



The City Connection

Mayor's Message



City Council Officials

Mayor, Carol Benson

Councilmembers:

Tamie Deady
Melissa Oglesbee
Chris Wisnoski
Erin Stout
Kristiana de Leon
Patrick Nelson
Steven Paige

The Coronavirus Pandemic has been a very challenging time for the city of Black Diamond and for many cities in our region, nation and around the world. On Monday, March 23rd, Governor Inslee issued his order to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy". As a result of that order, on Tuesday, March 24th we sent all employees home at noon except for the Deputy Finance Director to issue payroll and essential Public Safety and Public Works staff for the health and safety of our City.



We held our first Special Council Meeting via Zoom on April 23rd where we approved four emergency proclamations which were posted to the website. We also extended our stay home order to April 30th. We began building inspections again on Monday, April 20th, with new safety and health protocols in place. We also brought in some essential finance employees to process the mail, make deposits and perform accounts payable functions. We were fortunate to be able to provide equipment and technology for most employees to work from home. However, we were forced to furlough two employees full time and two employees part time as they were either not able to work from home or experienced a significant decrease in workload. Two of those employees have since returned to work.

All City departments remain closed to the public however, staff continues to work during this pandemic and is there to assist you by phone or email. We expect that many employees will continue to work from home for some time and in person office visits will remain scheduled separately by department. When we do open City Hall for business it will be by appointment only, with new safety barriers and protocols in place. The Court has been able to hold virtual Court in Council Chambers because of the advanced technology that was purchased and setup.



Using our City business list, I was able to forward information on grants and loans that may be available to our City Businesses to assist them in these difficult times. I have continued to attend regional meetings with Sound Cities Association (SCA), South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBD), Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and other Mayor's meetings via Zoom, to share information and next steps as we move through the Governor's "Safe Start" phased opening.

We have selected the FCS Group to perform our Fire Services Study and we expect the report to be completed by the end of the year. There will be public participation included in the process which will be announced on our website and through our mailing list.

Congratulations to the Black Diamond Historical Museum for making the "Centerfold" of the Seattle Times Pacific NW Magazine.



In closing, I want to thank our Emergency Management Director Kevin Esping and IS Manager Rob Reed who kept the city moving forward during this time by installing safety measures in offices to keep our work place healthy for those employees who came into the office and for securing the equipment and software to allow so many employees to work remotely. I appreciate all the staff and their flexibility during this challenging time and for adopting new processes to keep city services moving forward. Below are updates from the City departments regarding their changes in how we do business.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Mayor's Message	1-4
Honoring Sabre	4
Operation Dry Water	4
Police Department News	5
Stormwater Education - Take Our Survey	5
Firework Information	6
City of Black Diamond Contact Information	6
City Council and Planning Commission Meeting Information	6
Community Contact Information	6

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

7/3 ~ Independence Day
9/7 ~ Labor Day

Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 1

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CH-CH-CHANGES

As many of you have noticed, there have been many changes to how we work in the permitting and planning office. First off, we are not open and our phones are not being answered by a live person. No doubt, this has been frustrating for citizens trying to apply for permits or to simply get needed information. Hopefully, this information will alleviate some of the questions about how to contact and work with us during these strange times.



Even though you cannot physically come into the office to ask questions, we are available during regular business hours to assist you. The most direct way is through email. If you are not sure who you need to reach, the City has a general information email box set up. You can find this by going to the City of Black Diamond main webpage and clicking the "Contact Us" link on the side of the page.

If you do know the department of the person you need to contact, then from that main webpage select the "Departments" link on the side of the page. Every staff member's name and a link to their email is available on the Department pages. While our webpage contains a lot of useful information, there is no doubt it can be improved, so rest assured we are working on launching a new webpage which will be more comprehensive and provide the information our citizens and customers are seeking.

Currently, all phone calls go into a phone messaging system that is monitored by City Hall and routed to the appropriate staff person to address. We understand that it may seem like phone calls take too long to return, however, please understand we are working to improve our response time and respond as soon as possible once we have the correct staff person identified to address your issue.

While the City is "open for business" on a limited basis, both Community Development and Public Works are accepting and processing permit applications and also holding virtual meetings with one another and community members seeking assistance.

We now have a digital permit application process. Also on the City's main webpage, you will notice in large letters, "Apply for a Permit, Click Here". This link takes you to our online permit portal where you will find instructions and forms to make an online permit application. If you have questions or need help, please reach out through the Community Development Department or Public Works staff links and someone will email or call you to help you through the process.



The City can accept online payments through our website for permits and all other services. We also have a payment drop box located in the parking lot near the Community Development and Public Works building. Mailing a check remains as a third payment option. Our PO Box is 599, Black Diamond WA, 98010.

Managing expectations. The most difficult part of all of these changes is that there is a learning curve for everyone and it takes more time. We (the staff) are getting used to working remotely and are successfully processing new applications. In fact, we are buried in permit applications. So, please understand that permit turnarounds have slowed down from in the past. Compliance with the Governor's early Proclamations did not allow the City to accept new applications and we are now working through a serious backlog. Your patience during this time is appreciated. We will continue to work hard and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

FACILITIES/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There has been a lot of change in the way we all do business during this pandemic. Our Facilities Coordinator Kevin Esping who also serves as the City's Emergency Management Director spent a lot more of his time on the Emergency Management side. The first couple months of the pandemic he was pretty much assigned to EOC responsibilities full time. He has now transitioned back to about 80% of normal routine activities with about 20% going to Covid-19. The following is a list, in random order, of how things are different and what steps are being taken to protect employees and the public. Facilities shifted into the emergency management role to:

Physically rearranging entrances, counters, offices to provide separation for essential workers, and the public.

- Installed plexiglass barriers to protect employees and public at the counter.
- Re-arranged furniture to accommodate less public access to counters.
- Re-arranged offices to allow for better social distancing in the buildings.
- Installed new toilet seat covers with lids to reduce potential spread of the virus.
- Installed Drop boxes to reduce contact with the public and interoffice contact.
- Assisted with the development of new operation policies and provided for the logistics of work spacing, working remotely, assigned vehicles, and informational signs for the public and staff.



Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 2

Provide for personal protection equipment and cleaning and disinfection supplies.

- Wearing a mask when near staff or the public.
- Constant procurement of supplies, ie: masks, soaps, hand sanitizer, gloves.
- Keeping employees stocked up on PPE and other necessary supplies.
- Constantly wiping down surfaces, doors, machinery after use.
- Mail delivery between buildings so less people involved in contacting each other.
- Supply deliveries for staff working at home.
- Flexing hours to do repairs, maintenance and services during hours when building are empty.
- Assigned city vehicles to individuals to limit exposure.



Coordination with emergency managers, county, state and federal agencies and information sharing.

- Posting of public notices at city buildings as information changes.
- Daily zoom meetings with King County Emergency Management and Public Health.
- Weekly zoom meetings with City Management.
- Navigating the FEMA reimbursement processes.
- Navigating the State processes.
- Monitoring status of Community Center, Fire Department and local business.



As we move forward, it is imperative to look at how we can be more flexible and work smarter doing some of the things we are doing now. I have always been a proponent of trying new things and not just being stuck in the "This is the way we have always done it attitude." We are now being forced to adapt to this change and become creative in how we provide services to the public. All staff is committed on supporting one another keeping in mind what we are here for? "SERVE THE PUBLIC"

ADMINISTRATION (CLERK/FINANCE/IT)

City Hall remains closed to the public however the administration staff continue to work and is there to assist you by phone or email. During this time, the City has not been shutting off utilities for non-payment or adding late fees or shut off fees to customer utility bills. In the coming weeks we will be working on a plan to help get those accounts in arrears caught up. The Finance department continues to provide all essential functions to keep the finances of the city up to date and in good standing.



City Council meetings resumed in late April and have been held via Zoom. Our IS Manager was able to purchase all the needed equipment and programs so that City business, not only for Council but all city departments could continue to move forward. The City Clerk who is also responsible for Human Resources was very busy at the beginning of the pandemic creating new policies to be put in place for staff and negotiating those policies with the unions.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CHANGES

During this time there have been many changes to our department operations. To name a few please see below:

- Due to the closure of city offices, CPL's (newly issued) can't be accepted due to fingerprinting requirements. As soon as the city re-opens these services will resume. CPL renewals are being accepted, please call records at 360-851-4450 and they can direct you on how to submit your renewal application.
- When circumstances permit, officers are taking phone reports in lieu of personal contact.
- All in person training was cancelled since COVID-19.
- New decontamination protocols in the event of a known exposure.
- Although most jails were not accepting misdemeanor bookings in March/April and May, most have resumed normal operation.



MUNICIPAL COURT

Black Diamond Municipal Court is open and doing business as an essential service, but the court office is closed to walk in business. We are holding most court hearings over the zoom court platform, livestreaming each court hearing on YouTube. Ex-parte motions are also being reviewed by the court daily. Select hearings are being held in person when necessary. Contact the court at court@blackdiamondwa.gov, 360-851-4490 or PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010. Please see our website <http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Court/court.html> for the most recent emergency order which includes current rules and policies for the court.

Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 3

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works did not have the option of staying home and staying safe in the shut down. The crews needed to deal with safety issues in the streets, trouble shoot issues with the sewer pump stations, monitor the many facets of the water system. The crews adjusted to new safety protocols of working alone, staggering and disinfecting common space, and wearing personal protective gear when they had to work together. The environment, public health and public safety was protected through shut down while keeping our staff safe while continuing to provide essential services to our community.

As you can see from the above department reports there have been many changes to city operations. Should you have any questions, I encourage you to contact me, your Councilmembers or City staff.

Stay safe and healthy, *Mayor Carol Benson*



Police Department News

Honoring Sabre



It is with great sadness the Black Diamond Police Department lost one of its finest, retired K9 Sabre.

Officer Chatterson was Black Diamond's first officer assigned to a K9 position, where, for 6 years, he and Sabre worked endlessly to do their part in keeping our community safe. Sabre came to the Black Diamond Police Department in 2007. During that time, Officer Chatterson and Sabre participated in parades, community events, demonstrations to our school children, as well as serving as one of the best narcotic handler teams in the area with 380 K9 applications, and 309 actual drug finds.

Sabre retired in 2012 and remained a part of the Chatterson family. Sabre, you will be missed!



ON THE ROAD OR THE WATER, YOU'RE HEADED NOWHERE FAST OPERATION DRY WATER WHILE IMPAIRED.



The Black Diamond Police Department joins the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and others in the annual [Operation Dry Water](#) campaign, a coordinated campaign to educate boaters about the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During the *Operation Dry Water* three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, July 3-5, boaters will see an increase in outreach, education and enforcement surrounding boating under the influence.

Alcohol use continues to be the leading known contributing factor in recreational boater deaths and a leading contributor in boating accidents. The mission of *Operation Dry Water* is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities on the water. Our marine unit will be out educating boaters on ways to stay safe while on the water, which includes always boating sober and avoiding any alcohol- or drug-use prior to and while boating.

"Getting out on the water over the 4th of July weekend is an enjoyable and relaxing activity for many. We have partnered with *Operation Dry Water* to help keep boaters safe by educating operators and passengers on the dangers of boating under the influence," said Chief Kiblinger "Staying sober while boating is a critical part of boating safely. Boaters should also take a boating safety education course prior to getting on the water and everyone on board should always wear a life jacket while near or on the water. We want all boaters to enjoy their time on the water in a way that allows everyone to return home safely."

In 2019, law enforcement officers across the nation issued a total of 9,524 citations and removed 563 impaired operators from our nation's waterways. The Black Diamond Police Department is urging boaters to enjoy this boating season and help keep everyone safe by not drinking alcohol while on the water, or operating a boat after you have consumed alcohol. Use of both legal and illegal drugs also impairs judgment and reaction time and makes it dangerous to operate any vessel.

Boaters can learn more about boating under the influence by visiting operationdrywater.org. Operation Dry Water is coordinated nationally by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.

MESSAGE TO OUR CITIZENS

I am honored to have worked for this City for over 22 years. We are blessed to live and work in a community that truly supports each other. I could write pages of stories showing positive impacts made because we have worked together and cases we have successfully prosecuted because of your involvement and care in our community. Because of your involvement, we live in one of the safest communities in King County. We have been successful because of the relationships we have formed. When I was hired in 1997, our Chief during that time embedded the value of community policing into every officer. This continues to be our foundation through every call we respond to, every traffic stop we make, and every encounter we have with our citizens and business owners. Our job is SERVICE to our community!



When I watched the video from Minneapolis, I had to turn away several times. During my career, I have watched thousands of videos of police interactions. This was by far the worst I have ever seen. I commend the swift action of the Minneapolis police chief in terminating all four officers- either because they participated in this use of force, or because they failed to stop it. I want to assure you that we hold our officers to the highest standards and investigate every use of force that occurs. Every year we conduct an audit of our use of force incidents for any needed training, trends, or policy modifications. In 2019, of the 6560 interactions, we had 11 use of force reports: a use of force rate of .091%.

There is no way to rationalize, justify, explain, or comprehend the actions of the Minneapolis officers, especially the officer who held Mr. Floyd down with his knee on his neck, until he died. None of what you saw was proper police procedure; this was not an acceptable application of training; this was not justified; and this was not humane.

Police officers are people and we get it wrong sometimes. Just like any other profession in this country, there are bad apples. But in the millions of interactions between officers and citizens each day in this country, most of the time we get it right. As Paul Harvey famously said, 'Buried under the frost is the fact: Less than one-half of one percent of policemen misfit the uniform. That's a better average than you'd find among clergy!' We are not at war with our community, despite what you see in the media. We have a job to do, often a job no one else wants to do, and we do it to the best of our ability every single day. As peace officers, we understand no one likes to get a traffic ticket and being arrested can be humiliating. Our actions cause some people not to like us- we get it and we live with it because we believe we are serving the community and helping to make it stronger by taking a unified stance against crime, violence, disorder and disregard for the law. We enforce the laws your elected representatives pass. We understand sometimes people do not like it- that is okay. This incident in Minneapolis has once again damaged the relationship between the community and the police, as well as endangering the lives of every peace officer because we rely on the voluntary cooperation and support of citizens. Without your support, we are not safe. We cannot do this job without you.



During the last two weeks, we have felt your support. Please know, we value these relationships and are blessed to be a part of this community. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or issues you may have.

Chief Jamey Kiblinger



Take Our Survey - Stormwater Education!

Please take a few minutes to take our online survey regarding stormwater. This survey shouldn't take more than 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey can be found at the following address: <https://kwiksurveys.com/s/16mqWfZ3>, or just scan the QR code. The survey will close on Friday, July 24th at 4:30 p.m.



4th of July Firework Information

It will soon be time to celebrate our Independence Day and we would like to remind everyone to have a safe and fun Fourth of July. Following are a few safety measures that will help prevent serious injury or property damage:



- Make sure the area where you are lighting fireworks is free of other combustible material.
- Be certain everyone watching the display is in a safe area away from danger.
- To prevent potential fires, have a bucket of water readily available in which to place used fireworks after they have cooled.
- Children should not be allowed to light fireworks and should be under constant supervision.

As a reminder, per Black Diamond Municipal Code section 8.04.100, fireworks can only be discharged in Black Diamond between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight on July 4th.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

July 2nd @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
 July 9th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
 July 16th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
 August 6th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
 August 13th @ 6p.m. (Work Session)
 August 20th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
 September 3rd @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
 September 10th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
 September 17th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

July 7th @ 6 p.m.
 August 11th @ 6 p.m.
 September 8th @ 6 p.m.

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 25510 Lawson Street unless otherwise specified.

Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Work Sessions are held the second Thursday of each month starting at 6 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 6 p.m. of each month. If you'd like to be added to the Council Agenda or Planning Commission Agenda Distribution List, please email your request to: info@blackdiamondwa.gov.

Recently added Ordinances can be found on the City Clerks webpage at: www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk.

Please contact the Clerk's office for more information 360-851-4564

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- * **Community Center 360-886-1011**
- * **Post Office 360-886-9429**
- * **Museum/Historical Society 360-886-2142**
- * **Library 360-886-1105**

Administration

Mayor Carol Benson

City Clerk/HR Manager

Brenda L. Martinez, MMC

Community Development

Barbara Kincaid

MDRT/Economic Development

Andrew Williamson

Public Works

Seth Boettcher

Finance

Mayene Miller

Police

Chief Jamey Kiblinger

CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND CONTACTS

CITY HALL (Administration, Public Works, Community Development and MDRT/Economic Development)

Physical Address.....24301 Roberts Drive

Mailing Address.....P.O. Box 599

Phone Numbers:

Main Line.....360-851-4500

Community Development.....360-851-4447

MDRT/Economic Development.....360-851-4448

Public Works.....360-851-4446

(Call the main line for any Public Works emergencies and use prompts)

Fax Number (for all departments listed above).....360-851-4501

MUNICIPAL COURT :

Physical Address.....25510 Lawson Street

Mailing AddressP.O. Box 599

Phone Number360-851-4490

Fax Number360-851-4491

Physical Address.....25510 Lawson Street

Mailing Address P.O. Box 309

Phone Numbers (non-emergencies)360-851-4450

(EMERGENCIES)911

Fax Number360-851-4451

Phone Number (non-emergencies)253-735-0284

(EMERGENCIES)911

FIRE DEPARTMENT: