

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of March 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, Nielsen (Zoom), Mulvihill, Young, Jones, Page

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Development Director; Public Works Director, Scott Hanis; Ryan Sweet, Public Works Program Manager; Tawnya Parks, Court Administrator; Rob Reed, IS Manager; Jake Kapsandy, IT Tech II; David Linehan, City Attorney; Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk (Zoom).

READING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember Page **moved** to approve the Agenda; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cathie McKinney, Enumclaw spoke to the council.
Dan DalSanto, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Suzi DalSanto, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Maria Ballenhorst, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Amanda Smurdon, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Yvonne Cruz, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Ash Little, Black Diamond spoke to the council.
Rick Stocks, Black Diamond spoke to the council.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) Enumclaw Youth Empowered and EMAC Reports

Councilmember Mulvihill spoke on this matter.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire - Chief Jenkins reported they are in the middle of a complete network upgrade and spoke about the annexation with the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority and stated that the EMS Levy for King County will be on the ballot this November. She also responded to the comments regarding volunteer fire fighters and noted that there has been a decline in available volunteers due to the pandemic.

Police – 2024 Year End Report

Commander Martinez briefed the council on the report and stated that addressing the concerns of our citizens is something we put at the forefront. Fire Chief Jenkins honored officer Emilee Greve with a presentation in honor of life saving CPR and Narcan in February 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda; **second** Councilmember Peterson. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 2) **Claim Checks** – March 20, 2025, Check No. 55777 through Check No. 55842 and EFTs in the amount of \$498,134.96.
- 3) **Payroll** – February 2025, Check No. 20493 through Check No. 20500 and ACHs in the amount of \$615,863.16
- 4) **Minutes** – Council Meeting of March 6, 2025.
- 5) **AB25-032** – Resolution Authorizing Amendment #2 to Municipal Court Judicial Services Agreement.
- 6) **AB25-033** – Resolution Authorizing Amendment #2 to Professional Services Agreement with Gunderson Law Group, PLLC for Prosecution Services.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Benson opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

- 7) **AB25-034** – Six Month Moratorium on the Acceptance, Processing, and/or approval of applications for business licenses, building and land development permits, and related land use decisions for any and all cannabis processing, cannabis production, cannabis research, and cannabis retail businesses with the City of Black Diamond.

Attorney Linehan spoke on this and stated the purpose of the hearing tonight is to receive additional public input and hear public comments regarding the moratorium.

Carrie Staloch, Black Diamond, expressed her concerns about having Cannabis retailers in our city and stated that the data shows negative effects for the community.

Madelyn Neil, Black Diamond, spoke about her addiction to cannabis and easy it is for kids to obtain and then it becomes a network of different drug use.

LouAnn Sawyer, Black Diamond, stated her concerns with having it closer to us will lead to greater youth access and cause a cascading effect that she doesn't want here in our community.

Nanette Stocks, Black Diamond, shared her thoughts about the protentional cost to our cities and stated that cannabis shops can attract crime, and she wants to keep Black Diamond safe by prioritizing businesses and infrastructure.

Marin Sadler, Black Diamond, spoke to the aesthetic concern that she learned of from the last hearing about the requirement of cannabis buildings having bars on the windows and doors and that is not what she would want next door to her business.

Rick Stocks, Black Diamond, stated that we don't need outsiders coming to our city to get their drugs and there is no community benefit and asked the council to repeal it and save our community.

Tammy Barner, Black Diamond, gave an update on the signatures against the cannabis retailers and mentioned her concerns about public safety, property values, social impacts and the high costs in response to criminal activity.

Jim Baker, Black Diamond, spoke in favor of a permanent ban of cannabis in Black Diamond and noted data that shows its harmful for youth and young adults and also commented on the increase in crime and car accidents when cannabis is involved.

Tatum Howard, Enumclaw School District Prevention Intervention Professional, shared that the kids come to her and tell her how easy it is to get drugs and feels like we are making it harder for the students, parents, police officers and community members in general if we bring cannabis into the community.

Ash Little, Black Diamond, encouraged the council to look a little bit deeper into the statistics and stated that there are probably just as many people that support it and understand the benefits.

Lisa Lyver, Black Diamond, stated that it's important to look at the demographics of our area and what the voice of the people is.

Tabatha Baker, Black Diamond, stated that we want a safe place to live and bringing cannabis into our community would make it less safe.

Mayor Benson closed the public hearing at 8:36 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire Services – discussion only

The council members and the mayor briefly discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

8) AB25-035 - Resolution Authorizing Contract with Inline Security Fence.

Public Works Program Manager Sweets reported on this item.

Councilmember Page **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 25-1670 authorizing the mayor to execute a contract for the Public Works Fencing Project to Inline Security Fence in the amount of \$34,652.80; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson reported that she attended the chamber luncheon and the Flood Control District Advisory Board.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Nielsen reported that she would like to work with fellow council members and committee members to get a more comprehensive update on both of the Oak Pointe projects and would also like to work with the directors of the city on the next steps for the fire topic and lastly, she spoke of the impact that all the projects may have on tax increases.

Councilmember Peterson stated that she attended the Finance Committee and found it helpful.

Councilmember Mulvihill says she forgot about the community development meeting last month, but she has been tracking two bills in the senate right now and both of them allow cities such as ours to add a small percentage of sales tax for public safety and she feels these could be beneficial to our state.

Councilmember Young noted that he spoke with our director of Public Works regarding all of the projects underway in Black Diamond and stated that their approach reflects forward thinking leadership. He also spoke with Judge Swain and her staff to gain a deeper understanding of how municipal courts operate and said that their commitment to fairness, accountability, and rehabilitation to help people get back on track stood out. He also met with Chief Kiblinger to discuss public safety and the department's vision for the future, and she shared that she has a positive and confident outlook on the future of the city. He thanked them for sharing their insights and for the work they do every day.

Councilmember Jones requested a future report from either public works and/or the police department regarding traffic and calming programs that the city might offer for solutions, rather than speed bumps, which can slow ambulances and fire services down when minutes are critical. He spoke about cannabis safety and how we need to tie in with law enforcement.

Councilmember Page thanked all of her colleagues who invested their time at the retreat. She also thanked the people that spoke on public comments and responded to comments about the cannabis, fire station and public safety and noted that Roberts Drive will be closed starting Monday, March 24th for approximately 4 weeks to finish the roundabout.

Councilmember Deady reported that she went to the Maple Valley Community Center and one of the big things they talked about was getting to know your neighbors and community outreach, especially aging people that may be isolated and need help and those with young children or disabled. She spoke on the speed bumps and plans to discuss options in the public safety meeting, as well as how to resolve the fire station issue and thanked the citizens for coming to speak on the cannabis moratorium and then discussed the Park Levy that will be on the ballot in August of this year and there was a discussion amongst councilmembers.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kristin Bryant, Bellevue spoke to the council.
Madeline Neil spoke to the council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

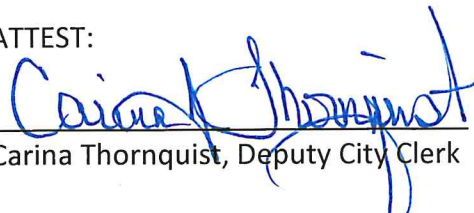
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The meeting ended at 09:22 p.m.



Carol Benson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk