

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of April 17, 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 Peterson, Nielsen, Mulvihill, Young, Jones, Page (Zoom)

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to excuse Councilmember Deady from this meeting; **second** Councilmember Jones. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

ABSENT: Councilmember Deady (excused)

Staff present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Development/Community Development Director; Xavier Mason, Finance Director; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Rob Reed, IS Manager; David Linehan, City Attorney; Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

READING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue spoke to Council.

Casey Sadler, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Leah Grant, representing the Lake Sawyer Park Foundation, spoke to Council.

Andre Koch, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation – Daughters of the American Revolution

Marge Ramsdell presented Donna Gauthier with DAR Women in American History Award and medal.

Presentation - Oakpointe

Brian Ross, Oakpointe shared a PowerPoint presentation updating the City Council on their projects in Black Diamond. Mr. Ross introduced Brad Goldberg, Executive Vice President of Visconsi Companies who shared with the Council the retail that is coming to the development along with what is being proposed. Mr. Ross spoke about the recreational component of the projects and the development agreement. He shared the background of the fee in lieu and its limitations. He emphasized the City's need for flexibility in building more than just fields, including restroom facilities and infrastructure improvements. He sought feedback from the Council on the proposed fee in lieu and touched on the City's need for more staff and the potential revenue loss due to delays in development.

There was Council consensus to hold an executive session at the end of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) Enumclaw Youth Empowered

Councilmember Mulvihill noted the information is in the packet.

Mayor Benson announced a five-minute recess at 8:38 p.m. At 8:43 p.m. Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Finance – Finance Director Mason shared with Council a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the documents and conversations over the past few years. The purpose was to provide a comprehensive view of the city's financial situation and potential options for fire services. He reviewed important terms like levy lid lift, annexation, and mill rate and touched on the city's property tax revenues and how they are projected to change over time. He presented four scenarios and shared the administration's recommendation of securing a 2.5 million levy lid lift to aid in eliminating the public safety structural deficit while potentially increasing public safety staffing.

Finance Director Mason and Councilmembers engaged in discussion where some expressed concerns about the projections and requested a more detailed breakdown of the budget with and without public safety expenses. There were also questions about how annexation would affect property tax revenues. In closing the Council requested a work session to further discuss the complex information presented.

Fire – Chief Judkins reminded everyone that there is an upcoming meeting on May 8th with the Council and Fire Commissioners and thanked the Police Department for their help on the call at Black Diamond Lake where there was a drowning. She shared being very comfortable giving any budget information out and noted that people can come to the Commissioner meetings that are on the 4th Tuesday of every month and the information is on their website. She touched on the timeline for the RFP and how she explained to the Fire Chiefs at a meeting why the district was not responding to the RFP.

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** – April 17, 2025, Check No. 55895 through Check No. 55939 and EFT's in the amount of \$585,602.61
- 3) **Payroll** – March 2025, Check No. 20501 through Check No. 20508 and ACHs in the amount of \$601,521.98
- 4) **Minutes** – Special Council Meeting (Retreat) of March 8, 2025, Council Meeting of April 3, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson reported attending the SCATBd meeting and shared what was discussed. She also attended the strong Mayor's meeting and the Chamber luncheon.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Mulvihill, no report.

Councilmember Young reported that he had the opportunity to meet with two departments, MDRT and Finance, to better understand the work being done behind the scenes to support Black Diamond's growth and stability. He shared what he learned and wanted to recognize Mr. Williamson who wears many hats which reflects a level of dedication that deserves real appreciation. He shared there was one consistent theme across both visits, and it was the professionalism, heart, and the resilience of our staff.

Councilmember Jones mentioned that sometime in May 2,000 trout will be dropped in Lake Sawyer. He reminded everyone that the fishing derby in Maple Valley is happening the last weekend in April. Lastly, he encouraged the public to get involved as there are six seats up for election, which includes the Mayors position. He touched on volunteers needed for marine patrol and Lake Sawyer Community Club is looking for volunteers to help with setting up the firework barges. He shared that the City of Maple Valley is holding a volunteer expo and free pizza will be served.

Councilmember Page reminded everyone that the Friends of the Black Diamond Library will be holding their annual plant sale. She attended the Planning Commission hearing and

encouraged her colleagues to listen to the audio and to get a copy of the draft plan to start reviewing. Lastly, she touched on being dismissed by the Mayor it was not okay.

Councilmember Nielsen thanked the fire department and staff regarding the tragedy that happened today on Black Diamond Lake. She thanked the members of the community who come out, send emails and take the time to share their opinions. She also encouraged people to get involved.

Councilmember Peterson asked about the runoff situation that was brought up earlier during public comments by Ms. Bryant. Mr. Williamson responded to this and noted staff will look into it and report back.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Linehan noted that the executive session tonight may be much shorter than anticipated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Johna Thomson, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Andre Koch, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Cathy McKinney, Unincorporated King County spoke to Council.

Andy Williamson, staff spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:25 p.m. Mayor Benson announced that 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 15 minutes with possible action to follow. Councilmembers exited to the patrol room and the executive session started at 10:28 p.m.

Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order at 10:43 p.m.

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to have the Mayor direct the Planning Commission to have the Comprehensive Plan back to them by May 6th; **second** Councilmember Jones. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

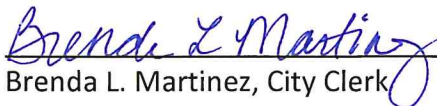
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Jones. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 10:44 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk