



# TOWN OF VALDEESE

NORTH CAROLINA'S FRIENDLY TOWN



MAYOR CHARLES WATTS

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July 1, 2024

Dear Valdeese Citizens,

The first half of 2024 has brought many successes to Valdeese and I am excited to share the good news with you. As your mayor, I would like to thank our citizens, employees, volunteers, and council members for their efforts and dedication on the following:

- Over \$1.8 million of grants and generous donations from the Valdeese community enabled the major renovation of the historic Old Rock School. Project completion is planned for early August with a re-dedication celebration scheduled for October 5th, 2024.
- Efforts by town employees and elected officials have led to a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which began on July 1, 2024.
- Land has been purchased adjacent to Town Hall along Massel Avenue for the future development of the public safety building.
- Town Council has entertained offers to purchase numerous town-owned parcels of vacant land which has returned these properties to the tax roll.

The property tax rate has been a concern for our community and I am happy to report the approved Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget will provide the following:

- A 20% drop in our Valdeese Property taxes.
- No reduction in essential services.
- Support our employees with a 5% Cost of Living Adjustment and \$30,000 for staff training

The underlying good news is that the Town's reserves fund balance remains over \$6,000,000, for future investment in our town and unanticipated needs.

As we continue into the second half of 2024, we hope to have further information on these items at year-end.

- The recruitment of a new Town Manager is in the final stages.
- Two architectural and engineering firms, under the direction of the staff and with advisory assistance from citizen committees, are working hard to present the Town Council with solutions to two long-term needs: essential facilities for our public safety departments and a permanent pool cover to make our aquatics facility available "year-round".

We appreciate input from our citizens, business owners, visitors, friends, and neighbors. As your mayor, I am proud to serve you and if there is any way I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to help.

Sincerely,

*Charles Watts*

Mayor Charles Watts

