



Quarterly Newsletter

January, February, March 2021



Mayor's Message

City Council Officials

Mayor, Carol Benson

Councilmembers:

Tamie Deady
Melissa Oglesbee
Chris Wisnoski
Erin Stout
Kristiana de Leon
Bernie O'Donnell
Steven Paige

Welcome 2021! As we start this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the following announcements and updates.



City Remains Closed to Public – City offices continue to remain closed to the public due to the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order. Should you need assistance, City staff is available during normal business hours Monday-Friday to assist you. Customer service remains a top priority so please reach out to them should you need assistance at 360-851-4500.

Black Diamond is GROWING and so is the need for more City Hall Space - That growth means City staff is very busy trying to keep up with the increased demand for project review, permitting, inspection, oversight, and enforcement, as well as preparing for and setting up new utility accounts. As the City grows in population, utility customers, miles of pipe, roads, and projects, the City must hire additional staff to provide for the increased services and workload.

For the last 13 years the City has operated out of:

- 1) Half of the lower floor of the old library building across from the Dinner House on Roberts Drive
- 2) Two modular offices at the back of the parking lot
- 3) The court and police building on Lawson Street

When the City is finally able to bring the staff back after the COVID pandemic there will not be enough space to accommodate the additional staff needed to meet the service and workload demands of our growing City. Additionally, the lease is near expiration for the current modular units which are beyond their design life and are experiencing leaks, heating, and general maintenance issues.

Currently, office space is in rare supply in Black Diamond. Fortunately, this summer the City's Landlord at the Roberts Drive property contacted me with an offer to lease the entire front building at a reasonable price, the City currently leases just one quarter of the building. A lease was



drafted, and the council discussed the matter over several council meetings this fall. The Council agreed to a 5-year lease of the entire City Hall building and approved a \$300,000 budget to cover exit fees for the modular units, needed building improvements and the moving of computer network, files, furniture and equipment.

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City Offices will be closed on the following days:

1/1 ~ New Year's Day
1/18 ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
2/15 ~ Presidents' Day

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The old modular buildings in the back of the parking lot will be moved out. The Mayor's office, Community Development, Public Works Administration, and the Master Plan Review Team (MDRT) work groups will move to the main City Hall building with the Clerk and Finance departments sometime next year. The City will be hiring an architect to assist with the planning and design of needed tenant improvements to the interior of the building to insure the most effective and efficient use of the space.

The Council is considering the long term needs of the City and is exploring options for the future of the City offices, such as is it best to continue leasing space, or to build when the 5-year lease is up. Some disruption to services can be expected during the tenant improvements and the BIG MOVE next year, but only for a short time, during the move and relocation of computer networks.

Welcome New Councilmember – In October, City Council appointed Bernie O'Donnell to fill the vacancy of Council position #6. Bernie is a great addition to the Council, and I look forward to working with him.



Community Development Director Transitions – Community Development Director Barbara Kincaid has accepted a position with another organization. She has done a great job for the City of Black Diamond during her time here and we wish her success in her new position. While it is hard to say goodbye to Barb, we are excited to announce that the City has hired a new Community Development Director, Mona Davis. Mona started with the City in mid-November and we were fortunate to be able to have her work alongside Barb for a period to ensure a smooth transition. Mona comes to the City with

many years of experience in the planning field and we are thrilled that she is now part of our Black Diamond team.



Planning Commission Vacancies – One way to get involved in your Community is to volunteer on various boards and commissions. Currently the Planning Commission has two vacancies. If you are an individual who resides in the City for at least one hundred eighty days each calendar year, or who owns a business with a physical presence within the city, and are interested in serving on this important Commission I encourage you to submit an application. The vacancy announcement and application form can be found on the City's website at http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/public_notices.html

2021 Operating Budget – On November 30th the City Council passed the City's Operating Budget. Once again, the focus was to prepare a budget that addresses our current needs, while at the same time being mindful of future needs. You can read more about the budget on the Finance Department's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.gov.



New Equipment for the Black Diamond Community Gym – Earlier this year the City received a \$5,000 Youth Sports Grant from King County to purchase some equipment for our Community Gym. The City was able to purchase a new basketball score board, a pickleball set, a volleyball net and tension straps, a Kettler table tennis table, and a Speedminton set, just to name a few.

IAVMP Water Quality Grant - When Council adopted the Invasive Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) on February 20, 2020, it made the City eligible to apply for a State Department of Ecology (DOE) Grant for invasive plants in Lake Sawyer. The Lake Sawyer Community Club (LSCC) has graciously offered to provide the grant matching funds. Since that time, I have been working with King County DOE and the Lake Sawyer Community Club to accumulate the necessary documents and information to apply for the grant. I am happy to announce, we completed and filed the grant application on December 8, 2020. The results of the grant application will be available early next year.

COVID-19 Grant Assistance Update - Black Diamond was fortunate to receive two Federal COVID 19 Commerce CARES assistance grants totaling \$213,650 which assisted with responding to the sudden unexpected effects of the virus.

This financial assistance allowed Black Diamond to provide \$70,741 to 80 Black Diamond residents for basic rent or utility assistance. Cheryl Hanson, Director of the Black Diamond Community Center, administered this Hardship Assistance Grant program and reported that the needs were so great that she was brought to tears when she heard of the difficult choices and hardships our families were forced to make during this difficult time. She expressed her thanks and gratefulness for this relief effort that helped so many Black Diamond residents.

Of the funds available, \$7,783.94 of the grant funds was used to purchase the necessary masks, gloves, disinfectants, and safety uniforms needed for our employees to safely continue processing city business activities.

With all City meetings and Court proceedings going virtual, the balance of the grant of \$135,116.06 was used to provide the necessary processes and policies that the City needed to operate in the new telecommuting world. The technology required to make telecommuting possible city hall was often overwhelming. Rob Reed, our IS Manager, deserves our gratitude for the tireless effort he put in to deter-



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mine the new complex systems and computer hardware, software, laptops and cell phones needed to allow the majority of city staff to seamlessly provide city services while working at home. This remote processing was a major change for Black Diamond and other cities as well. It has brought about changes in the way we do business. We are grateful for this change to telecommuting that will no doubt have lasting benefits for the city in the future.

In closing, I want to thank city staff for all their hard work, and I appreciate the support of Council and our citizens as we continue to navigate through this difficult time. I hope 2021 is a better year for us all. I urge you to continue to be involved in this great community, and should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, a Councilmember, or city staff.

Stay safe and healthy,

Mayor Carol Benson



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Volunteer Opportunity

The Black Diamond Police Department welcomes the community to participate in the Volunteer Marine Patrol. The patrol supplements the law enforcement efforts on Lake Sawyer and enhances relationships with the community. The program will be launched in the Summer of 2021. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Commander Martinez at 360-851-4450.

All Volunteers *must*:

- ◆ Be at least 18 years old.
- ◆ Complete a volunteer application.
- ◆ Satisfactorily pass a personal background check and have no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude.
- ◆ Possess good moral character and a positive attitude.
- ◆ Pass an oral interview.



Congratulations!

The Black Diamond Police Department would like to announce the promotion of Officer Kamal Shariff to the rank of Sergeant! He has been a Police Officer for just under 10 years and brings the experience, knowledge, and skills to continue to push the vision and mission of the department. Please extend a congratulations to him when you see him patrolling by car and bike in our community!

VEHICLE PROWL PREVENTION

Preventing Vehicle Prowls

Vehicle prowls are one of the most common and preventable crimes. The majority of vehicle prowls and thefts from motor vehicles are easily preventable and avoidable by following these simple steps.

Secure your vehicle. This includes rolling up all windows, locking all doors, trunks, hatches, bed-mounted tool boxes, and canopies.

