



The City Connection

March/April 2010 Volume 2, Issue 2

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Police Nab Suspects in Vandalism Around City

Over the past month and a half our City has seen an increase in the vandalism of property around our normally tranquil City. The elementary school, museum, skate park, cemetery and some private residential properties all fell victim to 'graffiti style' damage. The estimated cost to clean-up this damage was well over \$2,000. This is not only costly to the victims, but is definitely an eye-sore that the Police Department took seriously.

Now it's time for some good news! Through persistent investigation we were able to identify and arrest the suspects involved in each incident. Currently eight cases have been forwarded to the King County Prosecutor for review. Charges are pending.

It is important to remember to file a police report when 'graffiti style' vandalism has occurred since we usually can link many cases together once the

suspect(s) are identified.

We understand that not every incident of vandalism may have been reported to the police. If you were the victim of 'graffiti style' vandalism during the past few months and did not report it, please feel free to contact us.

The Police Department values your assistance in our pursuit to keep this community free of this type of crime.

If you see any suspicious activity around closed business' or people loitering in areas where they shouldn't be, contact us immediately by calling 9-1-1. This type of partnership with our community is one of our core values.



A quick reminder for those residents receiving only a stormwater statement (no utilities), you can pay your stormwater bill in advance for the whole year, several months or monthly since it is a fixed rate per month. You will still receive your bill in the mail, but it will show a negative balance indicating a credit. We also accept payments over the phone using your debit/credit card!



Elected Officials

- ◆ Mayor, Rebecca Olness
- ◆ Councilmember, Kristine Hanson
- ◆ Councilmember, Craig Goodwin
- ◆ Councilmember, Bill Boston
- ◆ Councilmember, William Saas
- ◆ Councilmember, Leih Mulvihill

Master Planned Development (MPD) Process

The public hearing dates for The Villages and Lawson Hills Master Planned Developments (MPDs) have been set for early March. These public hearings will be held by the City's Hearing Examiner.

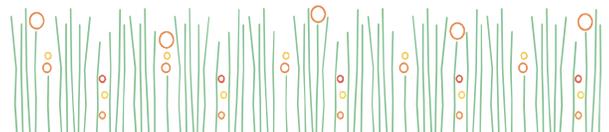
Proceedings will begin on Saturday March 6 at 10 a.m. at Black Diamond Elementary School with consideration of the appeals that were filed regarding the adequacy of the Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) issued for the two projects.

Those appeal hearings are scheduled for further consideration on Monday and Tuesday, March 8 & 9 at the City Council Chambers. The following two evenings (March 10 & 11), we will be back at the school for the Master Planned Developments (MPDs) portion of the

hearings. If needed, the hearing will continue on Friday the 12, back at the Council Chambers. All weekday meetings will begin at 7 p.m., except for Friday's which will begin at 10 in the morning.

The Hearing Examiner will issue a written decision on the EIS appeals and a written recommendation to the City Council on the MPDs. The Council will consider the MPDs this spring. If you want to provide your comment to the Council, be sure to first participate in the Hearing Examiner process.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 886-2560.



Where Do Your Property Taxes Go

This is a question we homeowners ponder twice a year, as we take a deep breath and write a check to the King County Treasurer.

So here is the answer, for 2010:

Nearly 65% goes to schools (both state and local).

About 20% total goes to King County, the Port of Seattle, emergency services and libraries.

15.5% comes back to Black Diamond to support basic services such as police and fire.

There are four different school districts in the Black Diamond city limits. They include Enumclaw, Kent, Tahoma and Auburn. So in order to determine exactly how your

own property tax dollars are distributed, we encourage you to visit King County's website which has an online parcel viewer showing specifics for each property in the county. The web link is www.kingcounty.gov once there, enter the term 'Parcel Viewer' in the search box. Look for the 'Interactive Property Research Tool' link. In the real property tax section under the tab 2010 tax/fee distribution, you will find specifics on your own property after entering address information.

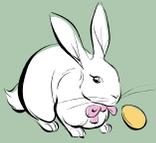
The graph in the upper left-hand corner on page 3 shows all the pieces of property taxes a Black Diamond property owner in the Enumclaw School District will pay for the current tax year with a property valued at \$300,000 in 2008 but with a 12.9% decrease in assessed valuation in 2009 (average decrease in Black Diamond) for a value of \$261,600

for 2010. The total approximate levy is \$11.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Of this amount the City of Black Diamond only receives 15.5% of the total tax collected which is approximately \$465 per year or \$38.75 per month.

The levy rate is calculated by King County after they finalize property land and building valuations in December each year. Cities can only increase the base dollar amount of property taxes collected each year by 1% due to Referendum I-747. In 2009 the total property tax amount collected in Black Diamond was \$978,119. Thus, the total additional base tax the City could add for 2010 was \$9,781 (1%) plus the value of new construction and annexations. King County then divided the total tax by the total assessed valuation. The result is the levy (or mil) rate to be assessed on each property. As

Continued to page 3

Recently Adopted Ordinances



To be added to the Council agenda distribution list, please call us at (360) 886- 2560 ext. 209 or contact the City Clerk by email at bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Ordinance No. 09-933 — Amending Chapter 19.04.250-SEPA Appeal

Ordinance No. 09-934 — Updating Section 10.04.100-Parking Fees

Ordinance No. 09-935 — Amending Chapter 18 – Review and Appeal Process



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mar. 6 FEIS Appeal- 10 a.m.-The Villages Black Diamond Elementary

Mar. 6 FEIS Appeal- 2 p.m.- Lawson Hills Black Diamond Elementary

Mar. 8 (& 9 TBD)FEIS Appeal-7 p.m. - The Villages and Lawson Hills City Council Chambers

Mar. 10 MPD Public Hearing - 7 p.m.- The Villages Black Diamond Elementary

Staff and applicant presentation only; no public testimony

Mar. 10 MPD Public Hearing - 8:30 p.m.- Lawson Hills Black Diamond Elementary

Staff and applicant presentation only; no public testimony

Mar. 11 MPD Public Hearing - 7 p.m.- The Villages Black Diamond Elementary

Beginning of public testimony

Mar. 11 MPD Public Hearing - 8:30 p.m.- Lawson Hills Black Diamond Elementary

Beginning of public testimony

Mar. 12 MPD Public Hearing - 10 a.m.- The Villages and Lawson Hills City Council Chambers

Continued public testimony

Mar. 18 Public Hearing - 7 p.m.- Proposed Phosphorus Ordinance City Council Chambers

Welcome Noel Treat, City Attorney

The City would like to welcome to our contracted staff, City Attorney Noel Treat with primary back-up provided by Attorney Michael Kenyon.

In December 2009, the City advertised for qualified firms and individuals to fill the position of City Attorney and a selection panel including the Mayor, Mayor-elect, Councilmember, Interim City Attorney, Acting City Administrator and Community Development Director reviewed the proposals and interviewed three firms. A unanimous decision was made by the selection panel, that Kenyon Disend, PLLC was the best match for the City of Black Diamond.

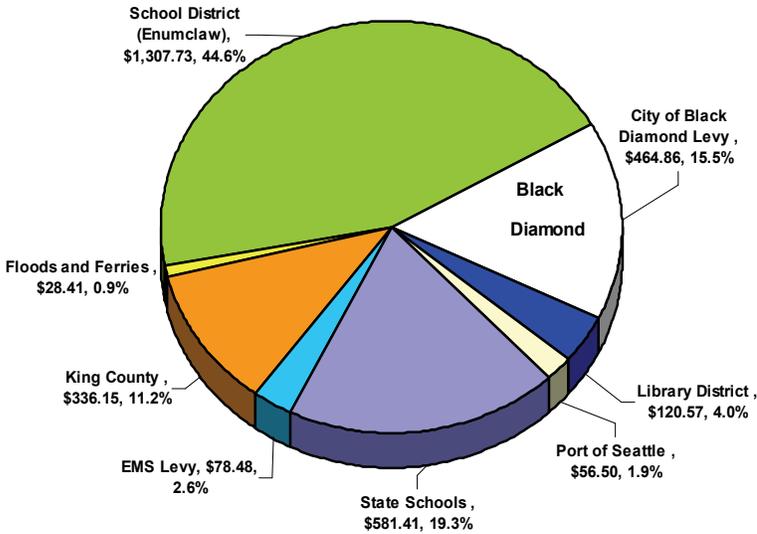
Prior to joining Kenyon Disend, PLLC in 2008, Noel worked for King County for 13 years. Most recently, he was the Deputy Director of the King County Facilities Management Division. Noel's practice focuses on all areas of municipal law, with particular emphasis on real estate/development transactions, public works projects, Interlocal agreements, contract law, public finance/tax issues and election law.

Again, welcome aboard Noel Treat!

graph for article on page 2

2010 Property Tax Distribution

Total Taxed amount on a \$261,600 property in Black Diamond = \$3,007.97



▶▶▶ Daylight Savings begins – March 14, 2010



Property Tax - Continued from page 2

home values increased for many years, levy rates decreased to stay within only the 1% increase dollar limit. The Black Diamond portion of property tax to citizens only increased the allowable 1%. The fluctuation in levy rates does not increase or decrease taxes or revenue to cities, as only dollar amounts regulate changes (see chart below).

Continued to page 4

Mt. View Fire and Rescue Hard at Work

Nine units from Black Diamond/Mountain View Fire and Rescue responded to a reported structure fire in the 30000 block of Blaine Avenue in Black Diamond at 3:15 p.m. the afternoon of February 1. One unit from Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety was called to assist in extinguishing this fire that resulted in heavy fire damage to two rooms of a single family residence.

The Fire Departments extinguished the fire before it spread to any additional areas of the home. Damage to the structure was estimated at \$200,000 dollars. Damage to the contents was estimated at an additional \$70,000 dollars.

Three occupants evacuated the building without injury after discovering the fire. Fire Crews rescued several pets from the home while extinguishing the fire.



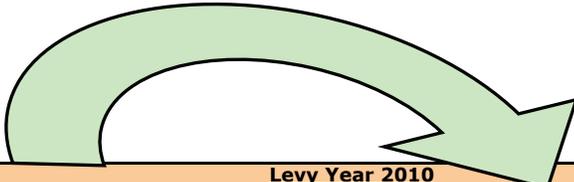
A total of 22 firefighters, 2 Chief Officers and one Safety Officer responded to the scene. The last engine left the scene at 8:15 p.m. No injuries occurred to emergency personnel.

This fire marks the first substantial fire loss in the City in more than a year. The 2009 fire loss in Black Diamond was only \$230.

The Fire Department urges everyone to check their smoke detectors routinely and to have a fire escape plan and practice it. Remember that matches, lighters and other flame producing items should be kept out of the reach of children.

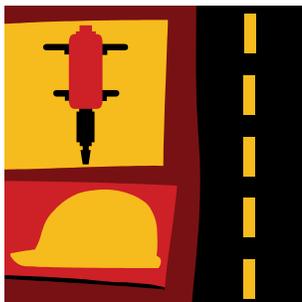
For more fire safety tips visit the Fire Department's web page (KCFD44.org), in the public information tab, there are several activities you can do along with your children or give them a call at 253-735-0284.

Make sure your address is clearly visible at the road and dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.



	Levy Year 2009	Levy Year 2010
\$ Set	Property Tax: \$978,119	Property Tax: \$996,899
Calculation	\div	\div
Calculation	Divided by Assessed Valuation \$643,196,160	Divided by Assessed Valuation -12.9% \$560,993,682
Calculation	Equals Levy Rate (per \$1,000 of value) 1.521	Equals Levy Rate (per \$1,000 of value) 1.777
Calculation to = \$	Black Diamond's share of tax on a home valued at \$300,000 / 1,000 x 1.521 \$456.30	BD's share of tax on a home valued at -12.9% \$261,600 / 1,000 x 1.777 \$464.86

Railroad Avenue Reconstruction



The telephone and gas utilities have completed their relocation work on Railroad Avenue and the City's construction work is underway.

J.R. Hayes and Sons, the City's contractor and Public Works staff are planning how to efficiently and safely proceed with the work while minimizing the impact to local businesses. The normal work hours have been planned for 10 hour work days Monday through Thursday. It is anticipated that the majority of the project will be completed by Memorial Day 2010.

During much of the construction period, the traffic will be reduced to one-way going south, to provide a safer environment for pedestrians and construction workers as well as to facilitate the work. Access to Railroad Avenue from Merino Street will also be closed during most of the construction. Local residents will have to use Commission Avenue for access during most of the construction. The Fire Department and the Enumclaw School District have been notified of the traffic revisions.

City staff would like to give the local residents and businesses a big thank you for their cooperation and patience during the construction phase of the Railroad Avenue project. For those interested, a drawing of the project is on view at the Black Diamond Bakery.

Black Diamond Community Center Events

- March 27-**
Fundraiser to raise funds for its programs. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and local guitarist Ron Porzio with his band, the Double Black Diamond Ramblers, will be performing a variety of guitar music. The event starts at **7 p.m.** and continues throughout the evening.
- April 3 -**
Easter Breakfast -
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
\$5 Adults - \$4 Seniors and \$2.50 for Youth 13 and under

Contact the Black Diamond Community Center at 360-886-1011 for more Information.

New Flashing School Zone Beacons

In a continued effort to keep our kids safe, the Enumclaw School District applied for and received grants from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for the newly installed school zone beacons.

The School District and the Black Diamond Public Works Department worked together to site the beacons and install them. Public Works Supervisor, Dan Dal Santo and his crew were very helpful, spending several days digging holes, pouring concrete, and raising the signs. The job would have been much more difficult without their assistance.

The beacons have some great features including:

- being solar powered,
- They contain a GPS device, and a cell connection that allow them to be programmed remotely via the internet.

The schedule is currently set up to flash Monday -Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

in the morning, and from 3:30 p.m.— 4 p.m. in the afternoon. Every Friday the beacons are set to flash from 2:30 to 3 p.m. for early release. They will be programmed not to flash on holidays and whenever school is not in session. They will also be programmed to accommodate early release times.

The School District is also working with the Department of Transportation to site the same type of beacons on SR169.

Thank you Enumclaw School District for helping keep our kids and citizens safe!



Property Tax - Continued from page 3

In 2004 Black Diamond citizens approved a six-year property tax lid lift on Public Safety. That levy expires in 2010 and the City will lose \$417,193 per year unless voters pass in 2010 to reinstate a levy for 2011 (see bar chart graph on page 5). To cope with declining revenues, Fire and Emergency Services have held the line on budget increases and the Black Diamond Police Department has reduced their budget by \$250,000 over the last three years. Currently three Police positions are vacant and unfunded.

Black Diamond currently uses 100% of its property tax, sales tax and utility tax revenue to fund public safety services. A 2011 loss of over \$400,000 would be a devastating blow to Black Diamond Public Safety programs. Recognizing this serious problem, Black Diamond City Council held a Council Workstudy session on February 18, 2010 and recommended proceeding with a Public Safety Property Tax Lid Lift vote for April 27, 2010.

King County does provide a Senior/Disability Property Tax Exemption if the tax payer is 61 years of age or older and have annual income of less than \$35,000. Some other disability exemptions are also provided. You can call King County at 206-296-3920 or find the rules online at www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/Exemptions.

Water Meter Replacements

The City is several months into a three-year program to replace all of the city's water meters.

As meters get older they typically will tend to run slower and not register the full amount of water used. Some residents may notice an increase in the normal amount of water they use in a month.



The new meters have the capability of being read electronically by radio signal. Once all of the meters have been replaced, this enhancement will save the City about a day-and-half of labor time each month as well as increased recording accuracy.

The Swing

by Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,

Up in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing

Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,

Till I can see so wide,

Rivers and trees and cattle and all

Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,

Down on the roof so brown—

Up in the air I go flying again,

Up in the air and down!

Source: *A Child's Garden of Verses*

New Swing Sets

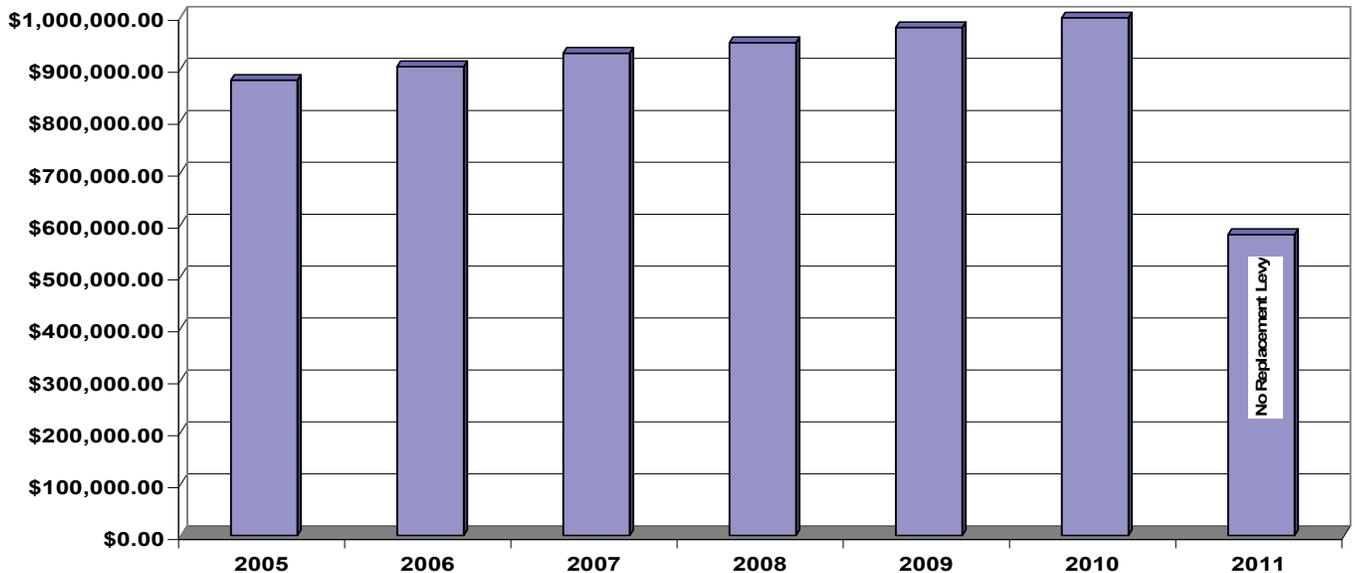
During a routine inspection of all City facilities, it was determined that the existing swing set at the Skate Park did not meet some of the new safety standards and some posts were showing signs of rot.

The Public Works staff has removed the old swing set and installed a new one, which meets the current safety standards.



graph for article on page 4

Black Diamond Property Tax History and Projected 2011 Shortfall



BD Tax \$	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Voted Public Safety	\$368,967	\$383,745	\$389,456	\$389,771	\$394,030	\$409,561	
Regular Levy	502,181	511,972	534,676	545,877	566,252	583,171	579,706
New Construction	5,671	7,271	4,802	13,451	17,837	4,167	
Total	\$876,819	\$902,988	\$928,934	\$949,099	\$978,119	\$996,899	\$579,706

Change in Prop Tax from Prior Year **\$26,169** **\$25,946** **\$20,165** **\$29,020** **\$18,780** **(\$417,193)**



Lake Sawyer Boat Launch Parking Fees Clarified

The City Council recently took action to clarify parking fees at the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch Facility at their February 4, 2010 Council meeting.

With the recent completion of a low impact development single car parking area, the City Council recently passed an ordinance allowing free parking in this area.

The \$5 parking fee only applies to vehicles with trailers that utilize the launch for gaining entry and exiting the Lake. These changes are more in line with the original intent of the code and will allow for single car day use of the facility.

Enhanced signage will be installed at the facility to help clarify these changes by the beginning of boating season this year.



Sheri Roth-newest member on Planning Commission

The City would like to welcome Sheri Roth as the newest member of the Planning Commission. Ms. Roth was selected by the Mayor and confirmed at the February 4, 2010 Council meeting.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the Tuesday after the first Council meeting each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 25510 Lawson Street.

For more information regarding Planning Commission, please contact Community Development at (360) 886-2560. As always you can check out our website, www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us for any changes or updates on current activities/projects.

Community Contacts

Black Diamond Community Center
(360) 886-1011

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Black Diamond Museum / Historical Society
(360) 886-2142

Hours of Operation:

Thursdays — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m.

Black Diamond Post Office
(360) 886-9429

Hours of Operation:

Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Black Diamond Library
(360) 886-1105

Hours of Operation:

Monday — Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Fridays — 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturdays — 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

It's Time to Spring Forward Once Again

Daylight savings time is on March 14 this year. This is a great time to provide maintenance to your smoke alarms. Some of the maintenance that should be done include:

- Change the battery
- Vacuum and/or dust around the sensor
- Check the manufacture date on the alarm



Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years of the date of manufacture. You can usually find the date on the back of the alarm once you remove it to change the battery. It is a good idea to replace the alarm every 10 years even if your alarm is hard wired into your home.

When purchasing a new smoke alarm, be sure to check what type you are buying. There are ionization smoke alarms and photo electric smoke alarms. They detect smoke differently and it is a good idea to have a mixture of the two types of smoke alarms or to by a dual sensor (ionization & photo electric) smoke alarm. You can even buy smoke alarms with a 10 year lithium battery so you replace the smoke alarm when the battery dies.

Remember your smoke alarm works hard for you 24 hours a day 365 days a year. With a little TLC your alarms will continue to work every day to make your home safe for your family.

Mountain View Fire & Rescue / Black Diamond Fire Department has a free smoke alarm program for anyone that lives within our fire district. For more information please contact Tim Perciful at (253) 735-0284.

Contact Information

All City Offices Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Departments

- ◆ City Administrator,
- ◆ Asst. City Admin./City Clerk,
Brenda L. Martinez, CMC
- ◆ Community Development,
Steve Pilcher
- ◆ Economic Development,
Andrew Williamson
- ◆ Finance,
Mayene Miller
- ◆ Natural Resources/Parks,
Aaron Nix
- ◆ Police,
Jamey Kiblinger
- ◆ Public Works,
Seth Boettcher, PE

CITY HALL	(360) 886-2560
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(253) 631-0351
	Fax: (360) 886-2592
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	(360) 886-2560
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(253) 631-0351
	Fax: (360) 886-2592
POLICE DEPARTMENT	(253) 631-1012
P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street	Fax: (360) 886-2901
MUNICIPAL COURT	(360) 886-7784
P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street	Fax: (360) 886-7758
FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44	(253) 735-0284
PUBLIC WORKS	(360) 886-2560
P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(253) 631-0351
UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)	(253) 333-5555
	Fax: (360) 886-2592

Check out our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us



CITY OF
BLACK DIAMOND



PO Box 599
24301 Roberts Drive, Suite B
Black Diamond, WA 98010
Phone: 360-886-2560
Fax: 360-886-2592
Email:
info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAR 4- 7 p.m.
- MAR 18 - 7 p.m.
- APR 1 - 7 p.m.
- APR 15 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES 25510 LAWSON STREET

PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

- MAR 9 - 7 p.m.-**CANCELLED**
- APR 6 - 7 p.m.

ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION
MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM

FINANCE COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

MAR 12 and MAR 26 - 11a.m.
APR 9 and APR 30 - 11a.m.

PARKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE Dates to be determined

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

MAR 9 and MAR 23 - 5 p.m.
APR 6 and APR 27- 5 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE Dates to be determined

ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE
TENTATIVE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY
CHANGES. MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE
PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 7 p.m. of each month (unless otherwise noted). Please contact the Clerks office for more information or meeting materials at (360) 886-2560 or check out the City Clerks webpage at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk.