

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Special Meeting of October 9, 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 special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nielsen, Peterson, Mulvihill, Jones, and Kumar

ABSENT: Councilmember Deady and Young (excused)

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

Staff present: Kevin O'Neill, City Administrator; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Andy Williamson, Economic Dev Director & Interim Community Dev Director; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; Kevin Esping, Facilities Coordinator; Jake Kapsandy, Comm & Info Sys/Admin Sup Tech II; Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk.

WORK SESSION:

Mayor Benson welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of what this meeting is about. In addition, she encouraged the community to be involved. Mayor Benson reported that there was a signup sheet for those who like to speak. She would read off the names in order. Those people who came up to speak on the following items and had concerns were:

- Tricia Hudson from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Has issues with the wakeboard boats.
 - Worried about house values.
- Rich Mermelsteim from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - He has lived on the lake since 1988.
 - Huge concern with outside people using the lake.
 - There's not enough regular or trailer parking.
- Nanette Stocks from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Suggested that marine patrol time to be done differently.

- Rick Stocks from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:

- They live on the boat launch road; a lot of cars & trucks/trailers.
 - Need to help police with funding.
 - Educating the public on how to use the lake.
 - Close boat ramp if it's full.
- Jacqueline Banks (Stocks) from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - The goals would be to have more safety and education of the lake.
 - Add a swim buoy.
 - Have better and bigger signage.
 - When the parking lot is full, close the lake.
 - Make it easier for homeowners to fix their docks and maintain their properties.
 - Marine Patrol to do more stop and chats and stop people who are following boats who are towing people.
 - New sport on lake is E-foil; working on best practices and have spoken to Chief Kiblinger and Kevin about. She would like to see open during non-speeding hours.
 - John Adler from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Shared personal experience of being struck by a watercraft when he was younger.
 - Leih Grant from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Concerned about closing the boat launch.
 - She's against closing down public streets.
 - Speeds of E-foils and sailboats.
 - Griffan Cayce from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Focus on safety.
 - Shared personal story of cousin's accident with watercraft.
 - Sensitive to people following too close.
 - Proposed having a sticker for lake residents so they can have ingress and egress privileges.
 - Charge fines.
 - Put up lobster lines.
 - Jason McClurg from Black Diamond, spoke to Councilmembers regarding:
 - Grew up on the lake since 1959; moved then came back.
 - Dangerous at the point.
 - Road to the boat ramp is bad.
 - Concern about the salmon; no water in Covington Creek.
 - Outside residents during speeding hours.
 - Provide more tickets or provide boating safety classes.

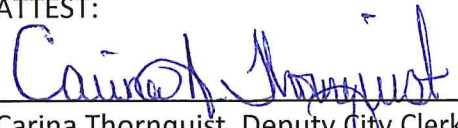
In closing, Mayor Benson thanked everyone for coming and providing valuable comments which they will use in their Work Session being held early next year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Mulvihill **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Jones. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0). The meeting ended at 6:48 p.m.



Carol Benson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk