

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
TOWN HALL MINUTES
March 10, 2022
Hybrid/Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Stallard, Smith, Mulvihill, de Leon, and Page.

ABSENT: Councilmember O'Donnell (excused)

Staff present: Scott Hanis, Public Works Director; Andrew Williamson, Ed Dev/MDRT Director, Mona Davis, Community Development Director; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk.

Mayor Benson welcomed everyone and announced that the city has options for rentals (gym) and she also that the City's landlord is open to pop-ups on his property.

Introductions of those in attendance took place and the list of attendees is below:

Nolan Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal
Sarah Jolk, EmpowerMe Arts
Joell Bolen, Ten Trails
Heidi Hanscom, Black Diamond/Maple Valley Chamber of Commerce
Andy Newell, Mancraft Graphics
Melissa Earl, Lumber House
Melissa Oglesbee, Nothing Fancy
Mona Davis, Community Development Director
Jens Hanson, UVA Furem Winery
Dan and Gina, The Smokehouse and More
Kristen Bryant, Bellevue
Andrew Williamson, City Staff
Scott Hanis, Public Works Director
Lee Wittenberg, Diamond Square

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was a robust conversation between Council, business owners, and others present with the highlights of the discussion were :

- Building community,
- Collaboration between businesses,
- Uniting businesses on events in the city
- Safety for businesses and employees
- Start an advertising cooperative for businesses to do major advertising
- Using the Black Diamond/Maple Valley Chamber as a resource. It was mentioned you do not need to be member to use their resources. Also discussed were chamber events and tapping into information on their website.

safety of businesses and employees, Black Diamond/Maple Valley Chamber of Commerce resources, events, and website,

Building Community, getting everyone involved at Ten Trail events, serve the community, get together once every other week and talk about events to unify on and business unite on these, collaboration with businesses and community, safety for businesses and employees, come together as a community and be part of it, start an advertising cooperative for businesses to do major advertising.

Heidi Hansom noted they are here to provide resources to the community, however you do not need to be a member to use them. She did explain services that are only available to members such as advertising. She commented that people should go to their website as it is more than just a chamber site and gave examples.

Brett Habenecht commented on his family deep roots in Black Diamond. He stated that as BD grows there are choices on how the business community grows too. At some point down the road there may be a need for a Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce, however what we have now is a great joint venture.

Becky Sheets, echoed Brett's comments. Discussed having a great relationship with Covington Chamber and noted going out of her way to promote businesses. Let the chambers be a resource and mentor until that time comes.

Melissa Earl, echoed the safety of the businesses and employees and passed around a paper for owners to write down their contact information and to be added to the text line and future contact list.

Melissa Oglesbee, talked about getting the community together and look at the idea of having a chamber in Black Diamond when the time is right.

Leih Mulvihill, gave a historical prospective that when she joined the chamber there were more BD than MV members. As a director for Chamber back in the 2000 she created a subdivision called the BD Partnership to connect business members from different areas in town and a councilmember, a chamber member, and the director of the chamber. Encouraged businesses owners to look at creating a partnership and use the chamber as a resource.

Becky noted loving to see more BD owners on the BD/MV Chamber Board, however you do need to be member.

Tamie Deady, commented on it being a great turnout tonight and is excited to see where this goes in the future. Would like to see them meeting monthly or bi-monthly and grow your participation. She gave them kudos and wanted to know what the city of MV specifically does to help their businesses. She gave the example of a partnership with MV on ARPA funds for a website design. She discussed the three major events for the Chamber and noted the city does partner with them on the fishing derby.

Andrew Williamson, he encouraged going down this path numerous times and noted the city is limited what we can do with our monetary funds. He encouraged businesses to embrace technology, and to do a closed Facebook account for businesses only. He noted what benefits the city most is one voice. Give yourself a name so we know when someone is talking it's one voice.

Debbie Page added being so proud to see so many businesses here. She discussed being a business owner for 26 years and understands the perils of the safety issues. As we grow as city we need to recognize those businesses that work from home and there is a bigger foot print of business owners and as we grow this we are capturing that segment of our community businesses. Lastly, what would you all like to see the city do? Not that we can as we do have some restrictions, Melissa Earl responded, join us and be part of the coalition we create.

Joell, discussed the pop up markets at Ten Trails and would love to see a business owner event.

Sarah, she would like to tie things together and what she sees is we have some major resources with the chamber and access the wisdom and see collaboration over competition. She discussed coming out of a pandemic we are at a different state the first thing that has to happen is trust and relationship building and suggested using the gym as a venue and would be happy to look into availability and then look into group events. Council and staff willing to listen and hear and proposed meeting a few weeks from now at the gym and communicate this meeting with them. She will look into gym availability.

Trish Stallard likes what Sarah said about building relationships and always tries think about who is not in the room and wondered does it start with those who just showed up or will it be getting information out to other business owners.

Sarah noted there was the assumption this would happen with a Facebook page.

Debbie Page - Use the chamber website to announce once the event date is set.

Melissa noted they will follow up.

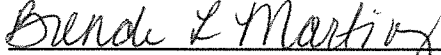
ADJOURNMENT:

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

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk