

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of November 4, 2021
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Oglesbee, Wisnoski, Mulvihill, de Leon, Wisnoski, and Page.

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Mona Davis, Community Development Director; Seth Boettcher, Public Works Director; Andrew Williamson; MDRT/Ec Dev Director; Rob Reed; IS Manager; Tristen Bennett, Mayene Miller; Finance Director; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, City Attorney; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember Wisnoski asked to have item # 5 AB21-068 – Resolution Accepting 2021 Citywide Asphalt Overlays Project removed from tonight's agenda.

Councilmember Wisnoski **moved** to approve the agenda as amended; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Sientje Morris read an email she sent to Council regarding her positive interaction with the Black Diamond Police Department.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember de Leon asked to have item #3 – AB21-066 be removed from the consent agenda.

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended with removing #3 AB21-066; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** 5-2 (Wisnoski, Oglesbee). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 1) **Claim Checks** – November 4, 2021, Check No. 50632 through 50673 (void 50674) in the amount of \$270,195.14
- 2) **Minutes** – Work Session of October 14, 2021, Town Hall Meeting of October 14, 2021, Special Meeting of October 21, 2021, and Council Meeting of October 21, 2021
- 4) **AB21-067** – Resolution Adopting Yearly Addendum to Agreement with Valley Communications
Chief Kiblinger

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melissa Earl, Lumber House spoke to Council.
Robbin Taylor, Black Diamond spoke to Council.
Glen Yadon spoke to Council.
Giovani Tedesco, spoke to Council.
Jennifer Valdeen, Black Diamond spoke to Council.
Oscar Rodriquez, Black Diamond spoke to Council.
Patrick Nelson, Texas spoke to Council.
Brock Deady, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 6) **AB21-069** – 2022 Preliminary Budget and Revenue Sources Including Possible Increase in Property Tax
Ms. Miller

Finance Director Miller briefed Council on this item.

Mayor Benson opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. No comments were heard, and Mayor Benson closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

- 3) **AB21-066** – Resolution Amending the Interlocal Agreement with SCORE
Chief Kiblinger

Councilmember Deady **moved** to approve Resolution No. 21-1447 authorizing the Mayor to execute an addendum to the agreement for inmate housing with South Correctional entity for 2022; **second** Councilmember O'Donnell. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor. (7-0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire – Chief Smith reported that call volumes in the city are normal and there was no fire loss since his last report. He announced that engine 98 is in service. He shared that the fire engine returned to city and aid car is needing parts and mechanics are having a hard time locating parts and trying to see if the cost is too much. He mentioned that a branch went through roof of Station 98 during the windstorm, and we need to look at getting a new roof on it next spring. He discussed some significant storms being off the coast of

Washington and people should get prepared. He noted that November is the rainiest month of the year and for windstorms too.

Police – Chief Kiblinger responded to questions asked by Councilmember de Leon in an email to her.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Benson read a statement she prepared regarding a post on social media.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Deady reported attending all her committee meetings, “push-in” of the new fire truck. She noted the fire department being as much loved as the police department and talked about the new station that is being built. She discussed the comprehensive plan setting the level of service for police officers. She thanked Ms. Morris for her coming tonight and sharing her experience with our police department.

Councilmember Oglesbee reported attending all her committee meetings and stated she did listen to the work study from last week. She commented on the Public Safety Committee meeting where Chief Smith explained the aid car and truck being in service. In the meeting they discussed the SCORE agreement and Court receiving a \$90,000 grant for therapeutic court. She mentioned that during the meeting Mr. Esping Kevin talked about having our department ready for the winter so we can have safe roads for citizens to travel on. She thanked everyone for their public comments and expressed it being nice to see everyone in person. She encouraged everyone to continue to come and speak. She noted talking to business owners in the community to see how she can support them. She stated that we are a village and need to work together and be kind, and patient and stick together as a community.

Councilmember Wisnoski reported having volunteers for Make a Difference Day at the Museum to do a clean-up. He thanked everyone who participated and plans on making this a reoccurring event to bring our citizens together and support neighbors helping neighbors. He attended the “push-in” of the fire engine, noted it being time to start thinking about buying another one with the opening of a new fire station and believes this should happen in the 1st or second quarter of next year. He expressed being happy to see the new truck and new contract as public safety is a top priority. He thanked Ms. Morris for coming tonight to reaffirm how great our police department is. He thanked everyone for their public comments tonight and hopes this urge of interest doesn’t go away as it’s important for council to hear from their constituents. He commented on having two weeks left on the Council and thanked everyone for the feedback. He shared that he will be here for any councilmember and will gladly loan out his books. He gave congratulations to the newest member of the police department and hopes she can come to a future meeting. He congratulated the court on the therapeutic court grant and thanked public works for working hard to keep up safe and for keeping everything running. He reminded everyone that the Holidays are coming up and not to forget to support the local small

businesses. H still believe the city needs to hold a business focused town hall to hear from them what challenges they are facing and what Council can do to help. He thanked all who have reached out to him these last few weeks.

Councilmember Mulvihill reported that she missed the fire truck “push in” event and expressed appreciating all the public comments heard tonight. She is thrilled about the therapeutic court grant and also reported attending the joint meeting with the Enumclaw School District Board and the Enumclaw City Council. She announced that December 11 is Hometown Christmas, and the Black Diamond Community Center will be holding a bazaar.

Councilmember de Leon reported attending all her committee meetings and had a delightful opportunity to participate at Lake Sawyer for Make a Difference Day. She commented on being glad to see the grant for therapeutic court and adding this to a menu of ways to help people. She also thanked Ms. Morris for coming here tonight. She expressed being very glad to see all of this come to a very good story and a good experience. She noted that if she over interpreted it, she gave an open invitation for anyone to reach out to her and apologized for any mischaracterization that may have happened. She also thanked Ms. Morris for being here for the entire meeting. She is very glad to have the opportunity about the sources and funding for our future budgets. She noted there being some emotion and hot button issues and she is asking questions regarding financial responsibility. She commented that we need to look at larger expenses and are the costs justified and for our due diligence we need to be asking the questions. She understands that level of service is important when asking these questions, we can get to more opportunities to look at the budget in a holistic way and really talk about what the future of public safety means and gave examples. She commented on appreciating the Chief for taking the opportunity to answer the questions. She added that when we are talking about safety, and talking about ways to communicate with residents, she doesn’t believe that it is so far out of line to ask people not to come to public official residents and gave examples of ways people can get in touch with her and that people do not come to their private property to harass them. She doesn’t condone behavior like that and doesn’t appreciate it either and stated that people have choices and those choices come with consequences and asked how does this make our community come together. She ended by stating is it so much to ask that we draw the line at people in their houses.

Councilmember O’Donnell thanked everyone for coming tonight and noted this being the first time he has been in the Council Chambers. He thanked everyone for providing public comment and is glad to hear about Ms. Morris’ experience and noted we are all in this together. He stated Councilmember Deady living and breathing Black Diamond and expressed her being spectacular and thanked her for her public service. He noted believing it being important for the Council to be non-partisan, and when we agree to disagree, we do it in a respectful way for the sake of the city and everyone here. He noted that Councilmember de Leon is not out there to defund the police, she is doing her job by asking questions. He commented on public safety being the number one priority because they are the ones that have to get it right every single time and we will support them whether in training, more vehicles, or officers and we need to ask tough questions. He is for all of us to be more kinder and decent and that goes for him too. He added that we are

all human beings here and are all doing the best we can do and it's not always easy. He noted making \$68 a month as a Councilmember and donates his money to Miners Day and doesn't want to be someone else's punching bag - we need to have each other's back and we are all in this together. He touched on hearing loud and clear from the two councilmembers about discrimination and believes there is way together to put together a new resolution.

Councilmember Page reported attending all committee meetings and had the opportunity to participate in the "push in" ceremony. She also attended the joint meeting with the Enumclaw School Board and the Enumclaw City Council and noted all are feeling growing pains as neighboring communities. She commented on the property tax item not being an out of line increase; these are incremental steps we need to stay current, and we're not even caught up. She talked about community assist and an incident she had with her mom and needing to call for this. She noted the division in this city is breaking her heart. She urged that we need to be able to have civil productive conversations as we are here because we want to make a difference for everyone in our community. She noted this council being individual thinkers and for being the first time, it was impressive to have these meetings in a hybrid way and is so grateful everyone came and took the time. She reminded everyone to turn back their clock this weekend and to change their smoke detector batteries.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Linehan noted being happy to see the new truck in service. He shared good news with Council that a decision was received from the Hearing Examiner on the SEPA appeal regarding the proposed 2020 Comp Plan Update. He announced the decision affirmed the SEPA officials' determination. He noted this is great news for the city and Ms. Davis has a work session scheduled to touch on the amendments that will be coming forward for council consideration. He also congratulated Ms. Davis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melissa Earl, Lumber House Brewery, spoke to Council.

Robbin Taylor, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Brock Deady, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Glen Yadon, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Patrick Nelson, Texas spoke to Council.

Giovani Tedesco, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

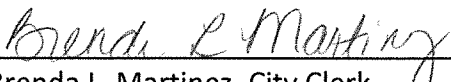
ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Wisnoski **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Oglesbee. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The meeting ended at 9:23 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk