

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Council Meeting of August 24, 2023
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Deady called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Douglass, Smith, Mulvihill, de Leon, Jones, Page

ABSENT: Councilmember Smith

Staff present: Rob Reed, IS Manager; Jake Kapsandy, IT Department; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

WORK SESSION:

1) Continued Discussion Regarding Potential Levy Lid Lift

Mayor Pro-Tem Deady welcomed everybody and noted that at the last meeting it was asked that the questions for today's meeting be sent to her, or Councilmember Page and she noted who sent questions in.

Councilmember Page noted that the objective of this meeting is to reflect on the last few meetings and not to make any decisions but to see where council needs more information to understand what the financial future looks like. She explained this meeting is specifically for the Levy Lid Lift related to public safety and this would be used for people costs and not capital costs.

Highlights/Topic Points

It was clarified for Councilmembers that the discussion on the Levy Lid Lift for public safety is about the level of service for police, fire and the court and would cover costs for current staff needs and forecasting for the growing city. With the forecasting as a missing component, the council needs analysis regarding the level of service as the city grows to understand the future costs and be able to convey the need for the Levy Lid Lift to the residents.

Council requests the following information be provided to continue this discussion:

- Needs of the Police, Fire and Courts
- Minimum level of fire service.

- Understanding of true costs associated with a two, three and four person shift to help determine an appropriate plan to obtain a desired level of service for both Fire Stations 98 and 99.
- Costs associated with our Mountain View Fire service being supplemented through the fire district.
- Understanding of how our current level of fire service impacts response times and survivability of our citizens.
- Comparisons of similar cities/jurisdictions.
- Police staffing projections based on population growth projections.
- Police level of service from 2019 Comp plan with response times of good, better, best scenarios for 2024-2034.
- Court staffing projections for 2024-2034.
- Finances - city revenue projections for 2024-2029 that includes ongoing and one time income as well as what will happen if the Levy Lid Lift does not pass in 2024 or 2025.
- Future EMS needs to be considered that are related to need of the Levy Lid Lift.
- Cost benefits of internal vs outsource Social Work/Mental Health professionals and how this will affect future staffing projections and our residents.
- Any federal mandates to be aware of regarding training certification for police/fire.
- Risk exposure of using a matching fund (outside source that may be out of our control)

In closing, Council expressed that having the Black Diamond HOA's, as well as police, fire, and courts to convey the need for the Levy Lid Lift to our citizens, rather than a PR firm will show how important it is to us. Council also noted that it will likely be 15 years before we have a sustainable revenue source which will take population, growth, and businesses. It was also brought up that Council needs to be mindful through the budget cycle by demonstrating how good of a steward we are with the public's monies now.

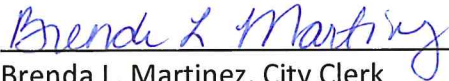
Next steps will be to send the list of questions that came from the discussion tonight to Mayor Benson, FCS, and Finance Director Miller and to get needs from police, fire, and court.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Page **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** de Leon. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 7:19 p.m.

ATTEST:


 Carol Benson, Mayor


 Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk