

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

January 12, 2017

Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Benson called the regular work session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Morgan, Edelman, Weber and Pepper.

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk.

WORK SESSION:

Discussion and Review of 2017 Budget

Mayor Benson announced the purpose of the meeting is to go over Councilmember Weber's proposed substitute 2017 budget ordinance and the Mayor's 2017 budget.

Points of Discussion

- Councilmember Morgan read a prepared statement (attached).
- Councilmember Pepper read from a prepared statement regarding work sessions are not an end run around the committee process. She noted the budget will be discussed in the proper venue which is the Council Budget Committee.
- Councilmember Edelman noted for the record that Councilmember Pepper and Morgan each read from their prepared speeches in the sequencing that they have been told and that Councilmember Weber knew in advance that something was going to be said tonight.
- Councilmember Deady raised the point that all five Councilmember voted to hold this meeting on the budget.
- Councilmember Weber discussed the three-month budget compromise that was adopted and the Mayor violating that compromise by signing a contract and not bringing it before Council; prior agreement for holding these budget work sessions; discussion on the

hardships for holding committee meetings, for example noticing so the public is informed; reasons for not continuing with the budget discussion during work sessions.

- A point of order was raised by Councilmember Pepper for a Councilmember being accusatory.
- Councilmember Pepper read a prepared statement regarding legal services and talked about trust, respect, and courtesy.
- Discussion on the Council Rules that were asked to be placed on this agenda; it was noted this was for first reading and for consideration at the meeting next week. It was also suggested to hold a work session so everyone could participate.
- Discussion on Council committees.
- It was again noted there would be no discussion on the budget tonight.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pepper and **seconded** by Councilmember Morgan to adjourn the meeting.

There was discussion about letting the public speak.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brock Deady, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Robbin Taylor, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Darryl Buss, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Jackie Buss, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Judy Goodwin, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

Bob Edelman, Black Diamond spoke to Council.


Gary Davis, Black Diamond spoke to Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

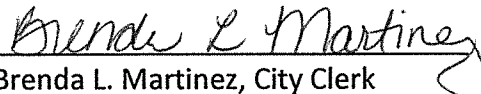
Again, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Pepper and **seconded** by Councilmember Morgan to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** 3-2 (Edelman, Deady).

Meeting ended at 6:43 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk

1/12/2016

The way Benson presided over meetings is extremely troublesome to me and I believe contradicts fundamental tenants of State Law and the Black Diamond Code.

In these ways;

- 1) denying the results of the general election,
- 2) refusing to recognize the majority vote is the city position,
- 3) obstructing and interfering with Council business;

I have been telling her that the Council are the city legislators and policy makers. The Council are not her employees. I told her that the City Council is an equal and independent branch of government over which the Mayor has no legitimate control. I told her that I would not back down to bullying and threats, and that what matters to me is proper governance according to the basic tenants of representative democracy as set out under Constitutional, State Law and the Black Diamond Code.

This year of Rancor over the Council's right and authority over its own business seems to have taught this Mayor nothing about working to get what she wants, or what the city needs. Her opening salvo this year is a troubling continuation of her past mistakes and incursions into Council business. All of it is at odds with the basic rules of the separation and balance of power between the branches of government. I can not accept the systematic assault on our system of governance. Therefore at this time the principles that I find inviolate as concerns this Council where I serve are:

- 1.) The Council sets the agenda for its meetings.
- 2.) The Council sets its own Rules.
- 3.) The Mayor has a ministerial duty conduct the meeting by the Council Rules
- 4.) The Mayor has a ministerial duty to notice all Council and Committee meetings.
 - a) to notice and provide support staff for Committee meetings
 - b) to provide for all meetings to be accommodated on city property
- 5.) The council is the sole contracting authority for the city for any services including legal services.

The mayor must recognize this Council Authority and her ministerial duties, democracy itself is at stake. Any progress for Black Diamond will begin with these principals. Additionally, most progress for Black Diamond is impeded and will be impeded until we have a properly Council Contracted attorney as mandated in State Law.