

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting of August 9, 2012
Community Center, 31605 3rd Ave, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Olness called the regular Town Hall meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and lead us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Taylor, May, and. Benson.

ABSENT: Councilmember Goodwin (excused)

Staff present: Pete Butkus, Interim City Administrator; Chip Hanson, IS Manager; and Brenda L. Martinez, Asst. City Admin/City Clerk.

Mayor Olness welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the meeting would go until 9:00 p.m. unless finished earlier. She explained that everyone will have a chance to speak once before anyone is allowed to speak for a second time.

Councilmember Deady announced she would like to address rumors that are going around such as the reason for the cancellation of the K-9 Fundraiser at the Eagles. She stated the rumor is that the Mayor has cancelled the K-9 fundraiser at the Eagle's because Save Black Diamond holds their meetings there. She added she talked with the Mayor and Ms. Hanson prior to the meeting and yes this is one of the reasons and that they also felt it was better not to do it this year as they are doing Chief for a Day and Cheryl is really busy with the functions of getting the auction together and other events they are holding so they did cancel the event this year and will be holding it again next year. She noted she disagreed with that as it is still something the community goes to and people save their money for this and donate to it happily – her being one them; Council not being supportive of the Police Department; Council attendance at meetings with staff and Mayor. She noted she is and always has been a supporter of the police department.

Mayor Olness discussed the K-9 fundraiser cancellation was not entirely her decision. Ms. Hanson the director of the Community Center who was highly involved with this event last year and the Chief of Police met for quite some time to discuss this and she agreed that most of what Councilmember Deady said is true. Her concern is with the venue, the Chief's concern is that we are doing Chief for a Day and have been asking for donations for that and Ms. Hanson's concerns was for her small staff and the difficulty with them doing these events this time of year. She added they did decide since they were doing Chief for a Day (every other year event) this year the Chief felt it made sense

for the K-9 fundraiser to be held on the years when we did not do the Chief for a Day event that way we are not nickel and diming everyone.

Cheryl Hanson, Black Diamond Community Center Director also commented on being involved with the decision to cancel the K-9 Fundraiser this year. She added for her small staff it is really hard to keep asking the same folks to put in the huge amount of time it takes to pull off a successful event. She noted looking at other dates, but nothing worked. In addition she noted working on obtaining grant funds for our K-9 Unit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jack Sperry, Black Diamond expressed his appreciation of the Chief and Police Department for their rapid replacements of missing buoys on Lake Sawyer. He also discussed a safety issue on the lake regarding the pilings in the water from the old saw mill and wondered what was being done about these as he inquired earlier was told the City was looking into it. Mayor Olness responded staff did look into this and will have Aaron Nix get back to him with the information that was compiled.

Councilmember Taylor expressed his appreciation of the police department in regards to the recent drug bust on Botts Drive.

Bill McDermott, Black Diamond echoed Councilmember Taylor's comments on the police department. He also inquired about the construction on Roberts Drive and wondered what it is for. The Mayor explained the construction is for the sidewalk project the City is doing that will extend the sidewalk from Morgan's Street to the Library.

Mira Hoke, Black Diamond reported on the XTERRA event that took place this past weekend. She noted she has not heard any negative comments in regards to this event, but rather many positive ones including the local merchants being very pleased with the results of this event bringing new folks into town to shop and dine. She also discussed publishing information that is not accurate.

Mayor Olness relayed a message from Patty Swedberg of XTERRA thanking the City for everything and for allowing this event to take place again.

Councilmember Deady reported on two issues she heard in regards to the XTERRA event; 1) Traffic issues and 2) PA system being too loud.

Johna Thomson, Black Diamond also echoed Councilmember Taylor's comments regarding the police department and the drug bust. She invited folks to attend a fundraiser to raise money for Chief for a Day. The fundraiser will be Saturday, August 11 at the Taphouse in Black Diamond.

Commander Goral reported on the drug bust that took place on Monday, August 6 in Black Diamond. He commented on the investigation and noted other agencies that were involved with this bust.

Councilmember Taylor commented on being pleased with our Interim City Administrator and his efforts on communication and noted he is really stepping up to the plate.

Councilmember Deady echoed Councilmember Taylor's comments on the Interim City Administrator.

Bob Edelman, Black Diamond discussed the notification for the special meeting on August 7 being incorrect and the attorney representing the insurance pool not being briefed correctly on the issue at hand.

Councilmember Benson also commented on being disturbed that the attorney representing the insurance company was not briefed about what the issue was prior to the meeting.

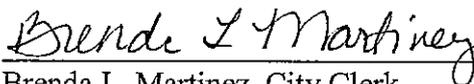
ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Benson and **seconded** by Councilmember Deady to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (4-0).

ATTEST:



Rebecca Olness, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk