

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2024**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 8:00 a.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, Councilman Glenn Harvey, and Councilman Paul Mears. Also present were: Interim Town Manager Bo Weichel, Town Attorney Tim Swanson, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, and various Department Heads.

Absent:

A quorum was present.

At 8:00 a.m., Councilwoman Ward made 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, and, **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 Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:49 a.m., Councilman Mears made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous.

PINEBURR AVE PROPERTY REAL ESTATE LISTING AGREEMENT Councilman Harvey made a motion to authorize the listing agent to change the listing price to \$395,000, seconded by Councilman Mears. The vote was unanimous.

POOL COVER OPTIONS Councilman Harvey made a motion to defer this item to the September meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

Discussion: Councilman Harvey shared that the Town received the \$500,000 grant, which requires a 20% offset and we have an anonymous contribution pledge of \$100,000, which changes the total cost dynamics. Councilman Harvey noted that this grant provides ADA access to the Recreation Center. Councilwoman Lowman asked how long the permanent structure would last. Parks & Recreation Director David Andersen said that the frame should last a long time, and the covers that go over the frame have a seven-year warranty. Councilwoman Lowman asked how long a new bubble would last. Mr. Andersen said it has a lifespan of roughly ten years and a coating with a 25-year warranty. Mr. Andersen said the last bubble we had lasted 24 years. Councilman Harvey asked what the grant included with ADA. Mr. Andersen said there are three elements in the grant application that would need to be completed. 1. Ramp to the front of the building from the ground. 2. Tennis court ramp. 3. The remaining funds would go towards the structure. Mr. Andersen said there would need to be fire suppression. Fire Chief Truman Walton addressed the regulations. Councilman Harvey noted that the fire suppression cost is about the same as the ADA adjustments that need to be made. Assistant Town Manager Bo Weichel pointed out that they met with the Burke County building inspector to look at every loophole they could, but either way, we would need fire suppression if we choose a permanent structure or a bubble. Councilwoman Lowman would like to know if we would have to add the cost of a fire suppression system for a bubble. Mr. Weichel will double-check with the BC building inspector. Councilman Harvey wants to know what citizens think about a permanent structure versus a bubble. Councilman Mears asked if we had solar blankets for the pool to heat this winter. Mr. Andersen said yes. Councilman Harvey would like to see more data before the September meeting.

The vote was unanimous.

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STREET RESURFACING Councilman Harvey made a motion to defer this to the September meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:15 a.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Lowman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Harvey. The vote was unanimous.

Town Clerk

Mayor

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