Don't leave items of value in your vehicle. Items to remove would be:

- 1) Bank and ATM statements
- 2) CDs and portable CD players
- 3) Cell phones
- 4) Checkbooks
- 5) Credit Cards
- 6) Jewelry
- 7) Laptop
- 8) Mail
- 9) Wallets and/or purses
- 10) Keys (even if they are not for the vehicle)



Witnessing a Vehicle Prowl

If you witness a vehicle prowling in progress **do not confront the prowler**. Call 9-1-1 and report it to the police. If able to do so, get a good description of the prowler, including:

- 1) Anything that would make them stand out
- 2) Clothing (hat, shirt and pant color, gloves, shoes)
- 3) Direction of travel
- 4) Height
- 5) Weight

Don't leave anything in your vehicle that you do not want stolen if it should get prowled. Remember, a good rule of thumb is "when in doubt, take it out."



**seatbelt
before driving.**



**helmet
before game.**



**mask
before going out.**





NEWLY ADDED ORDINANCES

- 20-1148 - Amending Black Diamond Municipal Code Section 8.24.220 Relating to Moorage and Anchorage Restrictions on Lake Sawyer
- 20-1149 - Amending 2020 Salary Schedule to Add the Senior Planner as a Funded Position.
- 20-1150 - Amending Black Diamond Municipal Code 15.24, Flood Damage Prevention Code, to Comply with FEMA Requirements
- 20-1151 - Adopting Revised 2020 Salary Schedule
- 20-1152 - Adopting Percentage Property Tax Increase for 2021
- 20-1153 - Adopting Total Property Tax Dollars for 2021 Budget
- 20-1154 - Adopting Budget for Calendar Year 2021
- 20-1155 - Amending the 2020 Budget

Administration

Mayor Carol Benson

City Clerk/HR Manager

Brenda L. Martinez, MMC

Community Development

Mona Davis

MDRT/Economic Development

Andrew Williamson

Public Works

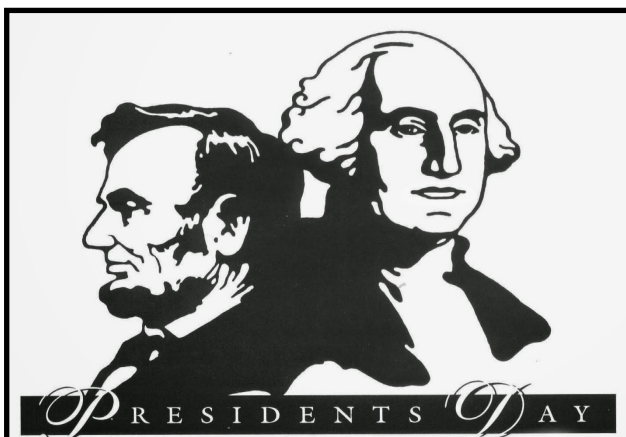
Seth Boettcher

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 & Mailing Address.....25510 Lawson Street

Phone Number360-851-4490

Fax Number360-851-4491

POLICE DEPARTMENT :

Physical Address.....25510 Lawson Street

Mailing Address P.O. Box 309

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

(EMERGENCIES)911

Fax Number360-851-4451

FIRE DEPARTMENTPhone Number (non-emergencies)253-735-0284
(EMERGENCIES)911

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 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. Please contact the Clerk's office for more information 360-851-4564 or check the City Clerks webpage at:

www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- * January 7th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
- * January 14th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
- * January 21st @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
- * February 4th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
- * February 11th @ 6p.m. (Work Session)
- * February 18th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
- * March 4th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)
- * March 11th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)
- * March 11th @ 7 p.m. (Town Hall Meeting)
- * March 18th @ 7 p.m. (Regular Meeting)

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

- * January 12th @ 6 p.m.
- * February 9th @ 6 p.m.
- * March 9th @ 6 p.m.

Typically meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 25510 Lawson Street unless otherwise specified. *However, due to Covid-19, all meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice.*

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.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- * **Community Center**
360-886-1011
(Mon. thru Fri. 8-4)
- * **Post Office**
360-886-9429
(Mon. thru Fri. 9-5)
- * **Museum/Historical Society**
360-886-2142
(Thurs. 9-4, Sat and Sun 12-3)
- * **Library**
360-886-1105
(Mon. thru Thurs. 10-9 and Sat. 10-5)