



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
May 8, 2025, Regular Work Session
Council Chambers, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, WA 98010

THIS IS OFFERED AS A HYBRID MEETING AND MAY BE ATTENDED IN PERSON AT THE ABOVE NOTED ADDRESS OR BY JOINING VIRTUAL/TELEPHONICALLY. CALL IN AND JOINING INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

Zoom link to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4454477047?pwd=eGxRY3ZEeU14SVM2cGRBcUxCSjdmZz09>

(Note: You do not need a web cam to join the meeting, but you will need audio to hear the proceedings.)

Meeting ID: 445 447 7047

Password: Council

Telephone dial in options:

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

Meeting ID: 445 447 7047

Password: 426953 (phone in only)

6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

1) Joint Work Session with Mountain View Fire & Rescue Commissioners

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) How a Levy and Annexation Work – CSD Law
- c) Mountain View Fire & Rescue Brief on Contracts/History (for benefit of newest Councilmembers)
- d) Questions and Conversation
- e) Next Steps
- f) Timeline
- g) Closing Comments

2) Items Councilmembers requested to be addressed

Councilmember Peterson -

- I have heard from the fire district that all of the money we currently collect on behalf of the fire district (1.5 million) will be returned to the city for use.
- I have heard from the city that this will take several years and that there will be a transition period.

- I don't have any concerns about working with Mt. View in the long term. I agree that they have been a good partner.
- However, the remaining issue for me is to understand how much revenue the city will have to work with if we go through annexation and if there is enough revenue to keep the City solvent.

Councilmember Nielsen -

- My larger concern is that I am not sure the “City” has clarity on what actual viable fire options are available and clearly understands what all of the steps in this process are or should be.
- I recall a discussion by the Finance Director about self funding fire services and the financial implications of that seemed to be completely out of reach for us.

Councilmember Young -

- Overview of the current ILA with Mountain View Fire and the timeline/implications of its termination in 2028
- Evaluation of future service options (annexation, city-run fire department, etc.), with financial and operational comparisons
- Communication strategy for public engagement, given the scale of potential changes and tax sensitivity in the community

Questions I’d like clarified:

- Can we walk through how FCS Group arrived at the ~\$6.9M annual operating cost for a standalone fire department, and what assumptions were used?
- Has Mountain View reviewed or responded to the FCS projections? If so, do they agree with the operational and budget assumptions?
- How do our current ILA costs compare to those of similar-sized cities or districts receiving comparable services?
- What are Mountain View Fire’s long-term goals in relation to Black Diamond—do they view annexation as preferred or are they open to other solutions?
- If annexation or a new model doesn’t move forward in time, what’s the contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted services?

Councilmember Jones -

- I'd like to see the timeline again.
- Perhaps different "swim lanes" to show the key decision points and what it does for the path
- Have we ever heard MVFR do an analysis of what the fiscal impact is to voters/property owners if an annexation occurred of BD and the service was what MVFR is asking for (3 person stations) and would the new one have staff? I think that's a critical consideration because if there are more people in MVFR district than inside BD, and they are to see an increase in fees, then what chance does annex have?

ADJOURNMENT