

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JULY 11, 2025**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Friday, July 11, 2025, at 2:00 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 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, and various Department Heads.

Absent: Councilwoman Heather Ward

A quorum was present.

Mayor Charles Watts opened the meeting.

Due to Attorney Swanson being on a tight schedule, Councilman Harvey made a motion to move the first item on the agenda to follow the Closed Session. The motion failed for lack of a second.

COUNCIL RECAP – HOW IS FY 25-26 GOING SO FAR

Town Finances - Mr. Herms reported that the new fiscal year began on July 1, and as of July 11, there have been no surprises. Revenues and expenditures are proceeding as expected.

Independence Day Celebration – Mr. Herms reported that the Independence Day celebration went smoothly overall. There were a few heat-related calls, but traffic was manageable despite the large crowd downtown. Feedback from attendees was very positive. Planning for next year's event is already underway, with entertainment being booked in advance for July 4th, unless Council decides to change the date.

Trash and Recycling Changeover – Mr. Herms reported that the transition to the new trash and recycling services is experiencing some growing pains. One of the main issues is that Simply Green begins routes much earlier in the morning than Republic Services did, leading some residents to believe their pickups were missed when the trucks had already come through. Staff is working on educating residents to place their cans out the night before. Simply Green and the Town are still adjusting to each other's processes. Republic is expected to have all old cans picked up by the end of the day, or early next week at the latest.

Councilman Harvey noted that the Town has invested over half a million dollars in the recent changeover to new trash and recycling services. He requested that the Town Manager take a closer look at the entire process, including both Simply Green's services and the work being done by Town staff. He expressed concern about potential duplicative efforts and costs, and suggested exploring more efficient options.

Mr. Herms responded that the Town has already begun analyzing the entire trash and recycling process following the switchover. He credited Allen and his team for identifying several areas for improvement, some of which are already being implemented. Additionally, a billing audit revealed multiple accounts that had previously been missed, and addressing these has improved efficiency.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) – Mr. Herms reported that, to date, no zoning permits have been applied for under the new UDO, which took effect on July 1, 2025. He noted that Tim, Allison, and Ben Hitchens are currently reviewing the document closely to identify and correct any typos or formatting issues that may have occurred during the transition. Attorney Swanson noted that minor clerical changes can be made without Council approval, but any substantive amendments will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Recreation Center Renovations - Mr. Herms reported that concrete ramps in front of the Rec Center and either the pickleball or tennis courts (both located in the same area) are scheduled to be poured next week. Following that, rail installation and painting will take place. The goal is to complete all work by the weekend of the festival. The pool enclosure project remains on track to begin in mid-October.

JULY 11, 2025, MB#33

Councilman Harvey asked if the work was interring with the use of the swimming pool. Mr. Herms confirmed that the construction work is not interfering with use of the swimming pool. There have been minor traffic slowdowns due to workers on site, but no major issues. The primary challenge has been frequent and heavy rainfall, which has caused delays by requiring time for the area to dry out before work can resume.

CLOSED SESSION: At 2:09 p.m., Councilwoman Lowman made a motion to go into **Closed Session under NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3)** to consult with an attorney retained by the Town in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the Town attorney and the Town Council, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, seconded by Councilwoman Zimmerman. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

At 2:52 p.m., Councilman Harvey made a motion to go out of Closed Session, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: At 2:53 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Lowman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Zimmerman. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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