

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Special Meeting of January 8, 2026
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Adler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Deady, Nielsen, Peterson (Zoom), Sorci, Young, Dal Santo, and Kumar

Staff Present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Development Director; Xavier Mason, Finance Director; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Rob Reed, IS Manager; Jake Kapsandy, IT Tech II; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, Ryan Sweet, Capital Projects/Program Manager; City Attorney; City Administrator, Kevin O'Neill; Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

OATH OF OFFICES:

City Clerk Martinez administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Adler and Mayor Adler then administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Dan Dal Santo, Mario Sorci, Darcey Peterson, Jesse Young, and Sara Nielsen.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to approve the Agenda; **second** Councilmember Young. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue spoke to Council.

Geoff Bowie, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1) AB26-001 – Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilmember Sorci **moved** to nominate Councilmember Deady as Mayor Pro-Tempore; **second** Councilmember Nielsen. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Sorci asked that item 6 on the consent agenda be removed.

Councilmember Deady **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with item 6 being moved to new business; **second** Councilmember Nielsen. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 2) **Claim Checks** – November 20, 21, and 28 and December 5 and 19, 2025, Check No. 56769 through Check No. 56891 and EFTs in the amount of \$1,463,649.08. In addition, January 9, 2026, Check No. 56892 through Check No. 56911 in the Amount of \$108,823.67, for a Combined Total of \$1,572,472.75.
- 3) **Payroll** – November 2025, Check No. 20568 through Check No. 20575 and EFTs in the amount of \$630,793.50
- 4) **Minutes** – Special Meeting (Town Hall) of November 20, 2025, and Council Meeting of November 20, 2025
- 5) **AB26-002** – Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the 2026 – 2031 Parks Property Tax Levy Agreement with King County

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 7) **AB26-004** – Resolution to Authorized the Mayor to Execute a Stormwater Capacity Grant

Public Works Director Hanis briefed the Council on this item.

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 26-1719 to Accept Capacity Grant Funds and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Department of Ecology for the 2025-2027 Stormwater Capacity Grant; **second** Councilmember Nielsen. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

- 8) **AB26-005** – Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Fuel Tax Agreement with Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for the Park Street Crossing Project

Capital Projects/Program Manager Sweet reported on this item.

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 26-1720, Authorizing the Mayor to execute a fuel tax agreement for the Roberts Reconstruction Project, TIB #P-P-800(P06)-1; **second** Councilmember Young. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

9) AB26-006 – Budget Allocation Regarding Cell Phones for Councilmembers

City Administrator O'Neill discussed this item with Council.

Councilmember Nielsen **moved** to authorize a budget amendment to allocate \$5,000 to purchase and assign cell phones to Councilmembers and authorize the Mayor to sign any necessary agreements to execute this action; **second** Councilmember Dal Santo. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

6) AB26-003 – Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Professional Consulting Contract with AHBL Amending Planning Services for Community Development

Councilmember Young **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 26-1718, authorizing the Mayor to execute a professional consulting contract with AHBL amending planning services for Community Development; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** 6-1 (Sorci).

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Adler reported that he has spent the week on city campus getting oriented and held an all-staff meeting. He also attended a tour of the city's water systems and shared that he appreciated the staff and is honored to be up here.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Deady reported attending the Finance Committee meeting and asked the Council if they wanted to continue having fire services on the agenda. She would like to talk about Council Rules, Fire Update, and Guiding Principles at the next meeting since it's pretty light. She thanked the Public Works team for their hard work during the floods and wished everyone a happy new year. She welcomed the Mayor and Councilmembers and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilmember Nielsen thanked all City Staff, and Council. She also thanked the Black Diamond Fire Department for their help with a sick family member. She is looking forward to learning new perspectives and is looking forward to increased transparency and provided examples. She noted looking forward to serving with the new Council and keeping Black Diamond great.

Councilmember Peterson stated she was sorry she couldn't be there and is thrilled to be working with new members. She talked about the retreat last year and is hoping we will be holding one in the near future and welcomed everyone.

Councilmember Sorci noted his responsibility is to the people of Black Diamond and to look after their money and make sure it doesn't get spent without oversight of the Council. He appreciates and encourages people to express their views and states that he listens, takes account of everything and doesn't discount anyone.

Councilmember Young thanked everyone that got us through the atmospheric river. He also thanked Mountain View Fire for all their help and for their response times to Regency. He is looking forward to 2026 and noted having a lot of work to do and working with the Councilmembers and as a listener to the people. He encouraged people to get involved and attend Council meetings. He let everyone know they are all welcome here and looks forward to Black Diamond reaching its potential. He shared that everybody makes the city and he wants to make sure all people feel safe here.

Councilmember Dal Santo suggested that Jesse and Monica tour the water system, and hoped this can be arranged soon.

Councilmember Kumar shared that over the holidays she met with Court staff and noted it be illuminating to understand how they work. She noted they are doing extremely good work and however are constrained by space. She noted we are a growing community and need to start developing relationships with the powers that be and would like Council to allow her to look into getting more funding for the court.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

City Administrator O'Neill noted working towards a consultant to get help with a strategic plan and the first step would be a Council retreat. He noted he continues to meet with the Parks Ad Hoc Committee and is starting a process to advertise for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. He congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Deady, welcomed the new Councilmembers and the Mayor and looks forward to keeping the momentum going. He shared that Puget Sound Fire will be reaching out via email to each Councilmember individually and noted that they have been working on the pre-annexation agreement and making progress.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

He welcomed Councilmembers Sorci and Dal Santo and extended an invitation for them to contact him with any questions or issues. He noted that there would be a brief executive session on potential litigation with no action to follow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Geoff Bowie, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:21 p.m. Mayor Adler announced that Council would be recessing into an executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation. The executive session was anticipated to last 15 minutes with no action to follow. Councilmembers exited the Chambers to the patrol room and the executive session started at 8:22 p.m.

At 8:37 p.m. a five-minute extension to the executive session was announced.

At 8:42 p.m. another five-minute extension to the executive session was announced.

Mayor Adler called the meeting back to order at 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Young. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The meeting ended at 8:49 p.m.



John Adler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk