

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

August 8, 2019

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, Oglesbee, Edelman, Stout, and Wisnoski.

Staff present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Dev Director, and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk.

There were introductions of the Mountain View Fire & Rescue Commissioners.

WORK SESSION:

1) Discussion Regarding Fire Department Services

Fire Commissioner Ferrell read a prepared statement regarding fire services provided to Black Diamond. The letter touched on the amount the city is paying is not keeping pace with the cost of providing their services to the growing City. He gave background information fire services for Black Diamond and noted the City entering into an ILA in 2006 with them. He shared that during the past several years the City has benefited financially by the District being able to get the Protection Classification for Black Diamond reduced from a 6 to a 4, which in turn reduces the insurance premiums for every homeowner and business and also by the increasing cost of maintaining the level of coverage has not been fully covered by the terms of the currently ILA. Also discussed was the City's budget and levy rate. He noted the concerns of the District relate to the following primary issues: 1) Inequities and the concerns with that, 2) Expanding services for the City's growth, and 3) Six years of study and recommendations with no resolution. In closing, Commissioner Ferrell stated that it is crucial these issues be addressed. He noted the draft ILA 3rd Addendum was provided for discussion in March of 2019, including an approach to align the cost of services over the next four years and should a fair and equitable plan not be agreed to fund fire and emergency services in the City, elected officials for the District will be forced to take action related to the continuance of the current ILA. The District is looking forward to making important progress with the Council.

Mayor Benson discussed the financial significance of the contract the District is proposing. She discussed the suggested rates and how they would affect the city. She noted the need to take

out of the agreement the reference to the pre-annexation agreement as this is not the place for that. She discussed a levy lid lift and how that would work. She also discussed the calls for service and noted they have not gone up since she's been involved in City government.

Commissioner Ferrell discussed the District not wanting to push this issue earlier due to the fact the City Council was not functioning well and wanting to give time to get the Council to be cohesive.

There continued to be back and forth discussion between the Councilmembers and Commissioners with the topics/highlights of discussion being:

- Levy Lid Lift being discussed in 2015, however the timing was not good
- Monies in the City Budget for the purchase of a new fire truck
- Councilmember Wisnoski discussed how the City is underpaying for fire services and noted the City needs to find the money
- The need to leave this meeting with the same direction for Council and the Commissioners
- Discussion on how the fire budget has progressed over the last fourteen years
- When the City needs to do a lid lift and what the number should be
- Citizens deserve quality service and there is cost for that
- Commissioner Ferrell explaining the need to know that the Council sees there needs to be a fair and equitable increase and would like the Council to promise that they will be paying there fair and equitable share
- Discussion on benefit service charge and how it works
- Mayor giving staff direction to research what the city needs for a levy lid lift and having a discussion at the next meeting showing good faith and confidence that the working on this


In closing it was suggested to get together in 60 days to discuss progress on the levy lid lift and the ordering of the new fire truck. There was consensus this would happen at the work session on October 10, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

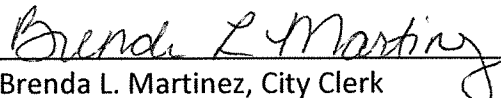
Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** by Councilmember Edelman. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0).

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk