

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of May 15, 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, Young, Jones, Page

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Mulvihill (excused)

Staff present: Kevin O'Neill, City Administrator; Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Development/Community Development Director; Xavier Mason, Finance Director; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Rob Reed, IS Manager; David Linehan, City Attorney; Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

READING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sherrie Evans, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Elaine Parks of DAR presented Chief Kiblinger with a Women in History Achievement Award.

Tim O'Brian, spoke to Council.

Nanette Stocks, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Peterson reported on the Parks Committee that it is in the beginning stages, she explained the purpose of the committee and its composition, and the direction they would like to go

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- 1) **Finance** – Finance Director Mason presented to Council the 4th Quarter Finance Report for 2024.

Community Development -Director Williamson shared that the tree preservation code is being revised by the Planning/Community Services Committee and will be coming forward to Council soon.

Fire – Chief Judkins talked about the fire that happened in Ten Trails today caused by a charging car battery. She also shared that her report was sent out electronically today to everyone.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Neilsen asked that item #5 on the agenda regarding Public Records Act Policy and Rules be removed from the consent agenda and added to new business.

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

- 2) **Claim Checks** – May 15, 2025, Check No. 55993 through Check No. 56058 (void 56012-56015) and EFTs in the amount of \$1,300,891.08
- 3) **Payroll** – April 2025, Check No. 20509 through Check No. 20516 in the amount of \$607,995.66
- 4) **Minutes** – Special Meeting of May 1, 2025, and Council Meeting of May 1, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 6) **AB25-042** – Public Hearing Regarding 2025 Updated Water System Plan

Public Works Director Hanis reported on this item.

Mayor Benson opened the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue talked about the history of the water system plan and the need for it to be updated. She noted that the city approved more money for the consultant but continued to get extensions. She asked the Council to consider conducting a follow-up on how much the water system plan costed overall, from the original estimate, the continued changes, and does it match the city's zoning map. She stated that the comprehensive plan, the land use plan and the water system plan should really be in sync as this is an opportunity to learn.

Mayor Benson closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire Services – discussion only

Councilmember Neilsen asked if there is any possibility of getting an early estimate from Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority.

Councilmember Jones made a motion and then withdrew it.

Councilmembers had an extensive discussion regarding the timeline and what information they need from FCS to move forward with a decision. There was consensus for the Council to send Director Mason questions and expectations for the presentation by next week and that July 10th is the date for a decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

5) AB25-041 – Resolution Adopting Revised Public Records Act Rules

City Clerk/HR Manager Martinez reported on this item.

Councilmember Young **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 25.1675, relating to compliance with the Public Act, specifically, adopting updated Public Records Act Rules and Fees; **second** Councilmember Jones **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson reported attending all the DARE graduations, and meeting with the Flood Control District.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Jones congratulated Chief Kiblinger on her recognition she received earlier in the meeting and thanked her for her service and thanked Chief Judkins for her story on lithium-ion toy batteries. He mentioned the city owning the In-City Forest which is 50 acres, and this is preserving land for many generations into the future. He discussed the comments from the earlier speaker on the Hyde Mine and noted that comments need to be sent to King County through the month of May. Lastly, he talked about Lake Sawyer Community Club is looking for volunteers for the 4th of July event.

Councilmember Page shared that she has been either attending or listening to the Planning Commission meetings and she appreciates the comments and thoughtfulness of the three new members. She stressed that it's a good time to get copies of it to start working through it. She thanked the community and mentioned that the Friends of the Black Diamond Library held their plant sale, raising over \$1,200. She shared what programs benefit from this money. She thanked our agencies for doing a Water Safety Day and thanked the fire commissioners for attending the work session. She also shared that the Black Diamond Labor Days button contest is wide open until May 23rd. She noted that

there are two proclamations to be made, one for Pride Day and Flag Raising and the other for Juneteenth.

Councilmember Deady attended the DARE graduations and congratulated Officer Hershaw for the first-year teaching in most of the elementary schools in the Enumclaw School District. She congratulated Chief Kiblinger on her award and noted the CERT program graduation tonight. She encouraged others to enroll to find out what fire and officers do.

Councilmember Nielsen thanked her fellow Councilmembers for a meaningful fire discussion tonight and feels we are getting closer to a decision. She thanked Chief Kiblinger on her accomplishment, and shared that she is looking forward to attending the Tri-City meeting on Monday and is excited to work with our new City Administrator.

Councilmember Peterson noted being sad that Nate is not running again. She spoke to the comments made about the comp plan regarding growth projections and explained that the contracts existed before the goals were set by King County. She noted having a different perspective of growth due to her day job as a water district manager.

Councilmember Young thanked Councilmember Peterson and agreed with her report on development. He thanked the Commissioners for attending the March 8th work session. He joined volunteers last Saturday at the annual cemetery cleanup and thanked everyone that participated. He welcomed the new city administrator and looks forward to working with him and thanked all residents who stepped forward to file their candidacy as councilmembers and mayor. Lastly, he addressed the financial report that was presented tonight.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brock Deady, Black Diamond spoke to Council.
Kristen Bryant, Bellevue spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:57 p.m. Mayor Benson announced that the 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 10 minutes with possible action to follow. Council excused the Chamber to go to the patrol room and the session started at 8:58 p.m.

At 9:28 p.m. a ten-minute extension to the executive session was announced.

At 9:38 p.m. another ten-minute extension to the executive session was announced.

Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order at 9:48 p.m.

Council Action: Councilmember Peterson **moved** to take the Comp Pan back from the Planning Commission due to the fact that we would like to get it finished and are up against a time constraint; **second** Councilmember Young.

Councilmember Jones shared that they are grateful that these diligent commissioners have been answering questions and spending a lot of time reviewing things, however we are up against a deadline.

Vote: Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

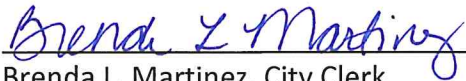
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Young **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk