

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of April 7, 2026
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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, Sorci, Young (Zoom), and Dal Santo

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Xavier Mason, Finance Director; Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Ryan Sweet, Capital Projects/Program Manager; Jessica Zielinski, Asst. Planner/Permit Tech; Rob Reed, IS Manager; Jake Kapsandy, IT Tech II; David Linehan, City Attorney; City Administrator, Kevin O’Neill; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to approve the Agenda; **second** Councilmember Nielsen. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Elaine Parks, Black Diamond Museum spoke to Council.

Johna Thomson, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation – Legislative Update, Adam Day, Civic Forge

Mr. Day reported to Council on the State Legislative update for April 2026 and shared the monies secured for Black Diamond. Flock law, local government revenue flexibility (HB 2442), and a look ahead for opportunities in 2027.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works Committee – Councilmember Young recapped items discussed at the Public Works Council Committee meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- 1) **Claim Checks** – April 7, 2026, Check No. 57139 through Check No. 57216 and EFTs in the amount of \$1,015,207.97
- 2) **Minutes** – Tri City Meeting of February 25, 2026, Work Session of March 10, 2026, Town Hall of March 10, 2026, and Council Meeting of March 17, 2026

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 3) **AB26-038** – Public Hearing on Interim Zoning Controls to Prohibit Battery Energy Storage Facilities within the City of Black Diamond

City Administrator O'Neill updated the City Council on this item, and Assistant Planner/Permit Technician Zielinski shared information with Council through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Adler opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Pat Traub, Enumclaw, Unincorporated King County thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. She noted BESS in her opinion is not the best solution for Black Diamond or anyplace else and stated that this is a big decision with big ramifications. She shared background information on herself and her values growing up. She noted BESS scares her and could destroy our neighborhoods. She shared all the negatives for BESS. She explained that the people pushing BESS don't live in our neighborhoods, they come here to make money and then they leave. She stressed we need to protect our earth and believing money is more important than the community might not be a good solution. She ended by thanking the Council for listening to her.

James DeLay, Covington thanked Council for another six months to figure things out. He stated that lithium should not be anywhere that is going to force anyone out of their home for an evacuation and says no to any type of lithium grid scale vats. He shared how a residential BESS system works, and pricing in Washington State is flat and discussed how pricing in California is different. He shared finding the Long Duration Energy Storage Council. He suggested making Black Diamond the core and you can choose how long it will last. He ran through a few ideas with Council.

Mayor Adler closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

4) AB26-039 – Resolution Regarding Agreement with King County Hazardous Waste for Recycling Event

Capital Projects Program Manager Sweet reported on this item

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 26-1737 authorizing the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with King County Hazardous Waste Management Program to fund the 2026-2027 household hazardous waste collection and recycling events; **second** Councilmember Dal Santo. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Adler reported participating in a small cities workshop as part of SCA and they talked about getting a consortium together to share an employee on a special task. Also discussed were the unfunded mandates that cities struggle with. He shared that Enumclaw School District has selected Nicole Tronvig as the new Planning Principle for the school in the Ten Trails development. He also shared that he and the City Administrator hosted an all-city staff meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Deady reminded everyone that Labor Day, Miners Day and the Black Diamond America 250th are coming up on Welsh Day and volunteers are needed.

Councilmember Nielsen noted looking forward to the Council retreat. She is also looking forward to the status update of the Master Plan Development progress. She stated that there is an opportunity to vote for names for the new school and a mascot.

Councilmember Peterson wondered how we get the request for volunteers out to the public along with the fire annexation ballot issue.

Councilmember Sorci noted having an upcoming workshop for the Council Rules. He noted being the only member turning items in for change and that he doesn’t want to waste his time discussing every council rule. He commented on the open Council position, and all applications should be in by April 15th and would like to see the council selection be on the 21st but will let Councilmember Dal Santo weigh in on this issue.

Councilmember Young gave Council an update on the MVFR Commissioners meeting he attended. He invited any interested citizens to apply for the vacant Council position and noted that at the local level we have the biggest impact.

Councilmember Dal Santo noted that everyone did their homework on the Council rules and how Council was proceeding was working well. He shared that the other issue Councilmember Sorci referred to is he will be out of the country on May 5th when a new Councilmember will be appointed and he would like to have his voice heard.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

City Administrator O'Neill reported on the Council recruitment and noted that the eligibility of the applicants needs to be verified and makes the timeline short for the 21st. He reported that we allowed Safeway to pour concrete an hour earlier and it will be noticed through different avenues as this is as abnormal activity. He noted there will be a second incident when this will happen, but we don't have a date yet. He also discussed the migration of our new website with a lot of information jumbled up and that staff have been working diligently to get the issues resolved. He had a great discussion with the Puget Sound Fire Chief today, and we have a near final draft of the pre-annexation agreement. One exciting topic is that Puget Sound Fire, the governing body, officially adopted a new governance model that would give two representatives on the board to each city that is annexed into the district, and all cities will be on the same level. He reminded everyone that the Council retreat is next Friday, and very shortly a brief document will be sent out about what to expect and shared that staff are still finalizing the other part of the retreat.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pat Traub, Unincorporated King County spoke to Council.

Johna Thomson, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Peterson **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.



John Adler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk