

**TOWN OF VALDESE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, November 20, 2023, 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 Frances Hildebran, Councilman Tim Skidmore, Councilwoman Rexanna Lowman, Councilman Tim Barus, and Councilman Paul Mears. Also present were: Town Attorney Tim Swanson, Town Manager Seth Eckard, Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION Mayor Watts presented the following Resolutions to the outgoing Councilmembers.

Resolution of Appreciation for Frances Hildebran

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran embarked on her dedicated service to the Town of Valdese on January 7, 1980, as the Administrative Assistant and Town Clerk, diligently serving for 24 years until her retirement on June 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran resumed her devoted commitment to the Town of Valdese as Councilwoman for Ward 4 on December 5, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran has exemplified unwavering dedication over the past 12 years as a conscientious and devoted Councilmember, consistently advocating for the betterment of the community and staff; and

WHEREAS, her 12 years of service have been characterized by an outstanding commitment to the welfare of the community, tirelessly working towards its cultural and aesthetic advancement by serving on the Library Board of Trustees and Citizens for Affordable Housing; and

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran contributed significantly to various boards and commissions, including serving as United Way Campaign Chairman, United Way Board of Directors – Past President, Burke County Chamber Leadership Burke, Burke Women’s Fund, Community Foundation of Burke County Committees, Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, and the Street Paving Committee, showcasing her commitment to diverse community causes; and

WHEREAS, her tenure as Mayor Pro Tem showcased Frances Hildebran’s steadfast dedication and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran played an integral role in the planning and development of key projects, including the New Town Hall building, Valdese Family Splash Park, Valdese Lakeside Park, and renovations of the Community Center & gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, Frances Hildebran has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she has encountered, and she also earned the affection of her fellow public servants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese that this occasion is embraced to express the upmost honor, respect, and deep admiration to **Frances Hildebran** for her exceptional and enduring contributions to the Council, Staff, and Citizens of Valdese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, extends its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to **Frances Hildebran** for her exemplary leadership and guidance to the Town of Valdese during her remarkable 36 years of service as Town Clerk and Ward 4 Councilmember and extends congratulations and best wishes as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

Adopted this 20th day of November, 2023.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

Resolution of Appreciation for Timothy Skidmore

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore began his service as Councilman for Ward 5 on October 3rd, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore has admirably served the Town of Valdese for the past year, demonstrating unwavering commitment and dedication as a Councilmember; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore, for the past 24 years, has notably presided as the President of the Piedmont & Western Railroad Club, actively fostering the talents and enthusiasm of local railroad enthusiasts in Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, under Timothy's steadfast leadership, the club flourished, providing a vibrant and inclusive platform for individuals passionate about the rich history and innovation within the realm of railroads; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Parks & Recreation Commission, Railroad Committee, and Valdese Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore played an integral role in the development and planning phases of key community projects, including the Valdese Lakeside Park fishing pier and kayak launch, as well as the renovation of the Valdese Community Center and gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore effectively advocated for and secured a substantial \$7 million grant from the NC General Assembly, enhancing the Valdese Water Plant; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Skidmore has garnered widespread admiration, earning respect not only from his peers but also from all he has encountered during his tenure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese as we take this occasion to express honor, respect, and admiration to **Timothy Skidmore** for his outstanding contributions to the Council, Staff, and Citizens of Valdese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its appreciation and deep gratitude to **Timothy Skidmore** for his leadership and guidance to the Town of Valdese as its Ward 5 Councilmember and extends congratulations and best wishes as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Adopted this 20th day of November, 2023.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

Resolution of Appreciation for Timothy Barus

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus began his service as Councilman for Ward 1 on January 9th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus has admirably served the Town of Valdese during the past year, demonstrating unwavering commitment and dedication as a Councilmember; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus, a proud 5th Generation Waldensian, has displayed a profound love for the Town of Valdese, reflected in his steadfast commitment to its betterment; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus has demonstrated exceptional leadership by actively participating in numerous boards and commissions, including VEDIC, Old Rock School Board of Advisors, and Old Colony Players; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus played an integral role in the development and planning phases of key community projects, including the Valdese Lakeside Park fishing pier and kayak launch, as well as the renovation of the Valdese Community Center and gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus effectively advocated for and secured a substantial \$7 million grant from the NC General Assembly, enhancing the Valdese Water Plant; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Barus's service extends beyond the local level, having served our country with honor in the United States Army's 25th Infantry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Valdese as we take this occasion to express honor, respect, and admiration to **Timothy Barus** for his outstanding contributions to the Council, Staff, and Citizens of Valdese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Valdese, North Carolina, hereby expresses its appreciation and deep gratitude to **Timothy Barus** for his leadership and guidance to the Town of Valdese as its Ward 1 Councilmember and extends congratulations and best wishes as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Adopted this 20th day of November, 2023.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

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 6:09 p.m., Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to recess into Closed Session, Councilman Mears seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:29 p.m., Councilwoman Lowman made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT:

Councilman Mears made a motion to terminate without cause the employment contract of our Town Manager Seth Eckard, effective 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 1, 2023, seconded by Councilman Barus. The vote was unanimous.

BUDGET AMENDMENT: Assistant Town Manager/CFO Bo Weichel explained that this budget amendment was needed because Mr. Eckard's accrued vacation payout was not anticipated during the budget planning.

Valdese Town Council Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2023

Budget Amendment # 3-10

Subject: Special Council Meeting

Description: Accrued vacation

Proposed Action:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Valdese that, pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following amendment is made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

Section I:

The following revenues available to the Town will be increased:

Account	Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
10.3990.000	General Fund Balance Appr.		12,500
	Total	\$0	\$12,500

Amounts appropriated for expenditure are hereby amended as follows:

Account	Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
10.4200.020	Salaries & Wages	11,610	
10.4200.050	FICA Tax	890	
	Total	\$12,500	\$0

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.

Councilman Skidmore made a motion to amend the budget to reflect accrued vacation time as presented by the Finance Director, seconded by Councilwoman Hildebran. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Hildebran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Barus. The vote was unanimous.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Town Clerk
jl

Mayor