

# THE CITY CONNECTION

“FACETS OF BLACK DIAMOND”

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## MAYORS REPORT

Dear Black Diamond Citizens,

2011 was an exciting, yet sometimes difficult year for the City. Many major changes and milestones have occurred. Both the open and closed record hearings for the Development Agreements were held and Council deliberated, with approval on December 12, 2011.



With continuing budgetary restraints we faced financial challenges but were able to present a balanced budget to Council without using any fund balance. In fact, we were able to add to the fund balance by careful belt-tightening and additional cuts.

Growth is an issue that is emotional for many citizens, both those who are for and against it. Now is the time for us all to unite as we welcome three new council members and move forward. Congratulations to Ron Taylor, Joe May and Tamie Deady. We welcome them to our City family and look forward to working with them.

Heartfelt thanks to Councilors Mulvihill, Boston and Hanson. Their dedication and commitment to the City and its citizens are greatly appreciated by all of us here at City Hall and in the community.

I would also like to thank former Planning Commissioner Robert Kaye for serving on the Black Diamond Planning Commission for over twenty years. A warm welcome to newly appointed Commissioner Pam McCain whose term begins January 1<sup>st</sup>. We anticipate appointing another Commissioner on January 5, 2011 to fill the term vacated by new Councilmember Taylor.

### Elected Officials

- ◆ Mayor,  
Rebecca Olness
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Tamie Deady
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Craig Goodwin
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Joe May
- ◆ Councilmember,  
William Saas
- ◆ Councilmember,  
Ron Taylor

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1 JAN / FEB 2012

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Joe May



Ron Taylor



Tamie Deady

Welcome Aboard New  
Councilmembers



## CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT FROM THE STATE

Two officials from the State Auditor's office briefed the Finance Committee at their December 8, 2011 meeting regarding the 2009-2010 Audit of the City of Black Diamond. State Auditor Alan Netherton reviewed the results of the two year audit and commended the City on a clean audit with no findings.

"A clean audit means the auditors did not find any misuse of public funds or anything else not in compliance with the laws and regulations", said May Miller, Finance Director. "We don't know what the auditors are planning to review each year until they are actually on site, so there is no way for us to prepare for the audit, except to do everything the right way every single day. When the Auditor walks in the door, it is too late to make things right. This clean audit is really a testament to what we do on a daily basis, and should reassure residents their tax

dollars are being accounted for correctly. "

The audit covered the years 2009 and 2010, including any citizen telephone or written concerns. The audit covered two areas, 1) accountability, where they access any organizational documents of their choice in order to evaluate accountability and compliance with state laws and our own policies and procedures to make sure internal controls are in place to safeguard public assets and 2) financial statement audits that include an evaluation of internal controls over accounting/financial activities and reporting to make sure financial statements are prepared fairly and are in conformity with State and Federal accounting standards.

Ms. Miller continued, "We work very closely with the Auditor's Office to make sure the public dollars we receive are being used appropriately. We maintain strict control over our finances, and we're very proud to let people know about that."

Audit results can be found on the city's web site at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) in the Finance Section.



With Winter here remember to check our Winter Preparedness page [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/PubWorks/winter\\_preparedness.html](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/PubWorks/winter_preparedness.html) under the Public Works webpage for tips on winterizing your home and the City of Black Diamond priority snow plow routes.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

**SIDEWALK TO THE LIBRARY**— City staff is working with Parametrix on the design of the sidewalk link from Morgan Street to the Library along Roberts Drive. The sidewalk will be on the south side of the street. The City will also collect, treat and dispose of the stormwater along this stretch of road in an infiltration strip between the road and the sidewalk. Construction is planned for late summer. This project is funded by a Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant at \$287,218 with a \$32,000 local match.

**WATER MAIN GRANT RECEIVED** —The City recently has been informed that they were successful in a \$160,000 grant application for the replacement and upgrade of a dead-end asbestos concrete water main on Fifth Avenue from Lawson Street to Pacific Avenue and installation of two new fire hydrants. The funding for this project will be provided by the King County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The new water main will provide City standard fire flow further to the south and provide greater reliability of water service. The funding will become available sometime in late spring or early summer. The City plans to complete the design work in 2012, for construction in 2013.



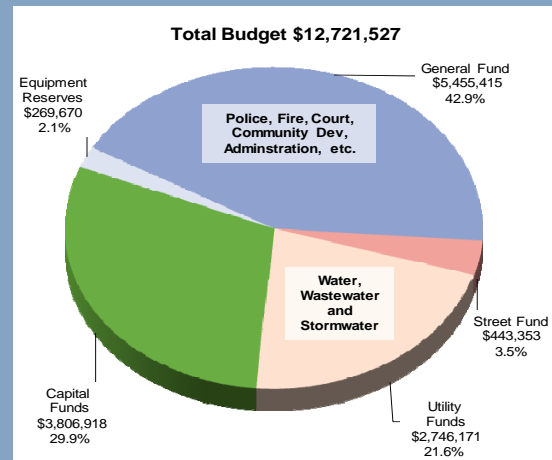
## CITY 2012 BUDGET ADOPTED

On December 15, 2011 Council adopted the 2012 Black Diamond Final Budget. The budget process began in July and after Finance Committee meetings, two workstudy meetings and two public hearings; the budget was adopted using no General Fund reserves in the process. The total city budget is \$12.7 million including ending balances and internal transfers. This is a 5.4% reduction from the 2011 amended budget. The General Fund budget increased about 1%, or \$55 thousand to \$5.5 million dollars. The General Fund holds 43% of the City budget and funds critical services such as the Police and Fire District 44 services. General Fund balancing required meeting the rising costs of Police and Firefighter contract colas (cost of living increases) of 3% and 3.2% respectively, and related benefits, an increase in liability, building and equipment insurance costs, medical benefits and unemployment insurance, and cost increases associated with the general election in November by cutting the budget wherever possible, such as no salary or step increases for non-union and non-commissioned employees, 4 furlough days for the majority of employees which will result in city closures: July 5, Aug 31, Dec 24 & Dec 31, three positions remaining frozen and vacant, with additional cuts in supporting departments, and a .25% full-time position reduction in the court for a citywide total of 31.3 total full-time employees.

The budget for the City's utilities of Water, Wastewater and Stormwater were balanced in 2012 with no fee increases proposed. Capital projects in 2012 include more improvements on 288<sup>th</sup> Street, replacing the Fifth

Avenue water main and the Morganville wastewater lift station, and design engineering on Abrams Avenue. Some of the Capital Projects slated for 2012 are dependent on grant funding and will go forward only if funds are secured. Equipment reserves will fund replacements for the purchase of two replacement fire support vehicles and replacing one police vehicle.

We know that Governor Gregoire recently announced the State is facing a two-billion dollar budget deficit in 2012. As the State meets and resolves this deficit, we will keep you informed of any potential impacts to Black Diamond. The 2012 Budget is available at the front counter for viewing or purchase at City Hall and in PDF format on the City's website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).



## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

**Black Diamond Community Center**  
**(360) 886-1011**  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Monday – Friday 8 – 4:30

**Black Diamond Museum Historical Society**  
**(360) 886-2142**  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Thursdays – 9 - 4  
 Saturdays and Sundays – 12 - 3

**Black Diamond Post Office**  
**(360) 886-9429**  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Monday – Friday 9 – 5

**Black Diamond Library**  
**(360) 886-1105**  
 Hours of Operation:  
 Monday – Thursday 10 – 9  
 Fridays – 10 – 6  
 Saturdays – 10 – 5

### Recently Adopted Ordinances

- 11-970– Approving The Villages MPD Development Agreement*
- 11-971– Approving Lawson Hills MPD Development Agreement*
- 11-972—Adopting the 2012 Final Budget*
- 11-973—Adopting Amendments to the City of Black Diamond Comprehensive Plan*

## HOW TO PREVENT FALLS

It is estimated that a third of older adults fall each year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These falls may cause minor injuries but many may lead to death as a result of the injuries from a fall. Black Diamond Fire Department responds to numerous calls each year where older adults have fallen, but we know there are many more falls that don't get a 9-1-1 call. Below are some safety tips for fall prevention geared to older adults.



Have a licensed contractor install grab bars next to the tub and toilet?

### Bedrooms:

Place a lamp near the bed where it is easy to reach. Install a night light so you can see where you are walking.

### Other Things You Can Do to Prevent Falls:

Exercise regularly. Exercise makes you stronger and improves your balance and coordination.

Have your doctor or pharmacist look at all the medicines you take, even over-the-counter medicines. Some medicines can make you sleepy or dizzy.

Have your vision checked at least once a year by an eye doctor. Poor vision can increase your risk of falling.

Get up slowly after you sit or lie down.

Wear shoes both inside and outside the house. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers.

Improve the lighting in your home. Put in brighter light bulbs. Florescent bulbs are bright and cost less to use. It's safest to have uniform lighting in a room. Add lighting to dark areas. Hang lightweight curtains or shades to reduce glare.

Paint a contrasting color on the top edge of all steps so you can see the stairs better.

It is important to have a doctor check for injuries after a fall for older adults. If you do fall, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 to be checked out by EMS and possibly go to the doctor for a thorough evaluation.

### Floors:

Be sure there is a clear path from one area to another so you do not have to walk around furniture, power cords, magazines, shoes, etc.

Remove all throw rugs or use double-sided tape or a non-slip backing so rugs won't slip.

### Stairs & Steps:

Keep stairs clear of objects.

Be sure to fix loose or uneven steps.

Be sure to have adequate lighting for the stairway.

Install a light switch at the top and bottom of the stairway.

Correct any loose or broken handrails. It is also a good idea to have handrails on both sides of the stairs.

### Kitchen:

Move items to the lower part of cabinets so you don't have to use a step ladder to get to them.

Replace step stools that are unsteady and don't have a bar to hold onto.

Never use a chair as a step stool.

### Bathrooms:

Put non-slip mat on the floor of the tub or shower.

## DISTRIBUTION LISTS

Contact the City Clerks office 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](mailto:bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

### Winterizing your water pipes:

- \* Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing, typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in the attic.
- \* Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved). Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- \* Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.
- \* Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet on an outside wall.
- \* Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.

## BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL ARE COMING

The City of Black Diamond has approximately 400 businesses that operate in the City throughout the calendar year. These include retail stores, restaurants, real estate agents, hair salons, daycares, construction firms and more. Some of these businesses have storefronts here in Black Diamond, others are home occupations, and still more perform frequent business in Black Diamond but have offices elsewhere.



Access the Business License Application on-line at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

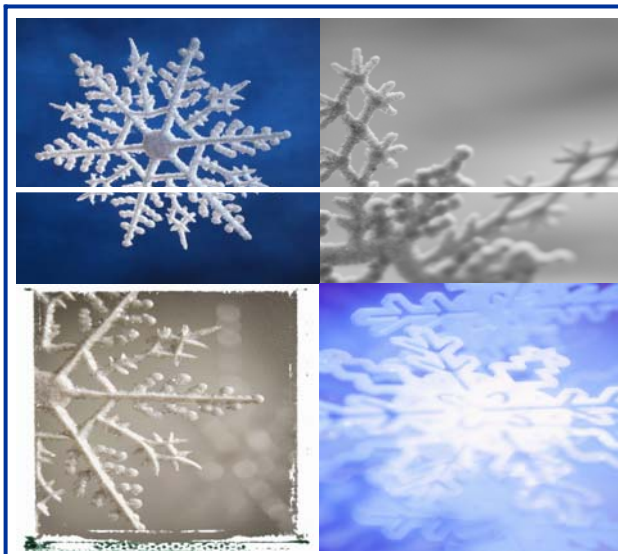
The Black Diamond Municipal Code requires businesses operating in the City of Black Diamond have a current license. The license helps ensure all businesses have acquired the appropriate state licenses and permits, adhere to the zoning guidelines, conform to all building codes, and meet safety requirements. Most businesses are characterized as regular licenses, but the City also has some specialty licenses for pawnbrokers, carnivals, adult entertainment, firearms, solicitors/mobile vendors and utility licenses. Some businesses may require more than one type of license.

Solicitors are required to obtain their license before contacting the public. Background checks are performed on every solicitor operating in Black Diamond. If they are not able to produce a copy of the solicitor license upon request, they are not approved to solicit in City limits.

A new regular business license is \$70 and is good for the calendar year. Licenses applied for after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be pro-rated to \$35. Renewing an existing license is \$60 annually and renewal forms will be sent out in mid-December. Renewals not postmarked by January 31, 2011 will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Late fees will continue to assess monthly if licenses fees are not paid. Anyone not renewed by May 1, 2011 will be sent to a collection agency for unpaid fees. If your business has **closed** or **no longer is working in Black Diamond** please return the renewal form with that information written on the form. The City will close the license.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Donlan at (360) 886-2560 extension 218. We would like this process to be as simple as possible. Please remember to sign and return the renewal form and enclose all payment. Checks should be made out to the City of Black Diamond.

If you are a new business, applications are available on the City website [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us) or at City Hall. Generally a new license will have a fee of \$70 unless it is one of our specialty licenses. Please review the city fee schedule to confirm your license type and the associated fee.



CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

WORK HOLIDAYS:

January 2nd: New Years

January 16th: Martin Luther King Day

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES AT  
WWW.CI.BLACKDIAMOND.WA.US

## COUNCIL/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

- JAN 5 - 7 p.m.
- JAN 19 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 2 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 16 - 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES 25510 LAWSON STREET

### PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

- JAN 10 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 7 - 7 p.m.

### FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 12 and JAN 26 - 9 a.m.  
FEB 9 and FEB 23 - 9 a.m.

### PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

Dates to be determined

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 19- 5:45 p.m.  
FEB 2 and FEB 16 - 5:45 p.m.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

Dates to be determined

### PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

Dates to be determined

**ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS. ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND HELD IN THE PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ON THE AGENDA. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

<b>CITY HALL</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street	(253) 631-1012 Fax: (360) 886-2901
<b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b> P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street	(360) 886-7784 Fax: (360) 886-5354
<b>FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44</b>	(253) 735-0284
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b> P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
<b>UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)</b>	(253) 333-5555

### Departments

- ◆ 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

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](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk).