

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 02, 2025**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Tuesday, September 02, 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, Substitute Attorney Terry Taylor, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, and WPCOG Planner Daniel Odom.

Absent: Town Attorney Tim Swanson

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

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.

VISION FOR VALDESE – JEAN MARIE COLE – 705 BERTIS ST., VALDESE: Ms. Cole stated she wanted to share her vision for Valdese. Ms. Cole stated she wished to preserve the small town feel of Valdese that has had, stating this was what had attracted people over the years. Ms. Cole stated her preference of contractors over developers. Ms. Cole stated that she believed contractors created a stable population base, as well as a stable tax base. Ms. Cole stated the Town provided great park and recreation facilities along with a great school system, stating this was what brought individuals to live in the Town. Ms. Cole stated that the Town should consider these facets when making development decisions, stating she wished for the American dream to stay alive in the Town of Valdese.

CONSENT AGENDA: (enacted by one motion)

APPROVED SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2025

APPROVED CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2025

APPROVED PRE-AGENDA MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2025

APPROVED SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2025

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2025

APPROVED CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2025

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT AT OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH TRANQUILITY DAY SPA DBA SHIFRAH AESTHETICS & WELLNESS SPA Annual lease agreement renewal with Tranquility Day Spa

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for space at the Old Rock School. The 12-month lease, running from November 2025 through October 2026, is for \$368.00 per month.

APPROVED LEASE AGREEMENT AT OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH P&W RAILROAD CLUB Annual lease agreement renewal with P&W Railroad Club for space at the Old Rock School. The 12-month lease, running from October 2025 through September 2026, is for \$230.00 per month.

**APPROVED ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURE FOR TOWN OF VALDESE SPECIAL EVENT
– DRAUGHN HIGHSCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD
CLOSURE FOR TOWN OF VALDESE
SPECIAL EVENTS**

WHEREAS, for many years the Town of Valdese has sponsored the Draughn High School Homecoming Parade; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese desires to schedule the Draughn High School Parade on Tuesday, October 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, part of US 70/Main Street in Valdese will need to be closed for the parade; 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:

DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE

Date: October 7, 2025

Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm

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 ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

THIS, the 2nd day of September 2025.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

APPROVED CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – VALDESE BLUFFS SEWER PROJECT

Valdese Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment # 1-52

Subject: Valdese Bluffs sewer line project

Description: To amend the project budget in accordance with the funding allocated by the State.

Proposed Action:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Valdese that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the capital project ordinance for various capital projects funded from a variety of sources is hereby amended as follows.

Section I:

Revenues available to the Town to complete the projects are hereby amended as follows:

Account	Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
52.3000.002	ARP Grant		80,403
51.3000.002	Utilities	66,803	
Total		\$66,803	\$80,403

Amounts appropriated for capital projects are hereby amended as follows:

Account	Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
51.8110.100	Planning		4,615
51.8110.800	Water Construction		62,188
52.8110.800	Sewer Construction	14,488	
52.8110.300	Bidding	12,214	
52.8110.900	Contingency	15,201	
52.8110.400	Construction Admin	38,500	
Total		\$80,403	\$66,803

Section II:

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.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Zimmerman, seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

End Consent Agenda

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

Mayor Watts stated that before he headed in to new business he would entertain a motion to remove Item 10, the closed session, from the agenda. Mayor Watts stated the reason for the change was that the regular Town Attorney was not present.

Councilman Harvey made a motion to remove the closed session from the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

APPROVED PUBLIC HEARING – TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

At 6:07 pm, Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.

Daniel Odom, WPCOG Planning Assistant for the TOV stated that the text amendment was to extend the UDO's effective date. Mr. Odom stated that the matter was largely a housekeeping and technical matter in response to the downzoning statutes enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly in December of 2024. Mr. Odom stated the current effective date of the UDO was July 31, 2025 and that the text amendment

would extend the effective date to January 1, 2026. Mr. Odom stated it would also extend the selection window in which potential development applicants could choose whether they wanted new developments to be reviewed under the old zoning ordinance or the new UDO to January 1, 2026. Mr. Odom stated the delay was put in place to give the North Carolina General Assembly time to reauthorize municipal downzoning authority. Mr. Odom stated all public notice requirements had been met and the Planning Board had found the amendment to be consistent with the Valdese Vision. Mr. Odom stated the Planning Board had given a favorable recommendation to the Council to adopt the text amendment. Mr. Odom stated that if it were the council's preference to move forward with the text amendment as proposed, that there would have to be two separate actions. Mr. Odom stated the first of those actions would be the adoption of the text amendment to the ordinance and the second would be the adoption of the consistency statement accompanying the text amendment to the ordinance. Mayor Watts asked if there were further comments or questions by council. None were offered. Mayor Watts asked if there were any comments from members of the public. None were offered.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VALDESE TO AMEND THE TOWN OF VALDESE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Town of Valdese (the "Town") adopted a comprehensive land use plan entitled "The Valdese Vision: A Land Use Action Plan for the Future" (the "Plan") to guide growth, development, and investments made in the Town and focus on land use, environmental protection, and infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Town of Valdese adopted a Unified Development Ordinance ("UDO") intended to combine the zoning, subdivision, and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances into one comprehensive document that simplifies the Town's Ordinances into a more readable document; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.2 of the UDO provides for an effective date of July 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, Part III, Subpart III-K of Senate Bill 382 ("SB 382") entitled LOCAL GOVERNMENT, amends N.C.G.S. § 160D-601(d) by prohibiting local governments from enacting or enforcing any amendment to zoning regulations (e.g., text amendments to zoning ordinances) or zoning maps (e.g., rezonings) that would constitute "down-zoning" without first obtaining the written consent of all property owners whose property would be subject to such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, due to the complications SB 382 creates for local governments, it is unclear at this time whether SB 382 will be repealed and/or what impacts, if any, SB 382 will have on the UDO. Council desires to extend the applicability provisions of the UDO until January 1, 2026 to comply with SB 382 while awaiting further clarity from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board met on July 21, 2025 and voted five in favor and zero against recommending that the Town Council amend Section 1.2 of the UDO to delay the effective date until January 1, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese has held a duly advertised public hearing to consider public comments regarding the proposed UDO amendment and found the proposed UDO amendment is consistent with the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese that:

SECTION 1: The UDO is hereby amended to extend the effective date thereof as described in the attached Exhibit 1 designated "Town of Valdese UDO Amendment: Section 1.2 Applicability."

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

ORDAINED by Town Council for the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, this ___ day of September, 2025.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

A motion to adopt the text amendment to the UDO was made by Councilwoman Lowman, seconded by Councilwoman Zimmerman. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

Mayor Watts then declared the public hearing closed at 6:09 PM.

**VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT
CONSISTENCY STATEMENT**

On September 2nd, 2025, the Valdese Town Council ("Council") met to consider a Proposed Text Amendment to Section 1.2 "Applicability" of the Unified Development Ordinance after receiving a recommendation for approval from the Town of Valdese Planning Board. Upon consideration of the Comprehensive Plan (defined below), ordinances, and other materials presented, the Valdese Town Council makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. In 2014, the Town of Valdese adopted a comprehensive land use plan entitled "The Valdese Vision: A Land Use Action Plan for the Future" (hereinafter the "Plan"). The Plan identifies the type of community that Valdese wants to become in the future and the strategies that the Town will use to guide development and land use activities.
2. In 2025, the Town of Valdese adopted a Unified Development Ordinance ("UDO") intended to combine the zoning, subdivision, and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances into one comprehensive document that simplifies the Town's Ordinances into a more readable document.
3. Section 1.2 of the UDO provides for an effective date of July 1, 2025.
4. Part III, Subpart III-K of Senate Bill 382 ("SB 382") entitled LOCAL GOVERNMENT, amends N.C.G.S. § 160D-601(d) by prohibiting local governments from enacting or enforcing any amendment to zoning regulations (e.g., text amendments to zoning ordinances) or zoning maps (e.g., rezonings) that would constitute "down-zoning" without first obtaining the written consent of all property owners whose property would be subject to such an amendment.
5. Due to the complications SB 382 creates for local governments, it is unclear at this time whether SB 382 will be repealed or what impacts, if any, SB 382 will have on the UDO. Council desires to extend the applicability provisions of the UDO until January 1, 2026 so as to comply with SB 382 while awaiting further clarity from the General Assembly.
6. North Carolina General Statute 160D-605(a) provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

When adopting or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment, the governing board shall approve a brief statement describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive or land-use plan. The requirement for a plan consistency statement may also be met by a clear indication in the minutes of the governing board that at the time of action on the amendment, the governing board was aware of and considered the Planning Board's recommendations and any relevant portions of an adopted comprehensive or land-use plan. If a zoning map amendment is adopted and the action was deemed inconsistent with the adopted plan, the zoning amendment has the effect of also amending any future land-use map in the approved plan, and no additional request or application for a plan amendment is required. A plan amendment and a zoning amendment may be considered concurrently.

7. Council finds that the proposed amendment to the UDO is consistent with and supports the Valdese Vision: A Land Use Action Plan priorities in that it, among other things, it aims to bring the UDO into compliance with current state statutes pending a final decision on SB 382.

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8. The Planning Board met on July 21, 2025 and voted five in favor and zero against recommending that Council amend Section 1.2 of the UDO to delay the effective date until January 1, 2026.

Based upon the recommendation of the Planning Board and the findings from the Public Hearing, Council, having found the Proposed Text Amendment to Section 1.2 "Applicability" to be consistent with the Plan, approves the Proposed Text Amendment to section 1.2 "Applicability."

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

A motion to approve the accompanying consistency statement was made by Councilwoman Zimmerman, seconded by Councilman Harvey. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

APPROVED CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 6, 2025 - CDBG GRANT FOR BERRYTOWN PROJECT

Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel stated that the call for public hearing is in regard to the Berrytown waterline project. Mr. Weichel stated the project was funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars, from various funding sources within the CDBG program. Mr. Weichel stated the call for public hearing was to update the public on funding to reflect increased construction costs. Mr. Weichel stated the initial funding was for \$800,000 and that the funding was increased by \$200,000. Mr. Weichel stated the funding had already been awarded but stated that the increase needed to be publicly recognized. Councilman Harvey questioned Mr. Weichel on the total cost of the project. Mr. Weichel stated the total cost was between \$3.1 million to \$3.2 million. Councilman Harvey confirmed that this represented approximately a mile and a half of waterline in the Triple Community system. Councilman Harvey then asked for the total mileage of the Triple Community system. Mr. Weichel responded that there were approximately 83 miles in the system. Councilman Harvey questioned that if the cost to replace a mile and a half was approximately \$3 million, would the cost to replace all lines within the system be approximately \$150 million. Mr. Weichel responded in the affirmative. Councilman Harvey stated that due to those costs the Town would not make a lot of money on the water system. Mr. Weichel responded in the affirmative, he stated it would take a while. Mayor Watts stated the public hearing would be set for the October 6, 2025 council meeting.

APPROVED CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT

Valdese Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment # 13-35

Subject: Public Safety Building

Description: Contract with D.R. Reynolds for the feasibility phase I study.

Proposed Action:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Valdese that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the capital project ordinance for various capital projects funded from a variety of sources is hereby amended as follows.

Section I:

Revenues available to the Town to complete the projects are hereby amended as follows:

Account	Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
35.3480.004	Sale of Properties		26,043.38
	Total	\$0	\$26,043

Amounts appropriated for capital projects are hereby amended as follows:

Account	Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
35.5300.041	Professional Services	38,000.00	
35.5300.040	A&E		11,956.62
	Total	\$38,000	\$11,957

Section II:

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.

Mr. Weichel stated the ordinance amendment was in reaction to the contract with DR Reynolds for the \$38,000 cost for Phase one. Mr. Weichel stated the amendment was to recognize the funds in the project balance so they could be legally spent. Mr. Weichel stated there would be no money going in to or out of the project fund, that funds were already present. Mayor Watts asked if there were any further questions from the council. None were offered.

A motion was made by Councilman Harvey to approve the capital project amendment for the public safety building project, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman.

Mayor Watts opened the floor for further discussion. Councilman Harvey questioned what the \$38,000 was for. Mr. Weichel responded by stating it was for the previously approved contract with DR Reynolds to complete the phase one study. Councilman Harvey then questioned where the funding for the project came from. Mr. Weichel responded by stating the funds came from the public safety building project fund. Mr. Weichel stated the fund was made up of several revenue sources, stating the fund was created in 2019. Mr. Weichel stated there were town contributions made to the fund, that ABC distributions were placed in the fund, and that the revenue from the sale of properties were put in the fund. Councilman Harvey stated he believed the fund balance at one point was up to \$1.5 million. Mr. Harvey then questioned if the public safety building project fund was the fund used to purchase the 215 Main Street property. Mr. Weichel responded in the affirmative. Mr. Weichel then stated that for the life of the project fund revenues brought in were \$2,036,000 and expenditures from the life of the project fund were \$1,200,000. Mr. Weichel stated there was currently \$800,000 remaining in the fund. Councilman Harvey then asked what the expectation was from DR Reynolds for phase one of the project. Mr. Weichel responded by stating DR Reynolds would provide their professional opinion on options that had been laid out for study, then providing a recommendation on how to proceed, they would then work on a guaranteed maximum price for the option that council chooses to pursue. Councilman Harvey then questioned if it would be possible to use Tryon Financial Advisors to provide modeling for optimal financing. Mr. Weichel responded in the affirmative, stating that their services would be used to secure the best financing option. Mr. Weichel stated the financial

model was still being worked on, so while yes it was planned to use Tryon Financial Advisors, they would not be involved until financial modeling was completed. Councilman Harvey further discussed services offered by DR Reynolds asking if these services would be used. Mr. Weichel stated they would not be used at this stage, but could be in later stages, depending on the Council's preference. Councilman Harvey asked if Tryon Financial Advisors could be brought in to assist with future modeling as there were potentially millions of dollars at stake with long term property tax revenue projections. Mr. Weichel responded by stating it could be done, but without completion of the financial model they could not fully assist. Town Manager Herms stated the model would assist with the operational budget and its projected revenues. Town Manager Herms stated different models were being applied to project funds. Town Manager Herms discussed the terms of the current contract, stating it was for DR Reynolds to give the town the four options along with their recommendation. Town Manager Herms continued by stating once the Council chooses an option other data and other variables would be incorporated to provide Council with the most information possible. Town Manager Herms stated at that point Council would choose an option and then DR Reynolds would provide the maximum cost of that option. Town Manager Herms stated that following that point that Tryon Financial Advisors would be involved. Town Manager Herms stated that an optimistic timeline would set the completion date of the process in the Spring of 2026. Councilman Harvey then expressed his concern with the ordering of the process, stating that council would be making the decision in the dark in regard to long term cost and impact. Town Manager Herms stated that the only thing being done at the present was that DR Reynolds was at the options and bringing back to the Council what in their opinion would fit the Town's needs.

Mayor Watts then entertained a vote, the vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

APPROVED RESIDENCY QUALIFICATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilman Harvey moved to resolve that effective immediately all newly appointed members that were to serve on committees or boards appointed by Town Council for the Town of Valdese, shall either be a resident of the Town of Valdese, or an owner or leader of a business or organization located in the Town of Valdese corporate limits, specifically excluding committees or boards formed by ordinance and ex officio member positions held by the Town Manager or any other town employee. Seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

Councilman Harvey stated that Attorney Swanson had brought the matter to the council multiple times, and that pastors would be covered within the qualification and that the qualification would not affect existing committees.

The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

APPROVED RESOLUTION ON THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL'S EXPECTATIONS FOR RESPONSIBLE TOWN STAFF REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING ORDINANCES

**TOWN OF VALDESE, NORTH CAROLINA
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL'S EXPECTATIONS
FOR RESPONSIBLE TOWN STAFF REGARDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING
ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese is committed to maintaining the quality of life, public safety, and orderly development within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the zoning ordinances of the Town of Valdese are established pursuant to the authority granted under North Carolina General Statutes to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of these ordinances is critical to ensuring consistency in land use, protecting property values, and supporting the Town's long term strategic plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, that:

1. This Resolution affirms the Town Council's expectations for responsible and professional enforcement of zoning ordinances by Town staff, in alignment with all applicable ordinances, policies, and community standards.

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2. Town staff responsible for zoning enforcement are expected to act fairly and impartially, be proactive and responsive, communicate clearly, maintain proper and accurate records, coordinate internally, when appropriate to educate and inform the public, pursue compliance, and when necessary, report to council.
3. Town Council commits to providing necessary resources, training, and support to Town staff to enable effective enforcement, ensuring that ordinances are clear, enforceable, and aligned with the goals of the community, and reviewing and updating zoning regulations as needed to reflect changing conditions or community priorities.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 2nd day of September, 2025.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

Mayor Watts stated the resolution was provided by Town Manager Herms.

Councilman Harvey moved for the approval of the resolution establishing the Valdese Town Council's expectations for responsible town staff regarding enforcement of zoning ordinances. Seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

Councilman Harvey questioned what would happen regarding existing violations along with what the public should do in regard to future observed zoning violations. Town Manager Herms stated the Town was currently in the process of updating the code enforcement process in alignment with the City of Hickory's processes. Town Manager Herms then stated in regard to zoning ordinance enforcement, that the Planner had recently changed to Mr. Odom and that recently an Intern had been brought in to assist in the planning department. Town Manager Herms stated while it was not a perfect solution, there has been positive feedback so far. Town Manager Herms stated that the Town was in the process of revamping the department in an attempt to meet as many expectations as possible.

The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT Town Manager Todd Herms reported:

NC State Bocce Tournament, Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:00 a.m. at the LPDA. For more information visit www.lpdavaldeese.org.

Valdese Plein Air Fest will run from September 19-21, 2025, with different events throughout. The Reception will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2025, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Old Rock School. For more information, visit www.rockschoolartgalleries.com.

Family Movie Night featuring Disney Pixar's Toy Story, Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Field, concessions available for purchase.

Next Agenda Review Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Ward started discussion on the topic of the Drug and Homeless Taskforce Meeting. Councilwoman Ward stated that in the previous year there was a program, in collaboration with the WPCOG, at the recreation center to provide showers for the homeless community along with other services.

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Councilwoman Ward stated the event was not done to promote unsheltered living in the area, rather it was done to get to know the individuals and provide them assistance in a multitude of ways. Councilwoman Ward stated the program was canceled due to insurance issues. Councilwoman Ward stated the program did great things for the individuals it serviced and brought together churches along with other charitable organizations. Councilwoman Ward questioned whether it would be possible for the Town to reach out to churches or other organizations to revive the program. Town Manager Herms stated he had done some research and found notes which referenced the insurance issues with the program. Town Manager Herms stated the Town's current policy would not cover events such as this, and for similar events a separate insurance policy would be needed for each event. Town Manager Herms stated the insurance issue is what lead to the stoppage, and that the Town was in the process to find a different event space, not at Town facilities. Town Manager Herms stated the Town's Police Department would still be involved. Councilwoman Ward extended her gratitude to the WPCOG and their efforts in helping those in need.

Mayor Watts thanked Town Staff for their work on the Waldensian Festival and for the completion of the Family Friday Night Music events.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:43 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Ward made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

Town Clerk

jl/mr

Mayor