

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 8, 2024
Hybrid Meeting – In Person and Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Smith and Jones (excused)

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

WORK SESSION:

1) Continued Discussion on Potential Levy Lid Lift

Councilmember Deady discussed at the last meeting asking to keep this meeting and receiving items from Mr. Chaw and noted meeting with Mayor Benson and receiving questions from Councilmember Douglass.

Councilmember Page noted that having members absent there is a need to have the questions and answers available to Councilmembers before the meeting next week. She encouraged all to schedule times with Mayor Benson and the idea is to frame out our questions tonight, and what can't get answered forward to either staff or Mr. Chaw.

The Council engaged in a very robust conversation regarding this issue and below are some of the highlights/topics from the discussion.

- Need for clarification on will the levy lid lift keep both station 98 and 99 manned.
- Message to public needs to be clear that the levy lid lift will keep us at status quo and add another member on staff to go from 2-man coverage to 3. The new station will not be staffed.
- Deficit in city budget.
- Did the forecast for the contract show there was going to be deficit during negotiations.
- How the property tax limit of 1% does not keep pace with inflation and for everyone to keep this in mind and why we need the levy lid lift.
- PR firm contract coming to Council in March.

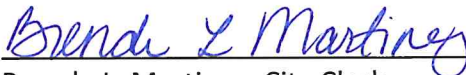
- Suggestion that it needs to be at least 2.5 million based on the numbers and budget provided.
- What additional FTEs are needed as recommended by the fire department and to staff Station 99 you would need 16 FTEs.
- Need to dive in and do the hard work – where do we want to land, how do we get there, what does it look like, and will it pass.
- Discussed having an online calculator where residents could plug in and see what the actual cost would be for them.
- Polling residents to collect data of what they think about the numbers and have that be part of the messaging.
- What the messaging would look like and how to distribute the information.
- Should it be a fire safety lid lift? Pros and Cons
- Need to see forecasting on expenditure and revenue projects showing when the city could possibly get out of the red.
- What are the expectations for next week's meeting with the Consultant?
- Why the levy in 2009 did not pass and the one in 2010 did? It was a grass roots campaign.
- Need to get additional information from the Consultant (Mr. Chaw) before next week's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Page **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0). The meeting ended at 7:34 p.m.

ATTEST:


 Carol Benson, Mayor


 Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk