

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting – November 22, 2011
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Olness called the special meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and lead us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Goodwin, Mulvihill and Saas.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Boston and Hanson (excused)

Staff present were: Mayene Miller, Finance Director; Greg Goral, Acting Police Commander; Chris Bacha, City Attorney and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, APPOINTMENTS: None
PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2012 Budget Revenues and Expenditures

Finance Director Miller reported before the public tonight is the proposed 2012 budget. She added the proposed general fund budget for 2012 is in balance without using any cash and investment balance. She further added this is the first public hearing for the 2012 budget and the final public hearing is scheduled for December 1, 2011 with adoption occurring either December 1 or December 15, 2011.

Mayor Olness opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Bob Rothschilds, Black Diamond – commented he tries to educate himself in the stormwater area; noted he found there is about 270,000 collected from the citizens and is concerned how the money is being spent; concerned this is a small fund but seems to be paying the same portions for legal costs; theme is this is a relatively small fund and is paying the same amount as the other funds and need to be using the money to do other needed things; discussed the cost allocation from this area; telephone, postage, etc. are rising and feels we could hire someone to do actual testing rather than paying for these inflated costs; wanted to make sure we use the revenue in the best manner we can; discussed funds not being allocated for street sweeping and would like this addressed.

Cindy Proctor, Black Diamond – commented she was speaking on behalf of her mother, noted her mother was a strong proponent of the Public Safety Levy and commented the

expenditures need to be weighed; discussed union contract; what is the emergency plan should the Governor's budget plan happen.

Finance Director Miller explained the allocation costs.

Mayor Olness closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Setting Property Tax Levy

Finance Director Miller reported the City has received preliminary information from King County, although we do not expect to receive the final numbers until the first week in December. She added State Law requires that we adopt two ordinances and forward them to King County by November 30, 2011. She reviewed the proposed ordinances and noted the Finance Committee met on November 17 to review the material provided by the County.

Mayor Olness opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Jack Sperry, Black Diamond – requested the City not ask for the maximum amount of 1 percent increase; discussed the carry-over projected for the ending fund balance for 2011; feels Black Diamond should demonstrate we can live within our means as the increase adds very little to the City's coffers; discussed his property tax increase.

Cindy Proctor, Black Diamond – commented she was speaking on behalf of her mother, commented on the increase to her mother's property taxes and the limited income to live on; feels the City has failed to live within its means and need to look at more furlough days and could become more fiscally sound; lease for City Hall and needed to do a cost analysis as these are things we need to look at.

Mayor Olness closed the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 11-968, setting the Property Tax dollar amount for 2012 and Ordinance No. 11-968A specifying the 1 percent Property Tax increase for 2012 to be used for Public Safety including Fire, Police and Emergency Services

Finance Director Miller commented on the ending fund balance being under the amount that we have in our fiscal policy, also the Public Safety was cut \$40,000 in line items and we did do tremendous cuts to live within our means.

Councilmember Goodwin commented one of the dilemmas is the Police contract COLAS and the Tim E. initiative which limits us to 1 percent, if we forego we will then be 2 percent next year; understands the comments and would rather the City have to raise it in the future and keeping it as is and if we did not do it, the risk for next year would be pretty significant.

Believes the 1 percent does make sense, but he does not like to see however, it is a good thing we are putting it into reserves for the future and feels this is the best approach to follow.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Goodwin and **seconded** by Councilmember Mulvihill to adopt Ordinance No. 11-968, setting the Property Tax dollar amount for 2012 and Ordinance No. 11-968A specifying the 1 percent Property Tax increase for 2012 to be used for Public Safety including Fire, Police and Emergency Services. Motion **passed** (3-0).

DEPARTMENT REPORT: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Olness reported that she and staff met with King County regarding the negotiations with the Animal Control contract, attended with Mr. Williamson the Building Blessing of the new Fire Station; updated everyone on the broken sewer line last Friday and commended staff for all their hard work, read a letter from Stan from CenturyLink; reminded everyone that City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Holiday.

COUNCIL REPORTS: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robbin Taylor, Black Diamond – asked a question on the breakdown of City Financials for the 1 percent increase.

Finance Director Miller referred her to the page with the information.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Mulvihill and **seconded** by Councilmember Goodwin to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (3-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

Claim Checks – November 22, 2011 No. 37600 through No. 37671 in the amount of \$360,069.31

Payroll Checks – October 31, 2011 No. 17571 through No. 17596 and ACH Payment for a total amount of \$275,195.78

Minutes – Council Workstudy of October 27, 2011 and Council Meeting of November 3, 2011

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Mulvihill and **seconded** by Councilmember Goodwin to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (3-0).

ATTEST:



Rebecca Olness, Mayor



Rachel Pitzel, Deputy City Clerk