

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of February 20, 2025
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Benson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Peterson, Mulvihill, Young, Jones, Page (Zoom)

ABSENT: Councilmember Nielsen (excused)

Councilmember Peterson **moved** to excuse Councilmember Nielsen from tonight's meeting; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

Staff present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Development/CD Director; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Jake Kapsandy, IT Tech II; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, City Attorney; Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

READING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Mayor Benson announced that we would be adding an executive session to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 20 minutes with no action to follow.

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to approve the amended Agenda; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation – Black Diamond Community Center – Cheryl Hanson

Black Diamond Community Center Director Cheryl Hanson spoke to Council about the citizens they serve and discussed their food pantry. She shared the changes happening at the Maple Valley food bank and how they will no longer be serving Black Diamond residents. She discussed the steps they are taking to make sure our residents are able to receive the types of food that was provided by the Maple Valley Food Bank to Black

Diamond clients. She thanked the Black Diamond City Council for their support of the Community Center.

- 1) **AB25-024** - Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Heather Asante to Position #7 of the Planning Commission

Mayor Benson reported on this item.

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Heather Asante to Position No. 7 of the Planning Commission; said term to expire on December 31, 2025; **second** Councilmember Dedy. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Mulvihill shared that a printed copy of her committee report was distributed to the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Kiblinger updated the City Council on the City Administrator Meet and Greet and interview process.

Fire – Chief Judkins reminded everyone that there is always a burn ban in the city limits, and noted debris can be sent to the transfer station.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda; **second** Councilmember Jones. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 2) **Claim Checks** – February 20, 2025, Check No. 55654 through Check No. 55725 (voids 55536, 53908, 55653) and EFTs in the amount of \$748,126.23
- 3) **Payroll** – January 2025, Check No. 20485 through Check No. 20492 and ACHs in the amount of \$608,854.29
- 4) **Minutes** – Council Meeting of February 6, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 5) **AB25-025** – Public Hearing Regarding the Renewal Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems for an Additional Six Months

City Attorney Linehan spoke on this topic.

Mayor Benson opened the public hearing at 7:30p.m.

Bonnie Helms, spoke to Council and urged that the moratorium must be extended. She shared researching and investigating for the past year and stated the battery chemistry is not being divulged by the developers and she noted that there's all kinds of things that are going to be deposited into our environment. She also mentioned that she was unclear as to why Black Diamond would need this much energy for such a small town.

Craig McGiver, on behalf of Defending Cumberland and Enumclaw Community Association shared his background of being a lead mechanic who deals with high voltage battery electric storage systems daily as well as his personal experience with his 2000 Insight hybrid vehicle. He reiterated a few things by the previous speaker and how they are fuel and continue to create their own oxygen after they have been deprived, and they will keep burning rapidly once it gets to a state of thermal runaway and starts to vent gases and can't be put out.

Mayor Benson closed the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6) AB25-026 – Fire Services RFP – for discussion only

Councilmember Page shared a couple of areas that need cleaned up. She noted that in the beginning paragraph it should read Mountain View Fire & Rescue and on the last page Mayor Benson's name was spelled incorrectly.

NEW BUSINESS:

7) AB25-027 – Ordinance Amending Section 2.06.010 of the Municipal Code Pertaining to City Office Hours

City Clerk/ HR Manager Martinez reported to Council on the item.

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adopt Ordinance No. 25-1221, amending Section 2.06.010 of the Black Diamond Municipal Code pertaining to City Office hours; providing for severability; establishing an effective date; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson – no report

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Page – no report

Councilmember Deady shared attending the Meet and Greet and the interviews for the City Administrator. She attended the business meeting at the Eagles regarding parking and it was agreed to only shut down parking when they have large events and leave the parking lot open during the day for residents and customers coming to our town.

Councilmember Peterson shared that she participated in the interviews for the City Administrator. She was glad to be selected for the process and is looking forward to the next steps.

Councilmember Mulvihill reported attending this Community Meet and Greet and enjoyed hearing each one of them speak about their ideas and their backgrounds. She also attended her Youth Empowerment Committee.

Councilmember Young will be looking into information on BESS and shared his thoughts about needing a rise in energy with the added population and the new building codes requiring heat pumps, but he stated that we cannot afford to approve any energy developments without real commitments to public safety and community benefits.

Councilmember Jones shared the needs list for the pantry at the Black Diamond Community Center. He spoke regarding the Police Department looking for volunteers for the Marine Patrols on Lake Sawyer. He also discussed receiving a letter from Covington Water District saying that they have added taxes to customers' bills that have been put on by other cities. He noted that the citizens in Black Diamond do receive a benefit as part of the tax collected.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:05 p.m. Mayor Benson announced that the City Council would be going into an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation. The executive session was expected to last 20 minutes with no action to follow. Councilmembers left the room to assemble in the patrol room. The executive session started at 8:07 p.m.

The executive session ended at 8:27 p.m. and Councilmembers entered back into the Chambers. Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order at 8:28 p.m.

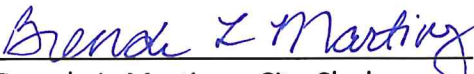
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Peterson. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk