

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 14, 2021
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Wisnoski, Mulvihill, de Leon, O'Donnell, Page

ABSENT: Councilmembers Oglesbee (excused)

Staff present: Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager

WORK SESSION:

1) Discussion on 2022 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Benson discussed with Council the draft legislative priorities that was provided to Council. She noted there was added verbiage regarding the new police legislation and discussed the other items on the handout.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke about a meeting with two representatives and the information he has from the different sources should the infrastructure package pass in DC, and now being the time to put these types of requests for needs of the city forward. He asked to put something together that 169 is a major corridor for our community, Enumclaw and Maple Valley, how the wildlife corridor is being impacted, Cedar River train expansion from Renton to Enumclaw, parks and recreation and looking at the bigger picture of energy and how we are looking towards electric vehicles, broadband, etc. He touched on the process with the other cities having lists and noted there not being a game changer on the current list for Black Diamond.

Councilmember Mulvihill gave an update on having Hwy 169 designated as a Highway of Significance.

Councilmember Page agreed on the need to get something in there to start to conversation to better serve our community and citizens as highway 169 is not a safe passageway for people. She commented that we need to be proactive leaders and keep coming back to our legislators.

Councilmember de Leon agreed with the comments made tonight and it being important to stake our claim, so we are on the record saying this is something we need. She added the ability to keep pointing back to our track record for advocating does put our legislators accountable. Being on the map for additional modes of transportation is important. She also brought up to Council to keep in mind the other bills that didn't pass or pass in full.

Councilmember Deady suggested putting together a priority for 169 and to be widened from Enumclaw to Maple Valley. She also noted the need to have buy in from Maple Valley and Enumclaw too. She discussed SCA and how many cities belong. She gave an overview of SCA legislative priorities and shared having a problem with eminent domain and displacing business owners.

Councilmember Wisnoski suggested adding a bullet gaining significant highway designation for Hwy 169, and to work with our partner cities to support this too.

Mayor Benson commented that she will work with the City Clerk to add the suggestions about 169 and adopt this at the first meeting in December. Next year she can work with other agencies regarding widening of 169. She stated that Mark Mullet is our representative and we need to talk with him about funding.

Councilmember O'Donnell noted having seven items on his list, not just 169. He is concerned with the growth and this road being backed up and the need to widen where it makes sense. Something needs to be done to meet capacity from Enumclaw to Black Diamond and we need to look at alternatives of transportation too. He stressed that it needs to be a comprehensive look. He shared that he cares about Black Diamond and wants to see something aggressive that addresses our citizens. He talked about our regional water supply and working with Covington Water District and Tacoma.

Mayor Benson noted working with SCA to get King County Metro out her with more of a presence. She also addressed the Cedar River Trail.

Councilmember O'Donnell shared that he wants to be a part of the formation of the items and not just rubber stamp this. He commented that the 2022 agenda is not what he would pick for the top things for the citizens of Black Diamond.

Councilmember de Leon noted she is open to having another follow up conversation. She wanted to plant the seed on updating the language and wondered about expanding the language around the courts and substance abuse and the pilot program of therapeutic court and tie it to legislation. She commented on the potential flood of money for the infrastructure bill and would like to talk more about streamlining the process for cities to access the money and reduce the red tape.

Councilmember Deady shared that she doesn't disagree with Councilmember O'Donnell, however our citizens need to get to other areas, and we need to partner with cities. What

happens in Black Diamond affects other jurisdictions. She noted that she is still confused with Councilmember O'Donnell's request on 169.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** by Councilmember Wisnoski. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 6:59 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk