

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of September 19, 2024
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, Douglass, Mulvihill, de Leon, Jones, Page

ABSENT: Councilmember Peterson (excused)

Staff present: Xavier Mason, Finance Director; Mona Davis, Community Development Director, Scott Hanis, Public Works Director (via Zoom); Ryan Sweet, Capital Projects/Program Manager (Zoom); Rob Reed, IS Manager (Zoom); Krista White Swain, Judge; Tawnya Parks, Court Administrator; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, Attorney; Jake Kapsandy, IT Support; Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Benson announced that there would be an executive session later on the agenda.

READING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to adopt the agenda; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion passed with all voting in favor (6-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Mulvihill announced that it's Emergency Preparedness month and she brought in several flyers and brochures.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1) Court – Judge Swain

Judge Swain gave a PowerPoint presentation to ask for money to increase the budget, stating that it is truly needed. She went over the following highlights in her presentation:

- Filled the PT position.
- Asking to increase the number of court days from 2 days to 4.

- Judge Swain and Tawnya, the court administrator, put together a plan of what is the most efficient, provide what the court needs while being thoughtful of the budget
- Court would like to have 2 full days for criminal cases on every Wednesday
- Court would like to have 2 full days for infractions and administrative duties
- Judge has been working .25 but asking to increase to a .51 PT employee
- Requesting to change the PT position to a FT position to start in November
- Police Department is the sole driver of the courts business
- Reviewed Historic numbers from 2017 – 2023 with expected totals for 2024 to increase workload by 200%
- Judge reported on the number of infractions and hearings compared to larger cities with much less infractions
- Averaging 130 cases per court day when 75 cases per day is a really busy day

Extensive back and forth discussion took place between the Councilmembers, Mayor Benson, and Judge Swain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Suzi Dal Santo, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Dan Dal Santo, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Geoff Bowie, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

2) Proclamation – Constitution Week

Mayor Benson read the proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda; **second** Councilmember Mulvihill. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 3) Claim Checks** – September 19, 2024, Check No. 54948 through Check No. 55065 and EFTs in the amount of \$515,533.14
- 4) Payroll** – August 2024, Check No. 20438 through Check No. 20447 and ACHs in the amount of \$805,417.14
- 5) Minutes** – Special Meeting of September 5, 2024, and Council Meeting of September 5, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson reported attending the Bells Across America at the museum with the Daughters of the American Revolution and read the proclamation. She also attended the South End Mayors meeting on Tuesday at Lake Wilderness Lodge, and they spoke about the upcoming election and how it was going to affect our cities.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Mulvihill stated that she forgot the EMAC report at home. She also attended the Bells Across America and she was impressed.

Councilmember de Leon noted that there are a few more sessions that everybody can attend at the Focus Committee for the capital facilities held on the 1st Tuesday of the month to continue the discussion of the future of buildings and fields in the Enumclaw School District.

Councilmember Jones reminded everyone that a major employer is on strike/furlough and the food banks are needing specific items right now.

Councilmember Page referred to a conversation in July regarding the development agreement and trying to understand more of how the funding of works. She mentioned that Attorney Linehan has proposed some availability on Wednesday, the 25th to discuss. She attended Enumclaw Plateau Community Association and met Leon Richardson, the selected Director of Local Services for King County. She reached out to some business owners about Yifte, also known as Shop, Dine, Discover Maple Valley Gift Card and how this is an opportunity to do some good economic development. She stated that it's a city initiative and not a chamber initiative and suggested that the Directors see the presentation.

Councilmember Deady spoke about Spotlight on Business' in Maple Valley and Covington. She attended the Mswac meeting at city hall and gave details about recycling, composting, etc.... She also attended Bells Across America and her regular meetings. She discussed with council member de Leon to start meeting ever Wednesday, on the 25th, with city staff, the mayor and city attorney to figure out the direction we all want to go. She announced that the Community Center is having their October Harvest Moon dinner Auction on Oct. 12th and tickets are \$75.

Councilmember Douglass talked about how different non-scientists look at things versus how scientists do. Non-scientists seem to think of science as certainty and scientists are rarely sure of anything. He says that science depends on information and data from all sources, and he wants everyone to have access to all the information possible so we can all decide what is important or not for themselves.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cathy McKinney from Enumclaw (Commissioner for Mountain View Fire & Rescue) spoke to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:27 p.m. the mayor announced that the City Council would be going into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition pursuant to RCW 42.30.110.(1)(b), for 10 minutes. The Council exited the Chambers to meet in another room.

At 8:37 p.m. a 5-minute extension was announced. The executive session ended at 8:43 p.m. and Councilmembers returned to the Chambers.

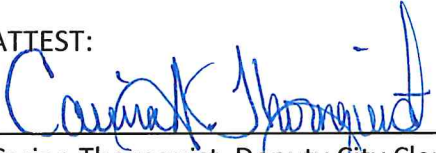
Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0). The meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.



Carol Benson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carina Thornquist, Deputy City Clerk