



# The City Connection



## Mayor's Message

### City Council Officials

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:*

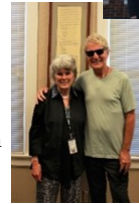
11/11 ~ Veterans Day  
11/24 & 25 ~ Thanksgiving  
12/26 ~ Christmas  
1/2 ~ New Year's

Fall is in the air! The trees are beginning to sport their fall colors, and the daylight hours are getting shorter. It has been a busy time for the city and below are some announcements, events, and updates that I'd like to share with you.

**King County Fair** – On August 14<sup>th</sup> myself and other Mayor's from surrounding communities had the honor of attending opening day of the King County Fair in Enumclaw. I also attended the REO Speedwagon event where they were given the "key" to the City of Enumclaw.



**Labor Days** – It was so nice to see everyone out enjoying themselves at this annual event. This year's theme was "Better Than Ever" and throughout this three-day event there were many activities ranging from



doggie days, the pie baking contest, field games, and vendor booths for all ages to enjoy! On Monday, many people lined the streets to enjoy the parade and the weather was great! If you couldn't come this year, please mark your calendar for next year, it's a fun event for the whole family. I want to share that our Operations & Maintenance Superintendent Jason Pit-



tam was named as Civil Servant of the Year. Jason is a great employee and an asset to our community. Lastly, I want to thank the many volunteers, sponsors, and vendors who gave their time to put on this event, without them events like this would not happen.



**Constitution Week** – On Saturday, September 17, 2022, I was honored to participate in the celebration of Constitution Week at the Black Diamond Museum and presented to them the Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 – 23 as Constitution Week in the City of Black Diamond.

**Town Hall Meetings** - Mark your calendar! On October 13, 2022, the city will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall meetings are held twice a year on the second Thursday in the months of March and October. I encourage you to please join this meeting to talk with your Councilmembers on any concern, issue, or questions you may have.

## Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 1



**Volunteer Opportunities** – One way to get involved in your community is to volunteer on various boards and commissions. Below you will find some volunteer opportunities.

**Planning Commission** – The Planning Commission has one term, Position 1 that expires on December 31, 2022. This Commission prepares and makes recommendations to the City Council on the Comprehensive Plan, and various development regulations that guide the physical development of the City and they typically meet once per month on a Tuesday but may meet more frequently if needed. 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 application form can be found on the City's website at <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/city-clerk/pages/forms-applications>.

**Civil Service Commission** – This Commission has one term, Position 1 that expires on December 31, 2022. This Commission adopts rules and regulations, consistent with State law, for the examination, appointment, demotion, transfer, and promotion of uniformed (Police) personnel. The Commission hears and determines complaints and appeals, with members serving a three-year term. The Commission meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. If you 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 application form can be found on the City's website at <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/city-clerk/pages/forms-applications>.

**Community Gym Ad Hoc Committee** – Recently the City Council adopted Resolution No 22-1497 establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to advise the City Council on improvements to the Community Gymnasium. The City has applied for a grant to make substantial improvements to the Gymnasium and if awarded the Council desires to involve local residents in the process of developing a vision and goals for future improvements and to ensure that any funds spend on improvements will align with the current needs and preferences of the community. Members shall be either a resident or work within the City at the time of their appointment and throughout their term on the committee. Committee members shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. It is anticipated that the term of office shall be less than three (3) years. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please submit an application which can be found on the City's website at <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/city-clerk/pages/forms-applications>.

**Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission** – Ordinance No. 22-1179 adopted a new Chapter 20.09 to the City's Municipal Code and established a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission. The Council finds that it would be beneficial to have this commission for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on various subject as stated in the ordinance. Members of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of three years with the initial appointments serving staggered terms. All members of the commission shall be current residents of, or employees or owners of businesses located in, the City of Black Diamond at the time of appointment and throughout their time on the commission, and shall serve as community stakeholders. In addition, all members of the commission shall have at least a general understanding of the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and obtain, at city expense, a one-day training program from a city-approved training provider within 90 days of appointment. If interested on serving on this commission, I encourage you to submit an application which can be found on the City's website at <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/city-clerk/pages/forms-applications>.

**2023 Operating Budget** - On November 3, I will be filing with Council the 2023 Preliminary Budget. Staff and I have been busy working on this since August and my focus is to present a fiscally responsible budget that is responsive to the needs of the city. This is a very challenging balancing act and one I do not take lightly. We must exercise sound fiscal responsibility by budgeting for current needs all while preparing for the future as much as possible. You can read more about the budget process and dates for public hearings on page 3 of this newsletter.

**Request for Proposals (RFPs)** – The City currently has/had RFPs out on the following projects:



**City Campus** – The City is pleased to offer this opportunity for interested parties to respond to an RFP for the build to suit of a new City Campus that would then be leased to the City with an option to purchase the land and improvements at the end of the leased term. Proposals for this RFP are due October 24, 2022. You may view the RFP on the City's public notice page on the website <https://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/public-notice/pages/2022-public-notice>.

**City Administrator Recruitment** – Recently the city solicited proposals from qualified firms/individuals for City Administrator recruitment services. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience and expertise in executive searches in the public sector. This RFP has closed, and we hope to have a consultant on board in October to start the recruitment process.



## Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 2



**Hometown Christmas** – December 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Downtown Historical District. Please make sure to mark your calendars for this fun event for all ages.

In closing, should you have any concerns or questions I encourage you to reach out to me, your Councilmembers, or city staff.

Stay safe and healthy,

*Mayor Carol Benson*



## News from the Finance Dept.

### City Budget and Calendar for Fiscal Year 2023

All City departments have been busy preparing the City's annual operating budget for 2023. The Operating Budget funds services associated with public safety, public works, parks, planning, permitting and other municipal services.

The budget tells the City's financial story and sets spending targets for the programs and services that City residents receive. During August and September the Finance Department updated 2023 revenue forecasts for the General Fund and other funds using 2022 trends, growth projections and forecast information provided by Municipal Research and Services Center and other agencies.

An update on 2022 budgeted revenue and expenditure trends was reviewed with Council at a work study on September 29th. A summary of proposed 2023 budget totals for all city funds was also presented. Other work studies are scheduled for Council on October 20th and 27th in the Council Chambers.

Public hearings are scheduled for November 3rd, 17th and December 1st. Public input is always welcomed and encouraged. See the budget calendar below and stay up to date at the City's website [www.blackdiamondwa.gov](http://www.blackdiamondwa.gov) or contact the Finance Department at (360) 851-4500 for any questions you may have.

Dates of Future Meetings	City 2023 Planning and Budget Calendar
10/20/2022 – 5:30 pm Special Council Meeting	Work study on the proposed budget for the General Fund
10/27/2022 – 5:30 pm Special Council Meeting	Work study of Public Works and Capital Projects, Misc. budgets
11/03/2022 - 6:00 pm Special Council Meeting	Work study of Revenue Sources and Property Tax Levy
11/03/2022 - 7:00 pm Regular Council Meeting	1st Public Hearing on revenue sources & Property Tax Levy
11/17/2022 - 7:00 pm Regular Council Meeting	2nd Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget
11/17/2022 - 7:00 pm Regular Council Meeting	Adopt Property Tax Ordinances
12/01/2022 - 7:00 pm Regular Council Meeting	Final Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget
12/01/2022 - 7:00 pm Regular Council Meeting	Adoption of the 2023 Budget



## Finance Department ~ continued from page 3

### 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update

Mayor Benson and city staff are currently working on reviewing and updating our six-year Capital Improvement plan (CIP). The CIP planning is a mandate of the Growth Management Act, adopted by Washington State in 1990, and provides an updated supplement to the Capital Facilities portion of the City's Comprehensive Plan.



The update process includes updating the capital projects needed to accommodate anticipated growth, public safety & needed projects to implement policy decisions over the next six years.

This six-year plan is an important fiscal planning tool that identifies the capital expenditures and future revenues for each project, such as street and sidewalk improvements, water line replacement, sewer and stormwater projects, park and recreation projects, trails, police, fire and general government equipment and building capital projects.

An approved CIP is usually a requirement of granting agencies, Public Works or other long-term loans or other funding sources. Sources of funds for the capital projects include State, Federal or local grants, real estate excise taxes (from the sale of homes and property), street, water, wastewater and stormwater charges, gas tax, impact fees, bonds or developer funding.

A preliminary CIP of the capital projects was presented at a council work session on September 8, 2022. A public hearing is planned for October 20 at a regular council meeting and adoption planned for the November 3, 2022, Council meeting. Public comments are welcome and encouraged.

Because the CIP is a plan, rather than a budget, actual spending authorization for the 2023 approved capital projects will be reviewed and approved during the city's 2023 annual budget process. Please check the city website for the CIP update schedule at [www.blackdiamondwa.gov](http://www.blackdiamondwa.gov).

### 2023 Utility Rate News

#### Pass-through King County Sewer Rate Increase

King County has increased their monthly pass-through residential sewer rates \$3.44 per month from \$49.27 to \$52.11 a 5.75% increase effective January 1, 2023. This increase will not show on customers bills until they are mailed out at the end of January 2023 for payments due in February 2023. This rate is charged to all King County utility customers to help pay King County for transferring waste from city limits to the King County Transfer Station in Seattle where King County Metro sanitizes waste to protect our waterways before it is released to Puget Sound. At this time, it's not anticipated that City utility rates for water, sewer, and stormwater will increase for 2023.

Black Diamond continues to offer a Lifeline Utility Discount Program of 50% off City billed water, sewer, and stormwater rates (excludes King County sewer charges). This discount is offered to Black Diamond residents that are low-income seniors 62+ age, for low income permanently disabled residents, and low-income VA determined veterans. In addition, a water rate discount is available for residents receiving in-home kidney dialysis. After application and approval, residence will receive a 50% discount from their city billed utilities. For more information about applying for the Lifeline Utility Discount Program please call 360-851-4500.



## Community Development Department News

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2024 PERIODIC UPDATE COMING SOON!



Between now and December 2024, all King County cities will be updating their Comprehensive Plans. Every county and city in the state is required to conduct a periodic update of its comprehensive plan and development regulations to be up to date with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) to be eligible for grants and loans from certain state infrastructure programs.

The last periodic update to the City's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in May 2019.

The Comprehensive Plan provides the framework for how our community will grow and must evolve over time to be effective. The periodic update in 2024 will be looking at the planning horizon for the next two decades into 2044.

The city is off to a great start! The Planning Commission completed the Housing Action Plan and Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan in 2021, which will guide the Housing and Parks elements of the Comprehensive Plan update. City staff and the Planning Commissioners have also had numerous meetings to discuss various amendments to our current comprehensive plan, such as reviewing the zoning and future land use maps.

The city will be hosting a variety of opportunities for public engagement and participation from the people that live and work in the city. Look for more information coming to our website soon on how you can share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns on the future of Black Diamond!

### POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The 2022 boating season was successful with no injury accidents or drownings. The Black Diamond Police Department spent 103 hours on the water from April to August with 28 ramp inspections and 166 on-water inspections. Of the 166 on-water inspections, 138 passed with 28 failed inspections. Officers also completed 48 hours in marine training and benefited from 18 volunteer hours from our marine volunteer, S. Owens. We are extremely grateful for the assistance and extra set of eyes while we are on the water.



The season did have some challenges with our marine vessel taking on water and sinking on two different occasions. Several mechanical issues were discovered that contributed to the boat taking on water. We are fortunate to have a backup vessel in place for emergencies.

We continue to seek volunteers for next year's marine season. If you are interested, please contact Commander Martinez at [bamartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov](mailto:bamartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov).





## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Oct. 11th @ 6 p.m.  
Nov. 8th @ 6 p.m.  
Dec. 6th @ 6 p.m.



## 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 Clerk's webpage at:

[www.blackdiamondwa.gov/Depts/Clerk](http://www.blackdiamondwa.gov/Depts/Clerk). 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](mailto:info@blackdiamondwa.gov).

Typically meetings are held in the Council Chambers located at 25510 Lawson Street unless otherwise specified. ***All meetings are now being held both in-person and via ZOOM until further notice.***

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Oct. 6th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Oct. 13th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Oct. 20th @ 5:30 p.m. (Special)  
Oct. 20th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Oct. 27th @ 6 p.m. (Special)  
Nov. 3rd @ 6 p.m. (Special)  
Nov. 3rd @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Nov. 10th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Nov. 17th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Dec. 1st @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Dec. 8th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Dec. 15th @ 7 p.m. (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

## NEWLY ADDED ORDINANCES

**22-1178** - Ordinance Adopting New Stormwater Management Regulations and Amending Chapter 14.04 of the Black Diamond Municipal Code

**22-1179** - Ordinance Adding New Chapter 20.09 to BDMC to Establish a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission

**22-1180** - Ordinance Amending Section 2.10.030 of the BDMC Regarding the City Administrator Position

**22-1181** - Ordinance Amending Title 9 of the BDMC Regarding Changes to Criminalizing Protection Order Violations and Adopting a New Chapter 9.97 Regarding Protection Order Violations

## 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