

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL POSITION #6

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Bernard (Bernie) James O'Donnell
Residence Address 28935 233rd Avenue SE, Black Diamond, WA 98010
Home Phone (206) 446-9800 Work Phone (425)572-6878
Email bernie.odonnell@rockpmservices.com

Cover Letter and Resume

Please attach a one-page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Black Diamond on separate pages, using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Black Diamond City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Black Diamond community. Address its relevance to the position of Black Diamond City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Black Diamond City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return this form, your cover letter, resume and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk at Black Diamond City Hall (24301 Roberts Drive, mail at PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010, or by email to bmartinez@blackdiamondwa.gov) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 8, 2020**. Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

If delivered or mailed the application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk
Black Diamond Councilmember Recruitment
PO Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive
Black Diamond, WA 98010**

August 23, 2020

Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk
Black Diamond Councilmember Recruitment
PO Box 599/24301 Roberts Drive
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Subject: Black Diamond City Council Position No. 6
Candidate Application Letter – Bernie O'Donnell

Dear Ms. Martinez and Black Diamond City Council Members,

The City of Black Diamond is home. The opportunity to submit my qualifications for consideration as Black Diamond City Council Member, Position No. 6 is a humbling process because of the enormous responsibility I know it places on the selected candidate. I accept that responsibility and offer an unabashed commitment to be accountable to fellow council members, the Mayor, City employees, and the community we are all here to serve. I am ready to get to work on behalf of the City of Black Diamond community, earn your trust, as a public servant and leader, giving back to the community that has made Black Diamond home for me and my family.


For the past 13+ years, my wife Connie and I, along with our three children Jake, Jamie, and Joey, have called Black Diamond home. The character of Black Diamond is in our DNA, where a sense of family and community, fresh air and natural beauty surrounds us and helps forge the people we become. I care about this community, and I know the major changes with planned developments we all face. Without a hidden agenda, I commit to principles of planned growth that does not compromise the character of our town that makes Black Diamond the American dream it has been for me and my family and many other families.

For over 30 years, I have managed public and private sector design and construction projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. I have been a public employee as a project manager, supervisor, and executive for 20 of those 30 years. For 10+ years, I have been in the private sector leading teams to design and construct major regional public projects, including transportation, waste water, public school bond programs, civic centers and municipality projects, energy and PUD projects, and residential, commercial and healthcare facilities. In all cases, I have brought teams of public sector, private sector, and special interest groups together to arrive at common solutions. That experience allows me to offer competent leadership as a city council member. I offer the people soft-skills of communications and team building and the technical hard-skills of fiscal management, policy making, process management, and planning and permitting. With a degree in Architecture from the University of Washington, and as a business owner managing public and private sector projects, you can rely on me to offer competent engagement in all my responsibilities as a council member.

I am passionate about family and community. I am not a politician, but I have substantial experience leading, organizing, collaborating, advising, and serving at various capacities for national, state, regional, and local public and non-profit organizations. My passion for environment, historic preservation, sustainable design, public safety, fiscal responsibility, and exceptional public service is exhibited in the decades of volunteering activities for many worthy causes. I promise to bring that same level of passion and commitment to the role of Black Diamond Council Member.

With the support of my family, and a passion to serve my community, I promise to be responsible and accountable to fellow council members, the mayor, city staff, and the community we are all here to serve, to earn your trust, to listen, to act, and to follow through on commitments to always add value to the Black Diamond community.

Sincerely,



Bernie O'Donnell

28935 233rd Ave SE, Black Diamond, WA



BERNIE O'DONNELL

President, Rock Project Management Services, L.L.C.

BIOGRAPHY SUMMARY

Bernie O'Donnell is President of Rock Project Management Services, L.L.C. (ROCK) located in Renton, WA. ROCK provides program, project and construction management services, and facilities property management services to public and private clients throughout the Pacific Northwest. Bernie has over 30 years of experience leading teams in both private and public sectors, managing design and construction projects totaling in excess of \$5 billion. Bernie successfully creates program and project teams empowering strategic thinkers with passion for their work and the communities each project serves. This drives positive and impactful results for clients and all stakeholders. Bernie has substantial public facilities management experience. He is highly skilled as an advisor to clients on multiple public contracting strategies including GCCM and Design-Build. His leadership and technical skills in contracting terms and risk management ensures reliable successful results. Bernie is active in community outreach programs and volunteers his time to many worthy causes. He is an advocate for a children, family, and community programs, strong safety culture in the workplace, environmentally responsible design, and social justice and equity programs.

Bernie, his wife and three children have lived in Black Diamond, Washington for 13 years and are life-long residents of Washington State. Bernie enjoys family time, camping, fishing, hiking, boating, and wild huckleberry picking and mushroom hunting in the Cascades. His favorite food is ice cream and he enjoys reruns of "The Office" because it reminds him to not take life too serious.

CAREER SUMMARY

Vanir Construction Management, Inc., Vice President, Bellevue, WA.

Bernie led Vanir Construction Management's Pacific Northwest region, overseeing a professional staff of 50+ program, project and construction management employees, serving public and private clients in Transportation, Energy, Municipality, Healthcare, K-12 and Higher Education, and Tribal Community projects.

Seattle City Light (SCL), Director - Utility Support Services Division, Seattle, WA. Bernie oversaw SCL's facilities operations, facilities project management office, shops, and fleets/mobile equipment services. The facilities project management office was comprised of 12 professionals managing 40 capital projects annually. The team oversaw the utility's 160+ facilities and developed a master plan for its service centers facilities, remote company townsites of Newhalem and Diablo, and started a master plan for its largest hydroelectric dam facilities. Shop operations included skilled unionized trade shops that provide capital improvement, operations and maintenance to the utility's infrastructure systems including power production facilities, transmission and distribution systems, substations, and SCL's buildings.

OPUS Northwest Contractors, Inc., Senior Project Manager, Bellevue, WA. Bernie served as a Senior Project Manager leading planning, design, permitting, contract procurement and construction phases of major governmental, civic, education, commercial, mixed-use, healthcare, retail and high-rise development projects in the Greater Seattle area. His team building skills and ability to bring people together to build solutions resulted in consistent successful project outcomes.

Firm

Rock Project Management Services, L.L.C.

Education

BA, Architecture,
University of Washington

Construction Management Studies
Central WA University

Certifications

OSHA 30 Hour
LEAN Black Belt
P6 Advanced Scheduling

Affiliations

NSBA Leadership Council, Board Member

Renton School District
Workforce Advisory Board
CTE Program Advisory Board

Construction Management Association of
America
(CMAA)

Association for Learning Environments
(A4LE)

Building Owners and Managers
Association
(BOMA) Seattle King County

Rebuilding Together South Sound (RTSS),
Past President

Millionair Club Volunteer

Added Value

✓ Industry leader in public and private sector program, project, and construction management

✓ Community-engaged business leader focused on positive workplace culture and professional career growth for employees

✓ Provides strategic leadership to teams to drive consistent quality results

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS – BERNIE O'DONNELL, BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Black Diamond City Councilmember?

To Serve the Place I Call Home. My wife and I are both originally from Roslyn, Washington, a historic coal mining town similar to Black Diamond. Our first date was in 9th grade, and we have been together ever since. For the past thirteen years we have called Black Diamond home, raising three children, Jake, Jamie and Joey, and two dogs Gracie and Mia. Black Diamond is home, but it is so much more. It is an American dream come true where back yard barbeques, bicycle rides on great trails and fishing and boating on the lake are traditions. It's where the local fire truck comes through the neighborhood each year to collect food and for the kids to see Santa. It's peek-a-boo views of fireworks on the 4th of July. It's home to my first 5K ever. It's home to the Smokehouse and best landjaeger ever, or a half peach before a pancake breakfast on the weekend. For all those reasons and more, it is home. It is community. And now it is time for me to offer my gratitude and service back to the community that has been my American dream come true.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

Listening. Focused Learning. Accountability. Dedication. Planning and Leading Experience. Teamwork. I lean in to listen and ask questions to understand. Becoming an informed decision maker on behalf of the people I represent requires responsibility and accountability dedicating time and focused energy to improving the lives of all that call Black Diamond home. For over 30 years, I have been in the project management profession bringing design teams and construction teams together to solve difficult problems, arrive at common solutions, and create successful outcomes for all stakeholders. I have managed large bureaucracies, and organizations that have competing priorities within their ranks. In all cases, I have developed a reputation for bringing teams together, to address and solve big challenges through strategic planning, following up and following through on commitments. I promise a team partner as a Black Diamond Council Member, committed to doing the hard work to earn your trust and the trust of the community, that my service is on behalf of the people of Black Diamond and the community I call home.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Focus on Community. Public Safety. Service. Quite frankly, I am not a politician, so I could easily change my mind as I learn where the Council needs to focus its energy most to address any immediate issues. But for me, as an outsider to local politics, and a family guy, if our local government remembers to focus on creating a sense of community, keeping people safe (fire and life-safety, and law enforcement), and providing exceptional public service as public servants to our community – those I suspect are defensible priorities for a new Council member. My commitment to each of these priorities is to immerse myself into community activities and events that promote a sense of community, where neighbors know each other on a first name basis, and where it is more common to see a friendly face you recognize when strolling through the neighborhood. Promoting and investing in community events that bring people together and create a sense of "place" for Black Diamond and our businesses and residents is a key interest of mine. Ensuring our community has the most reliable and responsive fire, life safety, and law enforcement first responders is essential. I commit to meeting and engaging with Fire and Police to ensure they have the resources essential to maintain a high level of service to our community. Where there are challenges, I commit to lead, to make a change, and ensure our first responders have the resources to do their jobs. Regarding public service, my priority is to ensure we, as a city, stay nimble and cost effective but don't diminish our level of customer service to our community. Phone messages get promptly responded to, questions get answers, and all of us as public servants remember our role, and our commitment and duty to our community. I promise to pursue these three priorities and other priorities the Council identifies. I promise follow through and follow up, a commitment to collaboration and team building to solve difficult challenges, to listen and to lead, earning trust amongst Council colleges and the community we serve.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Black Diamond community. Address its relevance to the position of Black Diamond City Councilmember.

I am currently President of Rock Project Management Services, L.L.C., a local small business located in Renton. My company regularly engages with municipalities, nonprofits, public boards and committees throughout the Pacific Northwest region to move policy, program, and public projects forward, which has providing me with substantial experience engaging with public policy makers and community organizations. I have a passion for community and helping people that could use a helping hand. I was the executive sponsor of Seattle City Light's Race and Social Justice Initiative, I am past president of Rebuilding Together South Sound, I have volunteered for decades to

Rebuilding Together in Seattle and Tacoma leading teams to renovate homes for those in need. For years I have picked up trash and pulled evasive weeds along the Duwamish River. I have volunteered for decades to The Millionair Club feeding lunches to those needing a warm meal in Seattle. Currently, I am a Board Member on the NSBA Leadership Council, and Workforce Advisory Board and CTE Advisory Board for Renton School District, and an active member of the Association of Washington Business interviewing state legislative candidates for endorsement recommendations. As a business owner engaged with public organizations, a leader-sponsor-volunteer in many community-based organizations, and board member and advisor on national, state and local organizations, I bring relevant experience, qualifications, passion and commitment to be a successful, productive, and effective Council Member for the City of Black Diamond.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a Black Diamond City Councilmember?

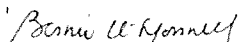
Standing on the shoulders of those that came before us. My success as a Black Diamond City Council Member will be measured by my ability to bring people together, to foster a stronger sense of community, to support, fund and ensure public safety and City services provide reliable, exceptional service to our community. To know that every day, I woke up and considered what I could do, building on what others have done before me, working collaboratively, to create a bright future for Black Diamond. I wish to accomplish all that and more as a trusted partner and steward of the community.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

The American Dream. I am a product of small-town America, and I honor and respect the coal mining history of Black Diamond, its heritage, and its quaintness. I know we are faced with massive development and times are changing. But the American dream I have realized, the place where I have raised a family, and the place I call home, can continue to be that place for many that embrace the character of community founded by those that preceded us. We are undergoing the greatest growth period the City has seen since the late 1880s when Coal was King. With a commitment by City Leadership to forge ahead with forward-thinking principles that merge smart development, with community-centric planning and engagement, my vision is that our city has a bright future ahead, where we all continue to enjoy the American dream.

7. Is there anything else you would like to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I am not a politician. I am not someone that has been engaged in the details of the City of Black Diamond politics and the past drama that surfaces in news articles when you google our town. I have no hidden agenda. But I am a local resident, and I deeply care about this community. I promise to be a team collaborator, a listener, an informed leader, and a dedicated, engaged, caring public servant every day, if offered the great responsibility and honor as Black Diamond's new Council Member. I look forward to speaking with you further about my qualifications, skills, experience, character, and passion to serve. Thank you.



Bernie O'Donnell
28935 233rd Ave SE
Black Diamond, WA 98010