

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of January 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Benson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Oglesbee, Stout, de Leon, O'Donnell, and Paige

ABSENT:

Staff present: Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Dev Director; Mona Davis, Community Development Director; Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, City Attorney; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to adopt the agenda; **second** Councilmember Oglesbee. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1) AB21-001 – Appointment of Mayor Tempore for 2021

Councilmember Deady **moved** to appoint Councilmember Oglesbee as Mayor Tempore for 2021; **second** Councilmember Stout. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

2) AB21-002 – Confirming Mayor's Appointments to Council Standing Committees

Mayor Benson discussed this item with Council.

Councilmember Stout **moved** to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the 2021 Council Standing Committees with the adjustment of Councilmember O'Donnell being assigned to the Public Works Committee in lieu of Councilmember Oglesbee; **second** Councilmember Wisnoski. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Oglesbee **moved** to adopt the Consent Agenda; **second** Councilmember de Leon. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

3) Claim Checks – January 7, 2021 Check No. 49498 through 49555 (voids 48912, 49420, 49461) and in the amount of \$156,639.03

4) **Minutes** –Council Meeting of December 17, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

5) **AB21-003** – Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Agreement with King County for Jail Services

Chief Kiblinger reported to Council on this agenda item.

Councilmember Wisnoski **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 21-1404, authorizing the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement with King County for Jail Services; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire – Chief Smith shared that the department has started taking vaccinations for COVID and there have been no ill side-affects. He commented that no one is in isolation due to COVID. He recapped the end of year report that shows call number within different areas of the City. He noted call volumes were down last year and suspects this is due to COVID. He reported that the new fire engine is to be delivered at the end of March. He also noted that an update on the new fire station was given during the Public Safety Committee meeting. He announced that the volunteer graduation will be held virtually this Saturday.

Clerk – City Clerk Martinez discussed the idea of getting Zoom accounts for Councilmembers to use as a tool to reach out to their constituents. She noted she was gathering information to see if there was interest as a few members had reached out about it.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson reported attending the SEAL TC and noted next week there will be a virtual meeting with Patty Hayes discussing the vaccination roll out. She also reported attending the SCA networking meeting on what's next and what is it going to look like this year - what worked and what didn't work. She discussed receiving an email from the Black Diamond Community Center Director Cheryl Hanson asking the City for \$13,000 for insurance and \$9,000 for their audit. She discussed the funds the Community Center has received from other entities, explained to Council that there is \$15,000 in the city budget and noted that Ms. Hanson will be coming before Council to request the funds.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Stout reported attending the Finance Committee meeting and noted the Public Works Committee meeting was cancelled. She thanked Councilmember Deady for filling up the bank account for the Black Diamond Community Center and for her dedication in helping and supporting them. She talked about COVID in our community and shared stories regarding people she knows. She touched on the death toll in the country being up the last two days. She noted the vaccine is coming and it will be a slow roll out as it is tiered. She stressed that we need to take precautions and take this seriously and support others who are struggling. She encouraged us as public officials to stand up and be examples and to wear a mask, do social distancing, only have small gatherings and limit the number of contacts outside the home and to wash your hands. She commented on the events of yesterday regarding the breach of capital and violence and commented it was not a peaceful protest. She does support peaceful protest, but not to destroy as is what happened yesterday. She wished everyone a happy new year and let's see if 2021 can be a positive year to move forward in Black Diamond.

Councilmember de Leon agreed with Stout sentiments on yesterday's events. She commented that there is no place for this violence. She hopes we can all join in and say that kind of terrorism is not acceptable; it's upsetting. She also agreed this is a time where we need to stay the course on COVID -19 and to take it seriously. She noted working outside her home and is concerned and it is important that we are following the guidelines, so it doesn't affect us or others. She is very concerned what it will look like for in person learning if the new strain is more contagious. She noted that mental health is important and cautioned as much as we need to address, there was a need well before the pandemic. She congratulated Officer Sharif on his promotion to Sergeant and excited to see what he will bring to that position. She reported having no committee meeting dues to holidays. She expressed appreciating her time on the Public Works Committee and grateful to learn the services that are put on by that department. Lastly, she is really looking forward to getting those zoom accounts up and running and having one more resource to get involved and looks forward to doing this early in the year. She wished everyone a happy 2021.

Councilmember O'Donnell agreed with the comments by the previous two Councilmembers. He looks forward to hearing all the first responders, high risk and elderly are getting vaccinated. He discussed an email he sent to his IT and they pay \$15 to \$12.50 for Zoom accounts. He thanked Council for indulging him on his rant and being on the Public Works Committee. Noted being involved in other communities on public works and looks forward to working on Black Diamond's committee. He congratulated Councilmember Oglesbee on her appointment to Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilmember Paige reported attending the Finance Committee meeting, and not being able to attend the special meeting earlier today. He discussed COVID and agrees with the comments by Councilmember Stout on the seriousness of this. He commented that we have small businesses that are struggling and wherever we can support them he encouraged everyone to do that - there is both a physical and an economic impact to this pandemic. He stated as we slowly gain inertia with the vaccine rollout, 2021 will rock the socks off of 2020. He expressed that this has been a rough few years politically and if we

can all come together as a community and a nation everything will work out okay as we are a strong nation with a bright future for us. He definitely agrees by other Councilmembers comments but not lose site there is a future for us and we all need to work together for that. He shared being pleased with his committee assignments and believes we need to look at how the process is rolled out next year.

Councilmember Deady commented on reading the newsletter and expressed it was awesome with a lot of good information. She touched on the IT department and is curious that this is a lot of work for one person with maybe moving the Police Department and all the other projects and Council may need to look at the budget for a part time person to help handle all the projects. She asked if Mr. Williamson if he could give the same update at the next Council meeting as he did at Public Safety meeting regarding the new fire station. She congratulated Councilmember Oglesbee on being elected as Mayor Pro Tem. She touched on the happening at the Capital building and noted being horrified by the actions of the people there, and how horrified it would be to be in the building with this happening. She also touched on COVID and to follow the rules as it is saving lives and we need to wear masks and stay away from gatherings. She shared that the Eagles are struggling and if they close it will be forever. They are a non-profit who get their money by renting out the facility and due to COVID that isn't allowed. She encouraged people to donate to them. She shared speaking to King County Councilmember Dunn and noted it would be nice to do a meeting with Council via Zoom and invite other representatives to get on the docket sometime during the first six months of the year. She hopes that this year is a much better year than 2020 and that we all come together and be the citizens of the United States that rally and stand for what makes America great.

Councilmember Oglesbee noted appreciating all the comments from the other Councilmembers. She expressed being honored and blessed to be elected as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2021. She stated agreeing with the COVID comments made by other Councilmembers tonight. She reported attending the Public Safety Committee meeting where they reviewed the fire station and also discussed the Columbia Bank building and the funding for that potential project. She mentioned that the Black Diamond Court is doing good with their zoom meetings and have filled their full-time position. She shared that Court does have a part-time entry level position open. Also discussed at this meeting was the snow routes and it was noted that the generators are ready to go if we have snow. She shared that there is an inflatable boat on the lake for emergencies during the winter and that dock parcels are being relabeled. She thanked Councilmember O'Donnell for taking on the position for the Public Works Committee. She is hoping for a good new year and to be safe.

Councilmember Wisnoski wished everyone a happy new year. He congratulated Kamal Sharif on his promotion. He reported attending the Public Safety Committee meeting and is excited about Fire Station moving forward on Lawson Hill. He also commented on looking for appropriate space for the Police Department and what is the new model moving forward for space requirements and planning for both medium and long term. He shared attending the annual polar bear plunge and noted it was a small group due to COVID. He reminded everyone to wear their masks and to stay home if you are not feeling

well and if you do not feel safe ask someone else to run your errand. He also commented on yesterday's happening at the Capital building and being embarrassing and that is not what we do. He stated this is unacceptable and wrong - this is not how Americans come together to make change. He congratulated Councilmember Oglesbee and knows she will do a great job. He reminded everyone to continue to support small businesses as they are struggling.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

City Attorney Linehan shared that the discussion of a social medial policy will be coming back before Council at the next work session. He noted that he will be sharing some policies from other cities to get feedback on what the Council does and does not like. He commented that the goal of the work session is to gather feedback to prepare a draft policy for Council discussion and deliberation at an upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Paige announced that there are two volunteer opportunities on the Planning Commission and another volunteer opportunity for a marine patrol position. He sated that if anyone is interested in any of these volunteer opportunities to contact the city.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Oglesbee. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Carol Benson, Mayor

Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk