



The City Connection

Mayor's Message



City Council Official
Mayor, Carol Benson

Councilmembers:

Tamie Deady
Trish Stallard
Therron Smith
Leih Mulvihill
Kristiana de Leon
Bernie O'Donnell
Debbie Page

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City Offices
will be closed on the
following days:

1/17 ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
2/21 ~ Presidents' Day



As we say goodbye to 2021 and welcome 2022, I reflect with dismay on how the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the harsh reality that we are still struggling to find a normalcy in our day to day lives, at home and at work. I don't think anyone anticipated that we would be here at this point in time. It has had far reaching hardships for many and has also changed the way we do business. We are all in this together and I want to personally thank you for your efforts in keeping our community safe during this pandemic and I hope 2022 brings us some much-needed peace.

Even with the pandemic, the City endeavored to find a way to conduct business as routinely as possible. We have been very busy in 2021 and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the following announcements and updates.

COVID-19 Grant Assistance - Black Diamond was fortunate to receive federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Among other things it provides for direct federal payments to local government entities to be used in support of efforts to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This money is currently available for use by the City at least until December 31, 2024. The City Council determined that it would be in the best interest of the community to distribute \$100,000 of its Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) payments to Black Diamond residents who are financially suffering due to the COVID-19 emergency, through establishment of a new ARPA COVID-19 Economic Hardship Assistance grant program. These economic grants will go to Black Diamond residents to assist with rent and utility payments. Once again, the City has partnered with the Black Diamond Community Center to distribute these grants. Please contact the Community Center directly at 360-886-1011 for information on these economic grants.



City Offices Remain Open to Public by Appointment – City offices continue to remain open to the public by appointment only. 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 by phone or to schedule an appointment at 360-851-4500.



Welcome New Councilmembers – On November 23, after the November election was certified Therron Smith was sworn into City Council Position #3. Trish Stallard will be sworn in to Position #2 and will begin her four-year term on January 1, 2022. Both Therron and Trish are great additions to the Council, and I look forward to working with them.

I also want to thank our two outgoing Councilmembers Melissa Oglesbee and Chris Wisnoski for their time and service to the citizens of Black Diamond.

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Hybrid Council Meetings – In November the City was able to start holding hybrid Council meetings. These meetings have been a success and I want to thank our IT department for their tireless effort in designing, securing, and installing the necessary equipment to make this happen. These hybrid meetings will continue in 2022 for Council's regular business meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, with the regular work sessions on the 2nd Thursday remaining a zoom meeting only. All other meetings such as the Planning Commission will remain virtual zoom meetings until further notice.



2022 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 webpage at <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/finance>.

Town Hall Meeting – On March 10, 2022, the City will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom. Town Hall meetings are held twice a year on the second Thursday in the months of March and October. I encourage you to attend and talk with your Councilmembers on any concern, issue, or questions you may have.

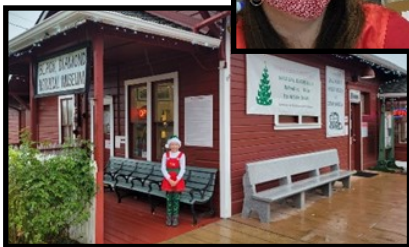
Cemetery Advisory Board and Civil Service Commission Vacancies – One way to get involved in your community is to volunteer on various boards and commissions. Currently the Cemetery Advisory Board and the Civil Service Commission have one vacancy each. The Civil Service Commission meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. If you are interested in serving on this Commission and are a US citizen who resides in the city for at least three years immediately preceding such appointment and are an elector in King County and are interested in serving on this important Commission, I encourage you to



consider submitting an application. The Cemetery Advisory Board meets periodically and if you are a registered voter of the city or a resident of adjacent territory who has a historical linkage to the cemetery and are interested in serving on this board, I encourage you to consider submitting an application. Applications are being accepted through January 31, 2021. The application form can be found on the City's website at https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif306/f/uploads/commission_application_1.pdf



Hometown Christmas – Saturday, December 4th was the Hometown Christmas in the historic downtown area of Black Diamond. This event was filled with fun activities for the whole family, and it was nice to see so many out enjoying it. I want to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work to put on this event - it couldn't happen without them. This is a free event and if you couldn't attend this year, I encourage you to mark your calendar for next December - you won't be disappointed.



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 pandemic. I hope 2022 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, Councilmembers, or city staff.



Stay safe and healthy,

Mayor Carol Benson

Fire Department News – New Fire Truck for the City

The City recently received our new fire truck and the long-standing tradition of the “push-in” ceremony was held on October 29, 2021, Fire Station 98.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS



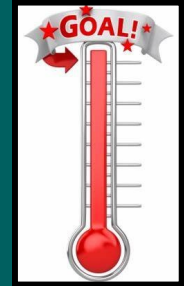
SKATEPARK COMMUNITY MEETING

We heard the community's design ideas for the new skatepark last summer and now it's time to share some design concepts with you! Please join Grindline Skateparks and City staff to learn more about this exciting project and review conceptual plans.

DATE: Tuesday, January 18, 2022

TIME: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers
25510 Lawson Street



Donations are being accepted to help build the skatepark! If you would like to make a monetary contribution towards building the skatepark, the donation form and information can be found on the City's website www.blackdiamondwa.gov or by scanning this QR code.



Thank you for helping the City reach its goal! Keep an eye on the thermometer at the skatepark to track the funding progress.

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT



2022 Utility Rate News

Beginning in 2022, the maximum transaction amount for online credit card utility payments has been raised to \$400.00 (previously \$200.00)! The credit card utility payment transaction fee will only increase by five cents to \$3.00 per payment (previously \$2.95). This change is being made with a goal of helping customers spend less in transaction fees. For example, currently if a customer has a utility balance of \$230.00, to pay the amount in full, they would have to make

two payments, and therefore pay two transaction fees of \$2.95 each, costing them \$5.90 in fees. In 2022, this amount will be able to be paid in full with only one payment, and therefore only one \$3.00 transaction fee, saving the customer \$2.90! Customers can also pay via EFT without a maximum transaction cap, with a transaction fee of only \$.95 cents! See our website at www.blackdiamondwa.gov to make online utility payments or schedule emailed monthly utility statements.

King County Sewer Rate Increase

King County has increased their monthly sewer rate by \$1.90 per month, per ERU, from \$47.37 to \$49.27, effective January 1, 2022. This increase will show on customers' January 2022 statement. This rate is charged to all King County utility customers to help pay for transferring waste from city limits to the King County Transfer station in Seattle where King County Metro sanitizes waste to protect our water ways before it is released to Puget Sound. City utility rates for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater have not increased.

Lifeline Utility Discount Program

The City of Black Diamond offers a Lifeline Utility Discount Program for low-income seniors 62+ residence, and for low income permanently disabled customers. After approval, Residence can receive a 50% discount on city billed utilities. For information on the city Lifeline Utility Discount Program, please visit our website at www.blackdiamondwa.gov.



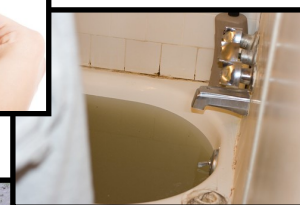
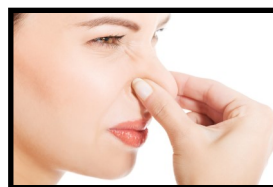
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Stormwater Education – Septic Systems

Have you ever had a problem arise that ended up going away by just ignoring it? It doesn't happen as much as we hope it will. Sometimes we hope a problem will just go away so we don't have to spend money to investigate the problem. But if we continue to ignore a problem that just won't go away, the costs will rise as we continue to ignore it. It is important to investigate a potential problem.

For those of you with septic systems, we need to make sure they're working properly so we don't end up with a bigger problem. While we don't have a "Check Septic" light that comes on in front of the toilet when there's a problem, there are some things you can look for if it's been awhile since your septic system was inspected/maintained (from the Dept. of Health - <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WastewaterManagement/SepticSystem/SignsofFailure>):

- Is water or sewage backing up into drains/toilets/sinks?
- Are drains draining slowly?
- Are there gurgling sounds in the plumbing system?
- Are there standing water/damp spots near your septic tank or drainfield?
- Are there bad odors around the septic tank or drainfield?
- Is there bright green, spongy lush grass over the septic tank or drainfield, even during dry weather?
- Are there algal blooms in nearby waterways?



If your septic system is failing, untreated sewage can enter into City waterways, either directly (if you live on a waterway) or indirectly (entering into the City's stormwater system). This will contaminate the waterways with pathogens and other dangerous contaminants. This is a health hazard and can cause many human diseases, as well as harm plants and animals.



Just like it is good to perform routine maintenance on your car to prevent problems, the same holds true for your septic system. The Department of Health recommends inspecting your system annually and pumping as needed (typically every 3-5 years). Avoid using excess water and watch what you put down the drain and flush down the toilet. By routinely inspecting and maintaining your septic system, you can avoid costly repairs in the future as well as protect your health, your neighbor's health, and keep our environment healthy. If you don't know where the components of your septic system are, you can try searching

King County records here: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/piping/onsite-sewage-systems/records/as-built-drawings.aspx>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

welcome!

The Black Diamond Police Department would like to welcome Officer Andy Rohrbach and Officer Lacey DelValle. Both officers bring years of experience and expertise with them. Officer Rohrbach comes to us from the Issaquah Police Department where he was a Sergeant while Officer Del Valle comes to us from the Renton Police Department.

Body Cameras

The Black Diamond Police Department will soon be wearing body cameras. This was initiated by Chief Jamey Kiblinger to show transparency in the department. "We presented the purchase of the cameras to the city because we want to be transparent in our daily interactions and protect our officers during these interactions", said Commander Brian Martinez. The cameras will also improve officer safety and help provide factual evidence.



NEWLY ADDED ORDINANCES

21-1165 Amending Title 3 of the BDMC to Establish a New Ch. 3.80 called "Transportation Impact Fees".

21-1166 2022 Property Tax Dollar Amount Increase and Percentage.

21-1167 Setting the Estimated Assessed Valuation and Maximum Property Tax Dollar Amount 2022.

21-1168 Adopting the Budget for the Calendar Year 2022

21-1169 Adopting a 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update

21-1170 Amending the Budget for the Calendar Year 2021

Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 pm Work Sessions are held the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 6 pm of each month.

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

www.blackdiamondwa.gov/home/pages/minutes-agendas.

If you'd like to be added to the Agenda Distribution List for the City Council and/or Planning Commission, please email your request to: info@blackdiamondwa.gov.

Regular City Council meetings are the only meetings at the moment being held both in person and via Zoom. All other meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND CONTACTS

CITY HALL

(Admin., Public Works, Comm. Devel. and MDRT/Econ. Devel.)

Physical Address.....24301 Roberts Dr.

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

Phone Numbers: Main Line.....360-851-4500

Comm. Devel.....360-851-4447

MDRT/Econ. Devel....360-851-4448

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

For any Public Works emergencies, call the main line and use the prompts

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Physical Address.....25510 Lawson St.

Mailing Address P.O. Box 309

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

(EMERGENCIES).....911

Fax Number.....360-851-4451

MUNICIPAL COURT:

Physical & Mailing Address.....25510 Lawson St.

Phone Number.....360-851-4490

Fax Number.....360-851-4491

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

(EMERGENCIES)911

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Jan. 11th - 6 pm (Regular)

Feb. 8th @ 6 pm (Regular)

Mar. 8th @ 6 pm (Regular)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jan. 6th @ 7 pm (Regular)

Jan. 13th @ 6 pm (Work Session)

Jan. 20th @ 7 pm (Regular)

Feb. 3rd @ 7 pm (Regular)

Feb. 10th @ 6 pm (Work Session)

Feb. 17th @ 7 pm (Regular)

Mar. 3rd @ 7 pm (Regular)

Mar. 10th @ 6 pm (Work Session)

Mar. 10th @ 7 pm (Town Hall)

Mar. 17th @ 7 pm (Regular)

Administration

Mayor Carol Benson

City Clerk/HR Manager

Brenda L. Martinez, MMC

Community

Development

Mona Davis

MDRT/Economic

Development

Andrew Williamson

Public Works

Scott Hanis

Finance

Mayene Miller

Police

Chief Jamey Kiblinger