



## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/RETREAT

**Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Black Diamond Bakery and Restaurant**

**32805 Railroad Avenue**

**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

**THIS IS OFFERED AS A HYBRID MEETING AND MAY BE ATTENDED IN PERSON AT THE ABOVE NOTED ADDRESS OR BY JOINING VIRTUAL/TELEPHONICALLY. CALL IN AND JOINING INFORMATION FOLLOWS:**

Zoom link to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4454477047?pwd=eGxRY3ZEeU14SVM2cGRBcUxCSjdmZz09>

(Note: You do not need a web cam to join the meeting, but you will need audio to hear the proceedings.) Meeting ID: 445 447 7047 Password: Council

Telephone dial in options: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle)

Meeting ID: 445 447 7047 Password: 426953

# AGENDA

## MEETING GOALS:

1. Envision Black Diamond in 20-30 years.
2. Continue the transformation of the Mayor's and Council's Guiding Principles into a road map for achieving a future vision of Black Diamond.
3. Discuss issues of importance to all or most of the Council members, including financial sustainability and affordable housing.

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8:30 Welcome! Review Purpose of Today's Meeting

Mayor Benson/Council

8:40 Review Agenda and Ground Rules

Jim Reid, Facilitator

8:45    The Most Important Accomplishments of the Recent Past                      Council/Mayor

Jim will ask the following question of each Council member and the Mayor. After everyone has answered it, he'll ask the same question once more to give the Mayor and Council members the opportunity to add something that has not been cited.

- *What is **one major accomplishment** of the City and/or Council in the past 12-16 months that was particularly impressive and noteworthy?*

After everyone has identified the most important accomplishments of the recent past, we will jointly answer these questions:

- *What factors resulted in these accomplishments? Therefore, what are the lessons we learned?*

9:20    What is Our Vision for the Future of Black Diamond?                      Council/Mayor

Given that there is a unique mix of longer-term and new Council members, the Council and Mayor Benson will discuss their vision for Black Diamond's future in the next 10-20 years. As one person said, "We must harness history, and build on it to address what is coming."

This is intended as an initial and informal conversation rather than one that leads to a formal visioning process.

- *What do you imagine Black Diamond could or should be in 10-20 years?*
- *What might be the most significant actions that would be taken to achieve your vision?*
- *What "level of service" should the Mayor's Office and Council members be expected to perform to advance a future vision and goals?*

10:20    Break

10:30    What the City is Doing to Advance the Guiding Principles                      Mayor/Council

At last year's retreat, the Council and Mayor reached consensus on a set of Guiding Principles. During the past year the Council has read the principles at its meetings. **(SEE ATTACHMENT)**

The goal for this discussion is to make the principles more meaningful and influential by demonstrating that they are a road map to achieving the Mayor's and Council's vision for the future.

- *For each principle, what are 2-4 programs, projects, or actions in the City's workplan that are advancing the principles and, perhaps, the visions that were expressed in the previous discussion?*

Furthermore:

- *What other activities are Council Members engaged in to advance the Guiding Principles?*
- *If and when resources are available, what other initiatives might the Council be interested in to advance the principles and move toward the visions expressed today?*

Finally:

- *What else might we do to ensure that the Guiding Principles become a road map to our future?*

Noon Lunch

12:45 Achieving Financial Sustainability

Council/Mayor

In preparing for this year's retreat, every Council member and the Mayor expressed interest in making the City financially sustainable. Everyone is concerned about the looming \$2.4 million deficit. The lack of financial sustainability has delayed plans to hire a City Administrator and other priorities. As someone said, "It feels like we are flying blind and can't be forward thinking. What is our trajectory?"

In this discussion the Council and Mayor will discuss the work of the FCS Group and its recent briefing of the Mayor and Council, and a levy lid lift for public safety.

- *Following up on the briefing by the FCS Group, what would be the financial impacts of fully funding public safety through a levy lid lift?*

1:55 Break

2:05 Community Engagement and Transparency

Council/Mayor

Council members expressed an interest in strengthening engagement with the community. A few said that one way to achieve this is to be more transparent.

- *What is the City currently doing to engage the public?*
- *What other strategies might be tested?*
- *What might the City do to be more transparent as a means for*

*increasing public understanding and engagement?*

2:40     Affordable Housing and Mental Health     Council/Mayor

A number of Council members cited affordable housing, homelessness, and mental health as public policy issues of increasing importance and concern throughout the Puget Sound region and in Black Diamond. Two principal concerns were expressed: 1) The rising cost of housing is preventing young people from buying homes in the community; 2) residents who may need mental health services cannot easily access them because the services aren't provided within City's boundaries.

- *What is the City doing to address affordable housing?*
- *What more might the City do to help address this issue?*
- *What is the City doing to address mental health needs?*
- *What more might the City do to address this issue?*

3:10     Highlight Future Issues     Council/Mayor

- *What issues and challenges are on the horizon?*

3:15     Future City Council Retreats     Council/Mayor

A few Council members suggested that the Council's annual retreat Would feel more important and relevant if held earlier in the year; i.e., between mid-January and late February.

- *Does everyone agree that the Council's annual retreat should be held early in 2024 and in subsequent years?*

3:25     What are We Taking Away from the Retreat?     Council/Mayor

3:30     Adjourn

## THE MAYOR'S AND COUNCIL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ **Growth and Development:** Growth is planned and communicated in a responsible way that retains our strong sense of community character and livability.
- ❖ **Social and Economic Vitality:** An economically vital and diverse community that is supported by robust businesses and supportive services.
- ❖ **Environmental Stewardship:** Environmental resources are proactively enhanced, protected and stewarded.
- ❖ **City Leadership and Services:** Leadership and accountability are provided in the delivery of public services for our growing and diversifying community.
- ❖ **Infrastructure:** Infrastructure systems that are planned, designed, built, and maintained well to support current and future community needs.
- ❖ **Mobility:** Getting around town is easier for people who live, work and play here.
- ❖ **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accountability (IDEA):** Actively work for a more inclusive and diverse city, with a strong sense of equity and expectation of accountability.
- ❖ **Public Safety:** The community is safe, secure, healthy, resilient, and accessible.