

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

The Town of Valdese Town Council met on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:00 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 Heather Ward, and Councilman Glenn Harvey. Also present were: Interim Town Manager Bo Weichel, Town Attorney Tim Swanson, Town Clerk Jessica Lail, and various Department Heads.

Absent: Ward 2 Vacant Seat

A quorum was present.

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

Rev. Dr. Josh Lail, pastor of the Valdese First Baptist Church offered the invocation. Following the invocation, Mayor Watts led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**HURRICANE AND PHONE NUMBERS – SUSAN BOTTAFUOCO, 605 CAROLINA ST, VALDESE:** Ms. Bottafuoco expressed her gratitude to the Valdese Fire Department and Fire Chief Walton for their prompt response when a power line exploded, causing a fire near her home. She also extended her thanks to Officer Jason Xaysana, who patrolled the neighborhood, checking in on her and her neighbors to ensure their well-being. Ms. Bottafuoco commended the Town for their efforts in handling the situation. However, she raised concerns about unsolicited text messages she began receiving in August from a company called Dynata, asking her to participate in a survey. She demanded to know who shared her personal information with this company without her consent and requested a response within 48 hours.

**HURRICANE – JEAN-MARIE COLE, 705 BERTIS ST, VALDESE:** Ms. Cole expressed her heartfelt appreciation for all the Town workers who contributed to the recovery efforts following Hurricane Helena. She gave special thanks to the Public Works, Water, Police, and Fire Departments, as well as the Recreation Center for providing essential services like showers to those in need.

Councilwoman Ward voiced her pride in the citizens and local churches for coming together to support one another in the aftermath of the hurricane. She encouraged everyone to continue offering help in any way they can, emphasizing the importance of community solidarity during challenging times.

**SPEEDING – PLY WHITINER, 413 CLINE AVE., VALDESE:** Mr. Whitiner expressed concern about the frequent speeding on Cline Avenue, noting that he has witnessed numerous cars speeding through the area. He emphasized his worry that this could lead to someone getting hurt and asked what actions could be taken to address the issue. Mayor Watts assured Mr. Whitiner that he would have the Police Chief reach out to him to discuss potential solutions.

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

**APPROVED AGENDA REVIEW MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

**APPROVED FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING WORKSHOP MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

**APPROVED NEW LEASE AGREEMENT AT OLD ROCK SCHOOL WITH VEDIC** Lease agreement for rental space at the Old Rock School. The VEDIC Lease is in the amount of \$368.00 per month.

Councilman Harvey made a motion to approve the aforementioned items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Ward. The vote was unanimous.

**End Consent Agenda**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (CDBG-NR) – FUNDING FOR BERRYTOWN WATERLINE PROJECT** Mayor Watts

announced that the Council would be holding two Public Hearings that evening. He explained that the first Public Hearing had been postponed due to Hurricane Helena, but would take place during tonight's meeting.

At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Watts officially opened the first Public Hearing.

Sherry Griffin, Special Projects Manager with WPCOG presented the CDBG first Public Hearing for Public Input:

Ms. Griffin said that the state of North Carolina receives approximately \$48 million in Community Development Block Grant funding annually from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Griffin noted that there are numerous activities that can be done with CDBG funding including: Housing Rehabilitation, Neighborhood Revitalization, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Disaster Recovery and Demolition of publically owned dilapidated buildings in order to create re-usable industrial sites. Ms. Griffin said the Town would have to market the site for economic development purposes. The local governments can apply for up to \$950,000 in the Neighborhood Revitalization funding category. Approximately \$12.29 million is available this cycle. This first public hearing is to assist the Town in the development of CDBG projects for the coming year.

Mayor Watts asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against the public hearing.

Hearing none, Mayor Watts closed the public hearing at 6:19 pm.

At 6:19 pm, Mayor Watts opened the second Public Hearing for the potential Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization application.

Sherry Griffin, Special Projects Manager with WPCOG presented second Public Hearing for the potential Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization application:

Ms. Griffin said in spring of 2024, the Town of Valdese applied to the NC Department Environmental Quality for \$3,000,000 to upgrade the 2” waterline to a 6” waterline to serve the citizens of the Berrytown community. Also included in the request was funds for fire hydrants and new connections to the houses from the main waterline. On July 26, 2024, the Town received notification of funding for the project in the amount of \$2,236,775, which is less than what was requested. In order to keep the project the same as originally proposed, my staff began seeking funding from other sources. The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division CDBG- NR program was determined to be a nice match the program and is why we are here tonight to discuss the potential application. Ms. Griffin said the Department of Commerce suggested This \$800,000 CDBG-NR application proposes to upgrade waterlines and service connections to approximately fifty (50) low and moderate income households located along Berry School Avenue, Berrytown Avenue, Berrytown Street, Bost Johnson Avenue, Bost Johnson Avenue Extension, and CV Johnson Drive. 100% of the CDBG-NR funds will benefit low and moderate-income persons.

The following documents were presented to Council in their agenda packet:

RESOLUTION  
TOWN OF VALDESE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION  
BERRYTOWN WATERLINE CONNECTION PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, the Valdese Town Council has previously indicated its desire to assist in community development efforts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Valdese Town Council has held two public hearings concerning the proposed application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit low and moderate income residents of the Berrytown community; and,

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**WHEREAS**, the Valdese Town Council wishes the Town to pursue a formal application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit residents of Berry School Ave, Berrytown Ave, Berrytown Street, Bost Johnson Ave, Bost Johnson Ave Extension, and CV Johnson Drive.

**WHEREAS**, the Valdese Town Council certifies it will meet all federal regulatory and statutory requirements of the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE VALDESE TOWN COUNCIL:**

That Bo Weichel, Interim Town Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Town of Valdese with The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division for approval of a Community Development Block Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for Community Development to benefit the residents of Berry School Ave, Berrytown Ave, Berrytown Street, Bost Johnson Ave, Bost Johnson Ave Extension, and CV Johnson Drive.

That Bo Weichel, Interim Town Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the Town of Valdese has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 at Valdese, North Carolina.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

**TOWN OF VALDESE  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

This plan describes how the Town of Valdese will involve citizens in the planning, implementation, assessment and close out of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The funds must be used for projects which benefit low and moderate-income persons and aids in the elimination and prevention of slums and blight. The program is intended to assist governments in understanding neighborhood improvement programs. The regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials and require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to these elected officials.

**SCOPE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Citizens will be involved in all stages of the CDBG program, including program implementation, assessment of performance, design of changes and close out in the Citizen Participation Plan. There will be three (3) general mechanisms for their involvement:

1. To serve as an advisory committee to the project;
2. To attend or hold public hearings or community meetings; and
3. To provide individual citizen efforts in the form of comments, complaints or inquiries submitted directly to the Program Administrators or designated Town official.

**PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

Citizen participation in program implementation will occur primarily through consultation with the Town of Valdese. The town will be asked to review and comment on specific guidelines for approved projects. They will also meet to review any program amendments, budget revisions and program modifications. All such

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changes will be discussed with the town and their comments considered prior to taking action. If program amendments require approval from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, a public hearing shall be held specifically on the amendment. Citizens may also be involved in implementation of projects specifically requiring citizen participation, such as self-help projects. Their roles will be defined as the project develops. Technical assistance will be available as needed.

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT**

Program assessment activities by citizens will occur in a variety of ways. A performance hearing will be held thirty to sixty (30 to 60) days prior to the start of planning for the next program year. The Program Amendment will be asked to provide citizen commentary for the Grantee Performance Report.

As a part of the orientation to the program offered at the public hearing, citizens will be invited to submit comments on all aspects of program performance through the program year. Comments should be submitted in writing to Larry Johnson, Planning Director and also others so titled. A written response will be provided within ten (10) days. If the response is unsatisfactory, the complainant should write directly to the Mayor. He shall respond within ten (10) days.

If the citizen is still dissatisfied, he/she should write to the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division/State CDBG Program, 4346 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4346, Attention: Citizen Participation Matter. Program staff will also be available during normal business hours to respond to any citizen inquiries or complaints at 919-814-4663

The Citizen Participation Plan will be subject to annual review and proposed revision, to occur in the period between the performance hearing and the public hearing on the subsequent year's application.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Technical Assistance will be provided to citizen organizations and groups of low/moderate income persons or target area residents upon request to the Town of Valdese. Such assistance will support citizen efforts to develop proposals, define policy and organize for the implementation of the program. It is expected that such assistance will be provided directly to the town in response to their request. Assistance could be provided in the form of local presentations, informational handouts, research of a specific issue or other short-term efforts.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Town of Valdese will also undertake public information efforts to promote citizen participation. These efforts will include the following:

1. Public Notice of all Public Hearings will be published in the non-legal section of the local Newspaper, Observer News Enterprise at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing. These notices will indicate the date, time, location and topics to be considered. These notices will also be made available in the form of press releases, as a public service announcement to local radio stations and will be provided to churches within the target area of distribution.
2. Orientation Information will be provided at the first public hearing. The Program Administrator(s) will make a presentation which covers: (a) the total amount of CDBG funds available and the competitive basis for award; (b) the range of eligible activities; (c) the planning process and the schedule of meetings and hearings; (d) the role of citizens in the program and (e) a summary of other program requirements, such as the environmental policies, fair housing provisions and contracting procedures.

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3. A Public File containing program documentation will be available for review at Valdese Town Hall during normal business hours. Included will be copies of the Application, Environmental Review Record, the Citizen Participation Plan and the Annual Performance Report. Other program documents are also available for citizen review on request at the Valdese Town Hall consistent with applicable State and local laws regarding personal privacy and obligations of confidentiality.
4. Public Hearings an interpreter will be provided for all non-English speaking individuals and/or deaf individuals.

ADOPTED, this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

**RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN  
TOWN OF VALDESE**

This Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan is prepared by the Town of Valdese in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 42.325 and is applicable to the Town's CDBG projects.

**Minimize Displacement**

Consistent with the goals and objectives of activities assisted under the Act, the Town of Valdese will take the following steps to minimize the direct and indirect displacement of persons from their homes:

- Coordinate code enforcement with rehabilitation and housing assistance programs.
- Evaluate housing codes and rehabilitation standards in reinvestment areas to prevent undue financial burden on established owners and tenants.
- Stage rehabilitation of apartment units to allow tenants to remain in the building/complex during and after the rehabilitation, working with empty units first.
- Arrange for facilities to house persons who must be relocated temporarily during rehabilitation.
- Adopt policies to identify and mitigate displacement resulting from intensive public investment in neighborhoods.
- Adopt policies which provide reasonable protections for tenants faced with conversion to a condominium or cooperative.
- Adopt tax assessment policies, such as deferred tax payment plans, to reduce impact of increasing property tax assessments on lower income owner-occupants or tenants in revitalizing areas.
- Establish counseling centers to provide homeowners and tenants with information on assistance available to help them remain in their neighborhood in the face of revitalization pressures.
- Where feasible, give priority to rehabilitation of housing, as opposed to demolition, to avoid displacement.
- If feasible, demolish or convert only dwelling units that are not occupied or vacant occupiable dwelling units (especially those units which are "lower-income dwelling units" (as defined in 24 CFR 42.305).
- Target only those properties deemed essential to the need or success of the project.

**A. Relocation Assistance to Displaced Persons**

The Town of Valdese will provide relocation assistance for lower-income tenants who, in connection with an activity assisted under the CDBG Program[s], move permanently or move personal property from real property as a direct result of the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of a lower-income dwelling unit in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 42.350. A displaced person who is not a lower-income

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tenant, will be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24.

**B. One-for-One Replacement of Lower-Income Dwelling Units**

Town of Valdese will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable lower-income dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than lower-income housing in connection with a project assisted with funds provided under the CDBG Program[s] in accordance with 24 CFR 42.375.

Before entering into a contract committing the Town of Valdese to provide funds for a project that will directly result in demolition or conversion of lower-income dwelling units. The Town of Valdese will make public by placing an ad in The News Herald and submit to State CDBG Program(s) North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DEQ) the following information in writing:

1. A description of the proposed assisted project;
2. The address, number of bedrooms, and location on a map of lower-income dwelling units that will be demolished or converted to a use other than as lower-income dwelling units as a result of an assisted project;
3. A time schedule for the commencement and completion of the demolition or conversion;
4. To the extent known, the address, number of lower-income dwelling units by size (number of bedrooms) and location on a map of the replacement lower-income housing that has been or will be provided.  
*NOTE: See also 24 CFR 42.375(d).*
5. The source of funding and a time schedule for the provision of the replacement dwelling units;
6. The basis for concluding that each replacement dwelling unit will remain a lower-income dwelling unit for at least 10 years from the date of initial occupancy; and
7. Information demonstrating that any proposed replacement of lower-income dwelling units with smaller dwelling units (e.g., a 2-bedroom unit with two 1-bedroom units), or any proposed replacement of efficiency or single-room occupancy (SRO) units with units of a different size, is appropriate and consistent with the housing needs and priorities identified in the HUD-approved Consolidated Plan and 24 CFR 42.375(b).

To the extent that the specific location of the replacement dwelling units and other data in items 4 through 7 are not available at the time of the general submission, the Town of Valdese will identify the general location of such dwelling units on a map and complete the disclosure and submission requirements as soon as the specific data is available.

**C. Replacement not Required Based on Unit Availability**

Under 24 CFR 42.375(d), the Town of Valdese may submit a request to the State (NC Dept. of Commerce) for a determination that the one-for-one replacement requirement does not apply based on objective data that there is an adequate supply of vacant lower-income dwelling units in standard condition available on a non-discriminatory basis within the area.

**D. Contacts**

Sherry Griffin, Project Administrator (828-485-4251) is responsible for tracking the replacement of lower income dwelling units and ensuring that they are provided within the required period. Sherry Griffin, Project Administrator (828-485-4251) is responsible for providing relocation payments and other relocation assistance to any lower-income person displaced by the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of lower-income dwelling units to another use.

Adopted this 7th day of October, 2024.

/s/ Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Town Clerk

**APPLICATION SUMMARY – 2024 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program**

<b>1. Applicant's name</b>		Town of Valdese	<b>2. Date</b>	
a. Mailing Address		PO Box 339	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Original</b> dated: 10/07/2024  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amendment</b> dated: ___/___/___	
b. City and Zip Code		Valdese NC 28690		
c. County		Burke		
d. Contact Person		Bo Weichel		
e. Telephone Number		(828)879-2124		
f. Fax Number		n/a		
g. e-mail address		BWeichel@valdesenc.gov		
h. UEI Number		V67AJH87ABS5		
<b>3. Preparer's Name</b>		Sherry Long Griffin	<b>c. Telephone Number</b>	
a. Firm's Name		Western Piedmont Council of Governments	(828)485-4251	
b. Mailing Address		PO Box 9026		
c. City and Zip Code		Hickory, NC 28602	<b>f. Fax Number</b>	
d. e-mail address		sherry.griffin@wpcog.org	(828)322-5991	
<b>4. Developer's Name</b>			<b>c. Telephone Number</b>	
a. Mailing Address				
b. City and Zip Code			<b>a. Fax Number</b>	
<b>5. Development Name</b>				
a. Street Address				
b. City and Zip Code				
c. Ownership Entity				
<b>6. Program Category</b>	<b>7. Project Number</b>	<b>8. Project Name</b>		<b>9. CDBG Funds Requested</b>
C	1	Berrytown Waterline Connection Project		\$800,000.00
Rural Community Development Only	1			\$
<b>10. Certification by the Chief Elected Official</b>				
a) I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief:				
1. Data in this application is true and correct,				
2. Opportunities have been provided for citizen participation and access to information concerning the proposed activities,				
3. This document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached certifications and state standards if the assistance is approved.				
b) I acknowledge that, if funded, this application is part of the Grant Agreement.				
a. Typed Name and e-mail Address of Chief Elected Official		Charles Watts		
b. Typed Title		Mayor		
c. Signature				
d. Typed Date		October 7, 2024		
<b>Date Received:</b>		<b>For REDD Use Only</b>		<b>Application Number:</b>

Councilman Harvey inquired whether the waterlines in question were located within the Town limits of Valdese. Ms. Griffin clarified that, while the waterlines are not within the Town limits, they are part of the Triple Community waterlines, which Valdese is responsible for servicing.

Mayor Watts asked if anyone wished to speak either for or against the public hearing.

Hearing none, Mayor Watts closed the public hearing at 6:23 pm.

Councilwoman Lowman made a motion to approve the application to be submitted to the NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division and adopt the Resolution, Citizen Participation Plan,

Anti-Displacement Plan, and authorize the Mayor to sign the application so it can be submitted later this month, seconded by Councilman Ogle. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES**

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion:** Councilman Harvey made a motion that the renovation of 215 Main St E office building as the permanent police station be given the highest priority of all of Valdese’s planned and in-progress construction projects; that the Interim Manager advertise a “Request for Qualifications” seeking proposals from NC General Contactors for a “Design-Build” approach to the renovation at a cost not to exceed \$1 million with work to be completed no later than six months form acceptance of a proposal; and that the Agreement, AIA document B101-2017, approved August 5, 2024, be terminated without cause, seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

**Discussion:** Councilman Harvey acknowledged that the Town has been facing multiple deferred needs for several years and stressed the importance of prioritizing funds to address them. He mentioned that the architect’s estimated cost to renovate the building was three times higher than the Facilities Review Committee’s initial projection. Due to this, Councilman Harvey noted that the Facilities Review Committee strongly recommends adopting a design-build approach for the project. He clarified that no costs were incurred with the contract approved on August 5, and its cancellation did not result in any expenses. He emphasized that completing this project remains a high priority.

Councilwoman Lowman then asked the Mayor if Police Chief Marc Sharpe could address a few questions. She agreed that the project should be a top priority and asked the Chief to share his vision for the building, as well as any thoughts or concerns he has as Police Chief regarding the renovation of the Mitchell building.

Chief Sharpe said, “I want to start this by saying “Thank you” for asking me to speak on this issue as I have not been heard. The things I am about to say will cause a number of thoughts, some of you want care, some of you will be angry, and some may be pleased, but what I am saying is the Ugly Truth.

When hired as the new Police Chief of Valdese I was assigned a number of issues to immediately deal with and to start to repair. A homelessness, and drug issue, as well as a retention of employee problem was identified as immediate needs for me to address. We have been working on homelessness and drug issue with extreme urgency through identifying and obtaining resources and developing partnerships with outside agencies and citizens, enforcement of laws and a trespassing program which has shut down 4 suspected drug houses and helped to curtail some of the drug problem, as well as additional training and education and for our officers and citizens on these subjects to improve our community.

Employee retention, training, and morale within the Valdese Police Department was the next issue. Like the other issues immediately we addressed some long neglected issues within the department like communication, updating uniforms, weapons updates, training updates. Those things have been addressed with no additional cost and creative thinking as well as a citizen donation directly targeted and requested at one of those needs. However, the department is lacking across the board in multiple other areas which have been neglected and ignored over time. Such as software updates and a quality reporting system. A \$ 20,000.00 dollar cut out of our budget this year. I’m working on things like policy to improve issues for us all like taking warning shots out of a use of force policy, ask Attorney Swanson how long ago police departments stopped that practice. The officers now have a use of force continuum to follow in a new policy with their updated weapons systems. Firearms scores have improved drastically across the board which provides a safer community for us all and will save lives if or when they are used. Additional Taser equipment consisting of in date duty Taser cartridges and systems have been provided to me by a fellow department away from Burke County for our use at no cost because their department upgraded. I have already had two employees trained to conduct training in house in some of these areas and we are moving in the right direction. Officers are being assigned training dates at WPCC in neglected and ignored areas across the board. I have worked at changing a culture within the department to become more community based and involved. We have added a Chaplains Program to care for our citizens and officers. While I know I can’t fix all of these issues overnight I am working night and day to greatly improve your police department and I need your help. Let us look at some issues that directly affect retention.

**SLIDE 1**

**Turnover for Valdese Police Department: The Ugly Truth**

**Last Ten Years: Thirty three officers**

**Last Two Years: Seven officers (four of the seven lost for better pay)**

**Last Seven Months: Two reserves have left (one better pay, one wasn’t working)**



**SLIDE 2**

**The Ugly Truth: Valdese vs. the Competition**

Agency:	Starting Salary:	Experience	Incentive:	Reserve Hourly Rate:
Valdese:	\$ 40,708.00	No experience	No experience incentive	\$ 17.00 an hour
Burke Co:	\$ 50,920.00	No experience	\$ ½ percent per year	\$ 24.00 an hour
Maiden:	\$ 51,635.00	No experience	\$ 54,217.00 experience	\$ 25.00 an hour
Hickory:	\$ 61,000.00	No experience	\$ 75,566.00 experience	No Program
Morganton:	\$ 52,968.00	No experience	\$ 55,652.00 experience	\$ 25.00 an hour, g 28
Longview:	\$ 43,000.00	No experience	\$ 47,500.00 experience	\$ 20.00 an hour
Avery Co:	\$ 46,822.00	No experience	\$ 52,000.00 experience	\$ 20.00 an hour
Caldwell Co:	\$ 45,000.00	No experience	\$ 60,000.00 experience	\$ 20.00 an hour
Drexel PD:	\$ 47,000.00	No experience	(None) Working on	\$ 16.00 an hour

**Remember all of these officers attended the same Basic Law Enforcement Training without a special circumstance where would you go to work if given a choice.**

That is what we are competing against to hire and retain employees in just salary alone. Our facilities our outdated and inadequate to do our jobs to today's standards. We need upgrades across the board as we are 25 to 50 years behind in much of our layout, technology, software, and abilities to provide the services to this community that it deserves.

I continue to recruit, sale, and offer our town and our department to those wanting to serve as a law enforcement officer but the ugly truth is: We are struggling to promote ourselves. We need facilities, (The backbone and Foundation of a Quality Police Department, we need to be updated with current facilities to catch up and come out of the darkness into the light. We need to be updated to compete for the quality employees you want to serve your town. Facilities is the foundation of which all those things start.

This has been an on-going issue in Valdese for some time and we have looked at so many options. We have moved the goal post all over the playing field but not once have we attempted the field goal. We can't continue to look in the past about what has not been done we need to look into the future about what needs to be done and come up with a solution that is not duct taped together. I think we are the close to finally making a move to fix a long endured problem and I beg of you as the council, and our citizens, help me protect and serve you by providing facilities that I can use to create, recruit, and maintain the Police Department you want within our town to protect and serve you the citizens.

Comparing apples to apples, as I started to approach this issue for our PD as my tenure began, I reached out to a town similar to Valdese because I heard comments like they want a Taj Mahaul, or my goodness this is not Charlotte. To respond to those statements, I tell you this:

**SLIDE 3**

**Facts:**

- **No we are not Charlotte but unfortunately we respond to the same type of calls just less of them because our population is less. The calls and circumstances do not change as we all face similar issues we just have less calls because we are less populated. We also have less manpower.**
- **Maiden has a population of 3,796 Valdese has a population of 4,687**
- **Maiden has 5.6 square miles of patrol area, Valdese has 7.86 of patrol area.**
- **Maiden has 21 sworn police officers, Valdese has 13 sworn Police Officers.**
- **Maiden faced facility issues in 2018 almost identical to ours, the department was literally falling in and they assessed their needs and built a 2.2 million dollar police facility through payments from tax revenues and are currently working on new fire facilities.**
- **Maiden facility at today's prices would cost just over 4 million dollars to build according to their Chief who I spoke with. According to Talley and Smith, they estimated a refurbished**

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**facility on Main Street to cost 2.5 million and said in the workshop if we built the same facility new it would cost just over 4 million dollars. From a common sense approach we don't sound that far off and it appears we are saving money.**

I recently toured the Town of Maiden's Police Facilities this past week. I would like to share some slides and my findings.

Again, newly constructed in 2018 for approximately 2.2 million dollars. Why Maiden, again I am trying to compare apples to apples. Maiden is a town similar to Valdese with around 1000 less in population. Maiden has double the number of officers of Valdese has which also points out another ugly truth our staffing problem. Their facility has everything we have already paid an architect firm to design that as your Chief I assessed we needed from your hand-picked architect including a two car sally port utilized just the way our design has proposed without me even looking or knowing about their design prior to this tour last week.

Speaking with Maiden's Chief I learned to complete the building today they completed in 2018 which was all totally new and at today's cost in 2024 it is estimated that it would cost just over 4 million dollars. I am not an architect and I do not run a construction company but is the architect really that far off. He told us 2.5 to renovate our building and he estimated if you built new what he had designed without the existing building it would cost over 4 million dollars. It sounds like we are in fact already saving money.

Why do we need these facilities? Because we are currently,

Outdated and inadequate.

Keeping up with technology changes, law changes, enhanced security and evidence responsibilities while also trying to save Valdese.

Let us look at and discuss a few of those:

Interview audio video recording requirements (Statutory requirement from the state of North Carolina) requires Mirandized audio video recording with specifics from arrestees for all custodial questioning on the majority of offenses. (The need for a sally port) This covers an arrestee entrance to the department for custodial questioning. Our architect designed a two car sally port which is utilized for security of those arrested to bring into a building safely and securely protecting the officer, the individual, and citizens from the things that can occur during those events and maintaining those events in a secure videoed environment. The sally port is designed to securely bring in an arrestee and conduct audio video recordings of suspects in a secure environment according to state mandated law on many criminal offenses. Since January of this year the Valdese Police Department has made arrest where this process would have been followed. We currently bring suspects into an unsecured area and attempt interviews on body cams which are and should be primarily used for citizen contacts not at length custodial interviews.

An upstairs interview room in the police department would be designed for non-custodial interviews and report taking for officers from individuals coming in to the police department who are not in custody which is also a regular practice of the police department. The two processes I have discussed are two separate processes that need and should be done in separate areas. Not to mention, new legislation has passed which also now requires

The additional space in the sally port has been requested as a need for evidentiary purposes. Items such as cars, motorcycles, or other larger items such as a mattress, couch, chair, or other item which needs to be secured for further trace evidence testing in cases such as homicides, hit and runs, sexual assaults, and rape which are seized and need to be maintained and secured for later court proceeding for at times indefinite time periods. It is also necessary for vehicles involved with drug searches where a search warrant may be involved. As you can see the extra bay is a multi-need portion of the laid out facility that is needed for very important reasons.

These events do occur with regularity and even now we have no true way to secure such items and like all the other issues we duct tape together some form of a solution. This evidence needs to be in a secured environment with all other evidence in the police department under a two keyed system to maintain the legality and integrity of the evidence for both criminal proceedings and the liability the department holds to its citizens to maintain such evidence.

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Moving this away from the department in a facility not connected to the department is not very smart security wise nor is it practical. The expense of security systems, gas, and manpower running to and from an outside facility over time would easily pay for the extra space to get this done and keep it under one location together within a complete well planned facility. How often do these offenses occur? Looking at some of this year's data which is also an area that has been updated and changed as we are currently doing a much better job in accurately reporting.

**SLIDE 4**

**This year since January 1 2024: The Valdese Police Department has made:**

- **230 arrest.... The large majority of those should have an audio/videoed recorded statement**
- **509 reports filed.... Many of these should have an audio/video non-custodial interview attached.**
- **155 towed vehicles .....(not all would be stored in the sally port but more of a portion of these have had evidentiary value to a case and needed to be secured and searched for additional evidence)**
- **Technological evidence, charging ports in evidence lockers.**
- **Many of our in car cameras used for vehicle stops are outdated, unusable and have not been replaced.**

**SLIDE 5**

**Technology has changed everything. CSI effect! What is expected from citizens and juries?**

**The majority of all investigations use a three prong investigations consisting of three evidence types:**

- **Interviews / Interrogations .... Collected with audio video, data storage**
- **Crime scene..... Photography, sketches, measurements, collection of physical evidence, searches for trace evidence. (I recently put together a shared investigative equipment Box utilized by our officers)**
- **Digital Crime Scene ..... Computers, cell phones, cars, Digital evidence, various forms of video.**

**As a PD we need the facilities to store, maintain, and call for the processing of them all.**

I at times feel as if I am holding our department together with duct tape. Let us stop addressing these issues with duct tape and fix a problem with a real solid solution which is to get these police and fire stations completed in the near future. It appears at face value we are starting to spend a quarter to save a nickel. How many architects and firms are we going to hire and fire, how many meetings are we going to pay for, how may legal fees are we going to endure, to end up spending what needs to be spent to accomplish this task and does appear to be close based on what has been calculated by your previously hand-picked architect.

As your Police Chief I came to the town with 36 years of law enforcement experience and I am educated in my field as I hold a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. I am not looking at these things blindly, I do not want a Taj Mahaul, but I am telling you the ugly truth about our needs with this facility and the future of our town's law enforcement facilities and services.

In recent weeks, I have sat down with Manager Weichel and had a couple of discussions about JAG Grants to assist with upgrading technology across the board with our agency and this may be a solution for those issues. I have also spoken about creative ways to possibly address man power issues. However, I cannot fix the facility issue. I think I helped find a location which may work and make some of the town happy but we will be on our main street with a generator for incidents where we are needed. Unlike, the latest Hurricane where we sat on Main street in the dark flagging cars down to help citizens with no radio or phone access and no true facility for those individuals to respond to.

Your Chief is not an expert in architecture or construction but I do know our current Town Manager has training and both. I would strongly suggest we accept and take some of his input on this matter as he

has much of the expertise needed. Sorry Manager Weichel but your expertise and opinions are also needed and trusted by your Chief!

I want to thank all of you for your time tonight and listening to my thoughts and concerns. This is not a council vs. Staff issue it is needs based. Unfortunately in life and especially police work, never have I ever made everyone happy. You as council members will not either, but these hard decisions need to be based on needs. Remember, I speak to you tonight as your Chief of Police, I am a Department Head, an employee, a citizen, and fellow taxpayer, not to mention a home grown son of Valdese who wants what is best for all of us. I will continue to upgrade our services and maintain a police force but we need updated facilities and a foundation to get started. You have the ability and fortitude to make that happen and I pray for all us we can come together and get this done. The time to accomplish this task has long passed.”

Councilman Harvey expressed his appreciation for the presentation, calling it the best staff presentation on a major project that he has heard since moving to Valdese. He also noted that the Police Chief played a key role in locating the building. Councilman Harvey clarified that the motion under consideration was simply to shift toward a design-build approach, which is a common method for renovating commercial buildings. Councilwoman Lowman voiced her concern that the proposed budget of \$1 million might not be sufficient to accomplish the desired renovations. Councilman Ogle suggested that the starting point for the budget should be increased to \$1.5 million. Interim Town Manager Bo Weichel added that no funds have been spent with Talley & Smith on the Police Department project so far. He explained that the design-build approach involves additional steps, which will be further discussed and clarified during the next Council workshop.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion:** Councilwoman Ward made a motion to amend the cost not to exceed \$1.75 million, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Motion:** Councilwoman Ward made a motion that the renovation of 215 Main St E office building as the permanent police station be given the highest priority of all of Valdese’s planned and in-progress construction projects; that the Interim Manager advertise a “Request for Qualifications” seeking proposals from NC General Contractors for a “Design-Build” approach to the renovation at a cost not to exceed \$1.75 million with work to be completed no later than six months from acceptance of a proposal; and that the Agreement, AIA document B101-2017, approved August 5, 2024, be terminated without cause, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

#### **MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE VALDESE TOWN HALL**

**Motion:** Councilman Harvey made a motion that the Interim Town Manager obtain an estimate from the general contractor selected for the 215 Main St E renovation project for the division of two oversized offices in the Town Hall, for consideration by the Council as a possible addition to the contract, seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

**Discussion:** Councilwoman Ward inquired about the intended use of the offices. Councilman Harvey highlighted that the two oversized offices have been a frequent source of complaints from citizens. He noted that the Town has an opportunity to divide these offices while they remain vacant, utilizing the same contractor who will be renovating the police building. According to Councilman Harvey, this would make the building more functional and improve its appearance for the Town overall.

Councilwoman Lowman questioned the need for additional offices in the Town Hall, expressing doubt about their necessity given other pressing needs. She pointed out that both the Town Hall and Public Works lack a generator, and there is also a need to pave roads. In response, Councilman Harvey clarified that the current motion is simply to obtain an estimate to assess the potential cost of the renovations. Councilwoman Ward agreed, stating she had no objection to getting estimates.

**Vote:** Councilman Harvey – Yes, Councilman Ogle – Yes, Councilwoman Ward – Yes, Councilwoman Lowman – No. The motion carried.

**215 MAIN STREET E. ESTATE SALE** Councilman Harvey stated that 215 Main Street East must be vacated before renovations can commence. He noted that there is a significant amount of furniture that could be repurposed by the Police Department and other municipal departments. Additionally, he highlighted the presence of beautifully bound law books that may be of interest to someone.

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**Motion:** Councilman Harvey made a motion that the Interim Town Manager proceeds with the preparation of 215 Main Street E for renovation to be completed by November 15, 2024, including but not limited to inventorying all furniture and office equipment remaining in the building to determine items the Town can use, protecting them from renovation damage as required; determining the optimum means for selling all items of value, along with any additional similar town items for deposit in the public safety fund; and having all remaining items disposed of, seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

Mayor Watts inquired about the process for auctioning town-owned items. Town Attorney Tim Swanson responded, confirming that there is a statutory process in place for conducting auctions.

**Vote:** The vote was unanimous.

**DRUG AND HOMELESS ADVISORY TASK FORCE REPORT** Police Chief Marc Sharpe made the following report:

“The Homelessness/Drug Task Force has had two (2) two additional meetings since our last council meetings. Some of the things that have evolved from those meetings are:

- “Jethros” has been established as a Thursday pick up location for the unsheltered to be transported to BUCM for services. The pick-up begins at 11:00 a.m. every Thursday and leaves BUCM at 2:00 p.m. This provides our unsheltered an opportunity to receive a hot meal, get a shower, do some laundry, and sign up or receive additional services BUCM provides at least once a week from Valdese. The service has been provided by River of Life Church and their Bus with various pastors and volunteers driving the bus route. We have had individuals taking advantage of this service and I received an additional call about it today.
- Chief Whisnant from Morganton Public Safety and I along with other Law Enforcement Department heads in the County have been communicating with Greenway Transportation, the WPCOG, BUCM, and others about possibly funding a bus route on Hwy 70 that would serve all the communities in Burke County having stops along Hwy 70 in Glen Alpine, Morganton, Drexel, Valdese, Rutherford College, Connelly Springs, Icard, Hildebran, and Long View to take the unsheltered to services at BUCM weekly. This provides a regular meeting point for the Cogs Response Team and BUCM to meet up with these individuals attempting to help find solutions for many of their issues and giving opportunities if wanted to get off the streets. The talks are continuing of which a meeting was cancelled due to the Hurricane.
- VPD continues to meet with the COG as needed to make additional contact with the unsheltered as needed when called upon and VPD continues to reach out to the COG when needed. This partnership has turned into a two way street making contact with one another when and as needed.
- The Task Force has suggested additional ways to make contact with the unsheltered and help them find services. A Dinner has been planned to honor Homelessness awareness week at the United Methodist Church in Valdese as a connect opportunity for those seeking services. The dinner is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. in the basement of the Church and our officers will be handing out invitations to that event. Homelessness Awareness Week is recognized between November 17<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
- Jethro’s will also be hosting an event that week that is still being planned titled “Homeless Awareness under the stars” which individuals will be invited to sleep outside at Jethro’s to better understand the plight of the unsheltered. Speakers are also being scheduled by Heather and Jethro’s.
- VPD has continued to come to agreements with various citizens and have prepared trespassing notices for their properties. Those notices have assisted in a community effort partnership with citizens to shut down several suspected drug houses or hot spots where illegal drugs are being used and sold. We will continue to promote these efforts not only to combat the drug issue but to also remove camps that are in places citizens have not approved them on their property.
- The Task Force has had several guest speakers providing an inside look at addiction issues and the struggles to find rehab. Additional programs are being researched and outreach is being sought when someone wants help with their drug problem. The Task Force is working to find additional answers, solutions, and response to these request.
- VPD has made several new drug arrest and seizures involving Fentanyl and Methamphetamine in our town limits. We will work with the courts for adjudication. This has improved as the PD has now installed court liaison officers on VPD court dates to oversee and guide our cases through the process. An additional avenue is having the court order drug rehab for offenders

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as a solution to the problem for some offenders and more information is being gather about that process.

- VPD has made (10) ten arrest since the last council meeting involving the unsheltered from an enforcement stand point. Those charges involve trespassing, drug possession, and breaking and entering.
- Olive Branch Ministry which is another option at rehab options for drug offenders will be guest speaking at our next meeting to offer additional insight into the drug addiction issues.
- Another one of our unsheltered lost his life on interstate since our last meeting which brings that total to three since our efforts at finding solutions to these issues began.
- Those three individuals Charles Waters Jr. AKA: Charlie Brown, Josh Sanders, and Cody Vance Dehaven will be remembered by name during the Homelessness Awareness under the stars at Jethros' event.
- The Task Force will continue to meet on the last Tuesday of each month as we work together to address the issues and attempt to find additional solutions.

Thank you for allowing this update." End of report.

Mayor Watts read a letter that he received today:

*Dear Mayor & Council,*

*With the recent devastation caused by hurricane Helene, our family decided to rent our Valdese residence to a family that became homeless due to a large tree damaging their property in downtown Morganton. We have subsequently moved and made our permanent residence at a home we recently remodeled at Silver Creek in Morganton. Due to this change in residence, I regret that I am no longer eligible to remain on council.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on council these past 34 months and on the Valdese planning board for nearly 7 years and am grateful for the opportunity to serve and give back to the Valdese community that has given so much to my family. I will continue to remain connected and committed to Valdese with my business. Valdese is the place I have come to love these past 34 years. My very best to each of you as you seek to serve the great citizens of Valdese in the best way possible.*

*Paul Mears*

Mayor Watts announced the resignation of Paul Mears, as outlined in a letter dated October 7, 2024. Town Attorney Tim Swanson added that the resignation would become effective on the date Paul Mears officially changed his residency from the Town.

**Motion:** Councilman Harvey made a motion to add to the agenda the item, Ward 2 Council Vacancy, seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

**Discussion:** Councilman Harvey made two key points for wanting to address this matter:

1. According to the Rules & Regulations, the Council may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open session.
2. Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, or disqualification of a Council member must be filled by a majority vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Lowman added that this is the third resignation she has seen during her time on the Council, and in past instances, the Council has used an application process to allow any resident of the Ward to apply. She also noted that committee members are required to submit an application. Councilman Harvey mentioned that he knows someone who is interested in serving and has already submitted an application.

**Vote:** Councilman Harvey – Yes, Councilman Ogle – Yes, Councilwoman Ward – Yes, Councilwoman Lowman – No. The motion carried.

**WARD 2 COUNCIL VACANCY**

**Motion:** Councilman Harvey made a motion to nominate Roger S. Heavner from 104 Curville St NE, Valdese. Councilman Harvey read Mr. Heavner's application. Seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

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TOWN OF VALDEESE  
NORTH CAROLINA'S FRIENDLY TOWN



P.O. BOX 339  
VALDEESE, NORTH CAROLINA 28690-0339  
PHONE (828) 879-2120 | FAX (888) 798-1022 | TOWNOFVALDEESE.COM

Application for Council Vacancy – Ward 2

Name                     ROGER S. HEAVNER                    

Address                     104 CURVILLE ST NE, VALDEESE NC 28690                    

Phone Numbers (Home) 828-874-020 (Mobile) 828-302-0750 (Email) rsheavner@embarqmail.com

Are you a registered voter living in Ward 2? YES

How long have you been a Valdeese resident? 22 Years Have you been convicted of a felony? NO

Have you ever run for an elective office? NO If so, where and for what office?

Do you have any close relative employed by the Town of Valdeese? NO

Why do you want to serve as a Councilperson?

BORN AND RAISED IN VALDEESE, I WOULD BE HONORED TO BE ABLE TO SERVE THE TOWN DURING THE NEXT TWELVE OR SO MONTHS. DURING THIS UPCOMING PERIOD, THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL DEAL WITH SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ISSUES THAT WILL DRAW ON MY CAREER AND PERSONAL WORK EXPERIENCE.

What qualifications do you have that would make you an asset to Valdeese as a member of the Town Council?

SINCE RETURNING FROM AIR FORCE SERVICE IN VIETNAM, I HAVE SPENT 30+ YEARS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR CENTURYLINK AND FORMER VERSIONS OF IT. THAT EXPERIENCE, PLUS MY PERSONAL BUSINESS AND WORK, HAS INCLUDED NEW CONSTRUCTION, EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS, ROOF REPLACEMENTS, HVAC PROJECTS, AND EMERGENCY GENERATORS. SOME OF THESE PROJECTS EXCEEDED \$1 MILLION. IN ADDITION, I HAVE HELD LICENSES AS AN NC GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND NC PLUMBING CONTRACTOR.

RELATED EDUCATION EXPERIENCE: BS INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT AND POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION INCLUDED A MASTERS CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT.

What issues would you like to see the Council address?

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COUNCIL CONTINUE ON ITS CURRENT PATH OF REPLACING THE DISTRESSED PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY AND REPAVING ITS CRUMBLING STREETS, WITH CONTINUOUS EMPHASIS ON FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF TAXDOLLARS.

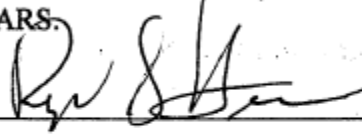
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**Prior Public Service**

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND LPDA  
PROPERTY COMMITTEES; AMERICAN LEGION POST 234, POST COMMANDER;  
LOVELADY MASONIC LODGE - 50 YEARS.

Date 10/7/24

Signature



**This application and all the information contained in it shall be a public record.**

Please fill out the form completely with a resume and return it to Town Clerk, Jessica Lail  
at:

Drop Off: Valdese Town Hall

Email: [jlail@valdesenc.gov](mailto:jlail@valdesenc.gov)

Questions: 828-879-2117

**Discussion:** Councilman Harvey expressed his belief that Mr. Heavner possesses the knowledge necessary to move forward with the various projects currently underway and is the most qualified person in town for the position. While Councilwoman Lowman stated she has no issue with Roger Heavner personally, she voiced concerns about the process, stating that it lacks transparency.

**Vote:** The vote was unanimous.

**INTERIM MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Weichel presented the following announcements:

Old Colony Players Presents: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, October 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31 & November 1 & 2, 2024, 7:30 p.m. at the Fred B. Cranford Amphitheatre. Visit [www.oldcolonyplayers.com](http://www.oldcolonyplayers.com) for ticket information.

Bluegrass at the Rock: The Goodwin Brothers, October 10, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.bluegrassattherock.com](http://www.bluegrassattherock.com) for ticket information.

Great Trails State Day 2,000 Mile Challenge, Valdese Lakeside Park, October 19, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Participants will hike, bike, and paddle to try to reach 2,000 miles to celebrate Great Trails State Day.

Public Safety Buildings Workshop, October 24, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

Next Agenda Review Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

Treats in the Streets, Thursday, October 31, 2024, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Bluegrass at the Rock: Authentic Unlimited, November 2, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.bluegrassattherock.com](http://www.bluegrassattherock.com) for ticket information.

Next Regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Valdese Town Hall

Mr. Weichel announced that Planning Director Larry Johnson has formally submitted his resignation from his employment from the Town of Valdese, effective November 8, 2024. Mr. Weichel shared that Mr. Johnson has spent 45 years with the Town and wishes him well with the next chapter in his life.

Mr. Weichel provided the Council and citizens with an overview of the reasons behind the Town's decision to issue a water boil notice following Hurricane Helena.



Raw Water Intake

Four pumps:  
3 @ 4160 volts  
1 @ 480 volts



Pumps 1, 2, & 3



Motor Control Cabinet

4160 volts  
One each for pumps 1, 2, & 3



Motor Control Cabinet  
internal parts that  
were underwater



Motor Control Cabinet  
for Pump #4 @ 480 volt

Older unit was able to activate  
to help us limp the water plant along.

In the meantime, parts were taken off  
one of the 4160 volt units at the  
Finish Water Pump Station  
to reenergise one of the  
4160 volt units at the  
Raw Water Pump Station

Eaton (manufacturer of the MCC's)  
has been on site for testing and inspection.  
They have ordered the parts needed to get  
our main pumps back to operating.



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilwoman Lowman expressed her gratitude to the Police, Fire, and Public Works departments for their continued efforts in response to the storm. She also extended thanks to Community Affairs, Heather Ward, and Josh Lail for their leadership in organizing the collection of supplies.

Councilman Ogle added his appreciation for Bo Weichel, who dedicated numerous hours supervising operations to ensure everything was running smoothly. He also thanked River of Life and First Baptist Church for their support. Councilman Ogle proposed honoring these individuals with a future luncheon and Councilman Harvey suggested that the Merchants Advisory Committee could offer ideas on how to make the event special.

Councilwoman Ward encouraged everyone to help those in need and emphasized the importance of equipping the Police and Water Departments with generators, citing this as a key factor in her future decision-making.

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Councilman Harvey asked the newest Council member, Roger Heavner, to stand and acknowledged the Town's largest water customer, noting that they plan to purchase approximately \$1 million worth of water this year.

Mayor Watts thanked Councilwomen Ward and Lowman for their service and expressed appreciation to the Water and Wastewater employees for their diligent work in restoring the Town's water supply. He also extended thanks to the Public Works, Fire, and Police departments, as well as Community Affairs, citizens, churches, and Bo Weichel for their efforts during the storm recovery.

Mayor Watts called for a motion to recess into Closed Session for:

- **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.
- **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 7:58 p.m., Councilman Harvey made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:29 p.m., Councilman Harvey made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Ogle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Lowman. The vote was unanimous.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor

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