



# The City Connection

## Mayor's Message

### City Council Officials

Mayor, Carol Benson

### Councilmembers:

Tamie Deady  
Brad Douglass  
Therron Smith  
Leih Mulvihill  
Kristiana de Leon  
Bernie O'Donnell  
Debbie Page

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Mayor's Message	1-2
Finance Department News	3
Police Department News	3
Newly Added Ordinances	4
City of Black Diamond Contact Information	4
City Council and Planning Commission Meeting Information	4

### City Offices will be closed on the following days:

1/2 ~ New Years Day  
1/16 ~ Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day  
2/20 ~ Presidents' Day

**Welcome 2023!** Although we continue to struggle with COVID-19, the city has endeavored to find new ways to conduct business and will continue with those new processes as we move forward. We have a great community and I want to thank you for your support of the city and one another during these last few years.

2022 was a busy year for the City and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the following announcements and updates.

**COVID-19 Grant Assistance** – As you may recall, 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. The City 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.



**Welcome New Councilmember** – On November 17, The City Council appointed a new Councilmember due to the resignation of Trish Stallard. Please welcome Brad Douglass to Position No. 2 on the City Council. I look forward to working with him and the other Councilmembers in 2023.

**Hybrid Council and Planning Commission Meetings** – The City will continue to hold hybrid meetings. These meetings have been very successful, and I hope you can join us either in-person or virtually at a meeting. For dates and times please visit the City's website calendar at [www.blackdiamondwa.gov](http://www.blackdiamondwa.gov).



**Town Hall Meeting** – On March 9, 2023, the City will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. and you can attend this meeting either in -person or virtually. 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.



**2023 Operating Budget** – On December 1st 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>.

## Mayor's Message~ Continued from page 1

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



**Civil Service Commission** – 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 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 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** – 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 spent 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 subjects 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 in 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>.



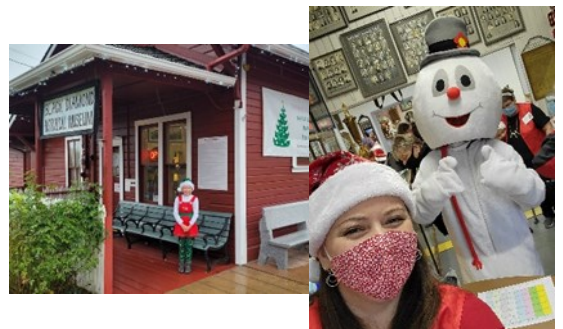
**Hometown Christmas** – Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> was the Hometown Christmas in the historic downtown area of Black Diamond. This event was filled with fun activities for the whole family, and it was nice to see so many out enjoying it. I want to thank all the volunteers for all their hard 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 express what a wonderful community we live in. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Councilmembers and city staff and I want to thank them all for their support and hard work. I hope 2023 is a better year for us all and I encourage you to continue to be involved in this great community.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, Councilmembers, or city staff.

Stay safe and healthy,

*Mayor Carol Benson*



HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR



## News from the Finance Dept.

### 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.

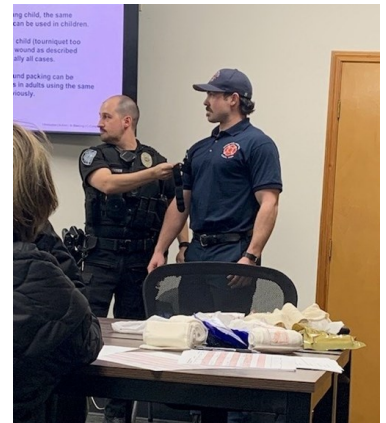
Black Diamond continues to offer a Lifeline Utility Discount Program of 50% off City billed water, sewer, and stormwater rates (excludes King County sewer charges). This discount is offered to Black Diamond residents that are low-income seniors 62+ age, for low income permanently disabled residents, 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.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

### STOP THE BLEED®

The Black Diamond Police Department hosted STOP THE BLEED® in conjunction with the Fire Department where 19 community members were taught this important life saving measure. Officer Henrich taught a live—in person class, using training materials specially developed to teach bleeding control techniques. This is important training because a bleeding injury can happen anywhere. We've all seen it happen too often—on the news or in everyday life. Life-threatening bleeding can happen in people injured in serious accidents or disasters. Instead of being a witness, you can become an immediate responder because you know how to STOP THE BLEED®. Future classes are being organized so please keep a lookout on our Facebook page for more information.



### Staffing Update

The Black Diamond Police Department has been allocated 13 positions since July 2022. We are currently at 11 positions filled with 3 new hires in training. Officer Garbini joins the department as a lateral and will complete his training in late January 2023. Officer Chi graduated the police academy on December 21<sup>st</sup> and is currently in Field Training which is scheduled to be completed in April 2023. Officer Anna Brandt started the academy in December 2022 and will graduate in late March 2023 and then will



start the 3 ½ month field training program. We currently have an Officer in backgrounds and hope to have him hired in January 2023. If you are interested in a position as an Officer with our department, please [Click Here](#) or follow this link <https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/departments/black-diamond/police-officer-10>

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Jan. 10th @ 6 p.m.  
Feb. 7th @ 6 p.m.  
Mar. 7th @ 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

Jan. 5th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Jan. 12th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Jan. 19th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Feb. 2nd @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Feb. 9th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Feb. 16th @ 7 p.m. (Regular)  
Mar. 2nd @ 7 p.m.. (Regular)  
Mar. 9th @ 6 p.m. (Work Session)  
Mar. 9th @ 7 p.m. (Town Hall)  
Mar. 16th @ 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

- 22-1182 - Adding New Section 12.04 to the BDMC Regarding Right-of-Way Use Permits
- 22-1183 - Regarding Title 18 Code Amendments
- 22-1184 - Regarding 2023 Property Tax Dollar Amount Increase and Percentage
- 22-1185 - Setting the Est. Assessed Valuation and Max. Property Tax Dollar Amount for 2023
- 22-1186 - Amending the Capital Facilities Element of the City's 2015-2035 Comp. Plan to Incorporate Updated School Dist. Capital Facilities Plan
- 22-1187 - Re-establishing a Non-exclusive, Ten-Year Franchise with Covington Water District to Provide Water Service within the District's Water Service Area within the City Limits
- 22-1188 - Amending the 2022 Budget
- 22-1189 - Adopting the 2023 Budget

## 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