor

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