

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Work Session of August 14, 2025
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Benson called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Nielsen, Peterson, Mulvihill, Jones,

Councilmember Deady **moved** to excuse Councilmembers Young and Page from the meeting; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0).

ABSENT: Councilmembers Young and Page(excused)

Staff present: Kevin O'Neill, City Administrator; Jake Kapsandy, IT Tech II; Rob Reed, IS Manager; Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Dev/CD Director; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager

WORK SESSION:

1) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Discussion

Mayor Benson welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Councilmember Peterson who led the conversation.

Councilmember Peterson thanked everyone for being here. She explained why she cares about this issue and noted being a water district administrator and shared what the focus of this discussion is. She prepared for the Council a PowerPoint presentation that touched on: BESS in Black Diamond – Three Questions, is it safe, do we need it, how does Black Diamond benefit?

The following are the highlights/topics shared:

- BESS in Black Diamond – Is it Safe?
 - What is the REAL story...
 - Why Older Systems are More Vulnerable
 - Key Safety Improvements in modern BESS
- BESS in Black Diamond – Do we need it?
 - Why do we need it?

- Grid Reliability and Resilience
- Maximize Renewable Energy
- Energy Cost Savings
- Climate and Sustainability Goals
- Smart Urban Planning
- Access to funding and Incentives
- Big Picture...Summary showing why Washington needs BESS
- How does Black Diamond Benefit?
 - Property tax revenue
 - Sales tax revenue
 - Grid stability and reliability
 - Environmental benefits
 - Community resilience
 - No ownership costs or liability
- Wrap up

During the presentation there was discussion between Councilors and Councilmember Peterson.

Attorney Linehan discussed the upcoming expiration of the moratorium on September 6. He noted that the Council could extend it for another six months, allowing time to invite additional stakeholders to speak and for staff to further review the issue. He offered to prepare an extension for consideration at the September 4 meeting. There was consensus to bring back the extension at that meeting, along with a proposed work plan to assist the Council in making a decision on the matter.

Kristine Rompa from PSE spoke and noted that a lot of good points were brought up tonight. She stated that there are some questions that she can't answer and those are around the contract and what the city gets out of having this type of facility in the area. She talked about the goal of PSE is to try and match what the State of Washington is requiring for all utilities in the state, and that is to provide clean energy by 2030. She shared information regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Fire Chief Judkins commented that she is here to convey our need to have the public safe and our firefighters safe. She spoke to Council about the unknown hazards to firefighters and gave an example. She also touched on the draw on resources during an event.

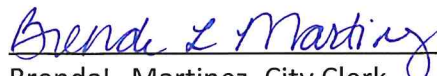
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Dedy **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0). The meeting ended at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:



 Carol Benson, Mayor



 BrendaL. Martinez, City Clerk