



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
October 7, 2025, 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL**

Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Present:** Commissioner Kelley Sauskojus  
Commissioner Jeff Todd  
Commissioner Pam McCain joined meeting at 6:05 pm  
Commissioner Tommy Paramo  
Commissioner Heather Asante
- Excused:** Commissioner Grifan Cayce  
Chair/Commissioner Carol Morgan
- Staff:** Interim Community Development Director, Andrew Williamson  
Senior Planner, Jill Kuzaro  
Public Works Director, Scott Hanis  
Deputy City Clerk, Carina Thornquist  
IT Staff, Jake Kapsandy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 1) Regular Planning Commission Meeting of September 9, 2025.

There were no changes to the September 9, 2025 minutes and they were approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PUBLIC HEARING** –

- 2) Proposed Prohibition on the Siting and Operation of Cannabis-Related Businesses

Interim Chair Sauskojus turned the meeting over to Director Interim Director Williamson who gave some background on bringing Cannabis related businesses to Black Diamond. Chair Sauskojus asked the Commissioners if they had any questions for Mr. Williamson. Extensive back and forth discussion took place between the Commissioners and Interim Community Development Director Williamson.

Interim Chair Sauskojus reviewed the rules and process of the Public Hearing. She then opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m. and turned it over to Interim Director Williamson who stated that she would read off the names for those who put their name on the sign in sheet.

Olivia Sawyer from Black Diamond spoke to the Commissioners. Ms. Sawyer spoke against having cannabis shops in the city and shared her views of public safety, aesthetics of the city, and doesn't want the temptations for her or her friends.

Tabitha Baker from Black Diamond spoke to the Commissioners. Ms. Baker spoke to the importance of staying involved in their community. She stated that she wants businesses to come but not those of cannabis. She knows a city manager in a city within close proximity and he shared all of the negative items that come along with it.

Jim Baker from Black Diamond spoke to the Commissioners. Mr. Baker shared his thoughts on the effects that cannabis shops will actually cost us money. He's highly concerned with the illegal activity that surrounds it. It has a detrimental effect on everybody and is not good for the community.

Interim Chair Sauskojus asked if the Commissioners had any additional questions after hearing the public comments. Extensive back and forth conversations took place.

Ms. Sauskojus asked repeatedly if there were any others who wanted to speak during the Public Hearing and hearing none, she closed the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m. She then asked Director Williamson what is needed from the Planning Commission. Director Williamson reported that he would like for this Commission to move this to City Council, or if they felt they needed more time to do research, then they should wait.

Commissioner Todd made a **Motion** to move the Cannabis related businesses to the City Council. Seconded by Commissioner Paramas . **Vote, Passed 5 – 0.**

**STUDY/WORK SESSION** - None  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** -

### 3) Utility Undergrounding Requirements in the Gateway Corridor Packet

Mr. Williamson gave a brief background on this topic and Public Works Director Scott Hanis is available for questions from the Planning Commissioners. Back and forth discussion took place between Planning Commissioners, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Hanis.

Commissioner Asante made a **Motion** to move the Gateway Corridor to the City Council. Seconded by Commissioner McCain. **Vote, Passed 5 – 0.**

**NEW BUSINESS - None**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT -**

Interim Director Williamson reported on the following topics:

- The November meeting falls on November 11<sup>th</sup> which is Veteran's Day. He recommended to change the date of the meeting to the following week on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Asante made a **Motion** to change the meeting date to November 18<sup>th</sup>, **Seconded** by Commissioner Paramo. **Vote. Passed** 5-0.


- Mr. Williamson will be bringing a work plan to the November meeting to go over.
- Three Planning Commissioners terms will be expiring at the end of the year and the Mayor has asked them to stay on.
- The city has hired a Building Official who has already started. The city has also hired a Building Inspector and a new Assistant Planner/Permit Tech who will begin October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Currently, there are approximately 258 permits in the queue to be worked on and are 11 weeks out with issuing permits.
- Oakpointe has turned in all their paperwork for plats for all of their properties.
  - There are 4,170 new lots which the city is working on.
  - Hearing is on November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Update of Commercial businesses (Safeway with Starbucks, Keybank, Chevron, Goddard School, potential medical facility, Edward Jones).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**  
**ADJOURNMENT -**

Commissioner Asante made a **Motion** to adjourn, **seconded** by Commissioner McCain. **Vote, Motion Passed** 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

These minutes were respectively recorded by Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

  
FOR CAROL MORGAN  
Carol Morgan, Chairperson

  
Carina Thornquist, Planning  
Commission Secretary