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A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January/February 2013

the city connection...

"Facets of Black Diamond"



Elected Officials >>>

- Mayor, Rebecca Olness
- Councilmember Tamie Deady
- Councilmember Craig Goodwin
- Councilmember Joe May
- Councilmember Carol Benson
- Councilmember Ron Taylor

city information...

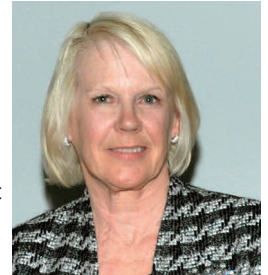
City Offices will be closed:

- ★ January 1—New Years Day
- ★ January 21—Martin Luther King Day
- ★ February 18—Presidents Day

From the Office of the Mayor

Difficult decisions made in balancing the budget...

Dear Honorable Black Diamond City Council Member's and Citizens: I present to you a balanced budget for 2013. Unlike previous years, it was not possible to preserve all essential core services without using any General Fund balance. Resolution 08-560, Financial Management Policy, recommends that at least 10% of expenditures remains in the fund balance. The presented budget honors that recommendation. A five year forecast showed that we would have a deficit fund balance by 2014. Because of this there were very difficult decisions to be made. Our beginning reserve fund balance is \$426,608. With cuts in expenditures and increases to revenue described later in the letter we will add \$153,331 for a total of \$579,939 fund balance at the end of 2013. Any additional savings or unspent revenue will be put into the Reserve Fund barring any emergencies.



The final 2013 Budget has expected General Fund operating revenue of \$4,476,042 which is an increase of \$35,679. This increase is a result of proposed increases in taxes and fees. The increased revenue was needed to offset our otherwise declining revenues from utility, liquor, gas and sales tax. To increase revenue we intend to increase Cable and Stormwater Utility taxes; increase parking fees at the Boat Launch Park; impose a fee on certain special events; and increase cemetery, tree permit and other permit fees. We expect the entire D.A.R.E. program to be funded by donations.

General Fund expenditures were first projected with all vacant positions filled and with union and non-union COLA and step increases, as well as the elimination of all furlough days. This resulted in an out-of-balance amount of \$732,700. Significant reductions were achieved by continuing to freeze the two vacant police positions. The Court Administrator was cut to four days per week and the previous .5 Court Clerk position to 300 hours per year. The Municipal Court Judge, Prosecutor and Public Defender salaries have been reduced by approximately \$15,000. The City Administrator position was cut to 80% and will remain as a contract employee. After further review, all departments were able to reduce their budgets by an additional \$77,965 but the budget was still out of balance by \$248,783.

Increases to General Fund expenditures include a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for commissioned police officers per the agreement between the Police Guild and the City. Our contract with Fire District #44 calls for a 3% increase in 2013. The City's liability insurance increased by 15%, medical benefits increased by 12% and there was an increase in L&I

Continued to page 5 >>> 1

End of Year 2012 King County Regional Recycling Campaign

King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) collaborated with the City of Black Diamond to help increase recycling participation among single-family household residents. Below is a summary of outreach tactics and services provided by the SWD:

Community event/group outreach

King County worked with Black Diamond to provide and coordinate staffing and material to community groups and at community events. Master Recycler Composter (MRC) volunteers staffed educational tables and hosted presentations to answer recycling questions, provide brochures and giveaways, including compostable bag samples and how-to-sheets.



Events included:

Labor Day Celebration

– Sept. 2-3 – MRCs staffed an educational table and “Recycle Royalty” (actor(s) dressed in costumes from recyclable materials) also interacted with festival goers on or around the educational booth. Volunteers reported making contact with 164 people.

Miners Day – July 7 – MRC

volunteers staffed a Recycle More booth at Black Diamond Miners Days

on July 7. Volunteers reported making contact with 212 people.

Groups included:

Lake Sawyer Community Club – The SWD sent three articles for their community newsletter. The club was offered a Recycle More presentation, but declined because they only have annual meetings.

Black Diamond Community

Center – The SWD offered the Recycle More presentation to this group, but the offer was declined.

Newsletters

SWD Recycle More recycling-focused newsletter articles to the City of Black Diamond to be displayed as needed.

Voice of the Valley/Maple Valley Reporter Articles

The SWD pitched plastics recycling and One Less Bag Challenge articles to the Voice of the Valley and the Maple Valley/Covington Reporter. Neither article was published.



NEW Carbon Monoxide (CO) Law...

Washington has a new law that requires carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in residential dwellings starting January 1, 2013. We hope everyone is aware of this and already has CO alarms installed to protect people and pets.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas that can cause illness or even death to people and animals. Fuel burning appliances such as vehicles, fireplaces, generators, grills, etc. can create CO and it becomes dangerous in enclosed areas. CO can also come into the home from a generator being used in a garage, or a grill used close to an air vent for the home.

The following are required to have CO alarms by January 1, 2013:

- ◆ All Apartments and Rental Houses (New & Existing)
- ◆ Some Owned Single-Family Homes that are Occupied by the Owner (Not required unless the owner applies for some building permits and/or when the house is sold and must be installed before the new owner moves in).
- ◆ There are some exemptions for hotels, dorms, and institutions.

Installation: Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed outside every sleeping area and on each level of the home and be sure to follow manufacturer’s guidelines.

For more info: <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/firecode/CAM/5121CAM%20CORequirements.pdf>

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=168>

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=19.27.530>



Winter Preparedness >>> Winterizing your Water Pipes

To prevent the mess and aggravation of frozen water pipes, protect your home, apartment or business by following these simple steps:

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.



When it's cold, 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; make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees; if you plan to be away: (1) Have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat

Black Diamond Police Department >>>

Do Your Part...A Message from Chief Kiblinger



As we close 2012 and enter 2013, we do so with two less police officers. You don't have to look far to see how hard communities have been hit with increasing expenditures and decreasing revenues. While we continue to deal with these economic realities, it brings to the forefront how incumbent it is for each of us to do our part in ensuring a safe community. While violent crime has increased across the country this year, it continues to be imperative that neighbors look out for each other. As I have written on numerous occasions, be observant and aware of your surroundings and call 9-1-1



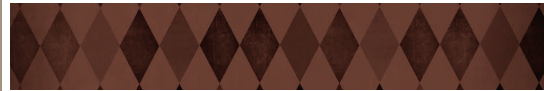
to report suspicious people or circumstances. You can help by acting as our eyes and ears. The horrific school shooting in Connecticut is a reminder to all that crime can happen anywhere, anytime. Crime does not discriminate. We must not become complacent and fall into the 'it can't happen to me' syndrome. Remember, police officers can't be everywhere. Being our eyes and ears is for the benefit of you, your neighbor, and your community.

Reminder!!!

City Connection Newsletter >>>

The City Connection is available ONLY for online viewing. There will be a very limited amount printed up and distributed to the Police Department, Post Office, Library, Community Center and City Hall.

We will no longer provide copies bi-monthly in the utility billing.



Community Contacts...

Black Diamond Community Center (360) 886-1011

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday 8 – 4:30

Black Diamond Post Office (360) 886-9429

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Friday 9 – 5

Black Diamond Museum Historical Society (360) 886-2142

Hours of Operation:
Thursdays – 9 - 4
Sat. & Sun. 12 - 3

Black Diamond Library (360) 886-1105

Hours of Operation:
Monday, Wednesday and
Thursdays 10 – 9
Tuesdays – 10 – 6
Sat. – 10 – 5

Winter Preparedness >>>

Preparing for Winter Storms

Nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point.

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by

dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Below are a few items that you should have on hand in an emergency:



- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and portable radio to receive emergency information.

These may be your only links to the outside.

- Extra food and bottled water. High energy food, such as dried fruit or candy, and canned food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best.

- Manual can opener.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a severe winter storm.
- Back-up heating source, such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke/carbon monoxide detector.

Visit our Emergency Management page on the city's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us for more preparation tips and links.

Stormwater and Wastewater rate changes for 2013...

Stormwater rates will change from \$13 per month for residence or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to \$14 a month effective January 2, 2013. The new amounts will show on the utility bills mailed at the end of January, 2013. Council adopted by ordinance the Stormwater Rates on December 20, 2012.

The Stormwater Fund pays for two major categories of effort within the City:

Maintenance: Most of the funds are used to maintain the City owned stormwater systems that provide drainage for the City streets. The City maintains 583 catch basins, over 9.2 miles of storm drainage pipes and culverts, nine storm ponds and approximately 17 infiltration facilities. The City maintenance crew is typically busy during heavy rain events keeping the inlets and outlets of the storm system free of debris to prevent street and property damage. Other maintenance activities are ditch maintenance, storm pond maintenance and catch basin cleaning.



surface and ground water quality. Even driving on our streets distributes heavy metal, hydro-carbons and other contaminants along the streets that add pollutants to the creeks, wetlands, and lakes in our area. The City is required under our stormwater permit from the Department of Ecology to reduce these impacts by educating our citizens and directing them to better management practice, tightening the requirements for proper erosion and sediment control on construction sites, policing illegal discharges into the storm system or natural water systems and improving City maintenance activities in the interest of protecting stormwater and providing lower impact development standards for the future.

Water Quality: This category of effort is focused on dealing with the impacts of urban living on the water environment. When we live in a dense urban environment, we truck in food, fuel, supplies and equipment and build all kinds of things to sustain life in an urban environment. Our activities and habits of washing cars, applying chemicals and cleaners for every imaginable purpose, keeping dogs and cats, fertilizing lawns, piling lawn clippings near creeks or wetlands, leaky garbage cans, all contribute to the degradation of

Wastewater Pass-Through Rate Increase

King County has increased wastewater treatment rates for 2013. Under long-term agreements with local sewer agencies in its service area, King County charges each agency a monthly amount for providing wastewater treatment. That amount is based on King County's monthly sewer rate and the number of customers served by the local agency. In turn, the City must pass this charge onto residences, businesses and



Winterizing your Water Pipes

(continued from page 2...)

is still on to prevent freezing, or (2) drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems).

If pipes freeze, make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water in case pipes burst. Stopping the water flow will minimize the damage to your home. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent; never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch; always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.



industries in their wastewater collection system to recover the county charge plus the amount needed to operate their local collection systems. The Metro portion of the wastewater rate will increase from the current \$36.10 per month to \$39.79 per month. The \$3.69 a month increase will be included on the utility bills for January 2013 service which will be mailed out at the end of January and due in February 2013.

From the Office of the Mayor
Continued from front page >>>

insurance for the police department. We anticipate more legal fees for the police union contract and an increase in jail rate and time and at least \$12,500 to cover any additional SEPA Appeal/Preliminary Plat costs (Hearing Examiner).

After receiving recommendations from Council and after further staff review the following steps were taken to balance the budget: freeze and layoff two police officers; freeze the Senior Accountant position (60% General Fund); eliminate the Police K-9 program; reduce court security costs; reallocate and cut parks expenditures; discontinue printing and mailing the City newsletter (online and limited number of hard copies available) and reduce City Attorney budget. City Council also volunteered to give up their salaries for the year 2013. There will be no non-union step increases other than two eligible public works employees; non-union/non-management will receive a 1% COLA; and furlough days have been reduced from four to two days (August 30; December 24, 2013) for all employees except police and utility workers.

Black Diamond operates three utilities: Water, Sewer and Stormwater, each with its own budget. Due to declining revenue (lack of new hook-ups and more conservation) and declining cash balance, we anticipate a need for a water rate increase in 2013. There will be a Sewer rate increase in 2013 which is strictly a "pass-through" to King County Metro (authorized by Council in 2012). Council has recommended an increase in Stormwater rates in 2013 and 2014 for anticipated utility tax increase and inflation.

In addition to the three utilities, the Public Works Department also manages City streets. The 2013 budget includes projects from the adopted 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan, including 288th Street overlay; 5th Avenue water main replacement; intersection improvement a Morgan Street; Boat Launch Improvement; Lake Sawyer Aquatic Weed Management Plan; Ginder Creek easement acquisition; trail projects; and mine hazard assessment study/map. We have applied for a Public Works Trust Fund load for a regional stormwater pond. The City was fortunate to receive several grants in 2012 which helped fund the Roberts Drive sidewalk (phase 2); improvements to the Public Works shop; and the Equipment Washing Facility, which is near completion.

I want to take this opportunity to thank staff for their assistance in providing this balance budget. It was not an easy task. Their continued hard work and the support of Council and citizens is greatly appreciated.

REBECCA OLNESS, Mayor
City of Black Diamond

This budget was passed by the City Council on December 20, 2012. As stated above, some very difficult decisions had to be made. It was important to Council to have a City Administrator but that meant we lost an additional police officer. December 28th was the last day for Officer Scott Oak and Officer Geoff Boone. We are very sorry to see them go and wish them the best of luck in the future. We were unable to keep the K-9 program because of needed officer hours (K-9 program require that "kennel time" be given to the handler) so we will be refunding the money donated to that program. We plan to have a "retirement" function for Sabre in January and assure you that he will remain with Officer Chatterson and his family.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Interim City Administrator Pete Butkus, whose last day was also December 28th. Pete will be trying retirement for a second time! We are in the process of conducting interviews for his replacement and hope to have him/her in place by the first of February.

I assure you that I will continue to do my best to make 2013 a prosperous and productive year for the City of Black Diamond. We have talented and dedicated staff members who share with me in striving to provide the best possible services for our City and its citizens.

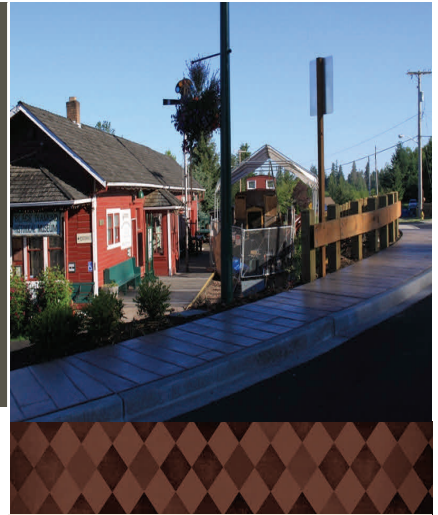
Happy New Year

Recently Adopted Ordinances

- ★ Ordinance No. 12-985 - regarding compensation of the City Council
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-986 - adopting amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-987 - establishing city office hours
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-988 - increasing the existing utility tax on cable services
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-989 - increasing the existing utility tax on the city stormwater utility
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-990 - increasing the existing service charge rate for the city stormwater utility
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-991 - establishing permit fees for special events
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-992 - modifying existing law on parking at the Lake Sawyer boat launch
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-993 - amending the 2012 Budget Ordinances 11-972, 12-021 and 12-976 to reflect changes in revenues and expenditures
- ★ Ordinance No. 12-994 - adopting the 2013 Budget

council / commission / committee meetings...

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Town Hall Meetings are held the second 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 (360)886-5700 or check out the City Clerks webpage at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk to view meeting materials.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

JAN 3 - 7 p.m.
 JAN 10 (Town Hall Meeting @ BDCC) - 7 p.m.
 JAN 17 - 7 p.m.
 FEB 7 - 7 p.m.
 FEB 14 (Town Hall Meeting @ BDCC) - 7 p.m.
 FEB 21 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES 25510 LAWSON STREET

JAN 17 - 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

JAN 8 - 7 p.m.
 FEB 12 - 7 p.m.

FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 10 and JAN 31 - 9 a.m.
 FEB 14 and FEB 28 - 9 a.m.

PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 17 - 10 a.m.
 FEB 21 - 10 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

Dates to be determined

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

Dates to be determined

ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. 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...

CITY HALL
 P.O. Box 599
 24301 Roberts Drive

(360) 886-5700
 (253) 631-0351
 Fax: (360) 886-2592

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/
 NATURAL RESOURCES/
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 P.O. Box 599
 24301 Roberts Drive

(360) 886-5700
 (253) 631-0351
 Fax: (360) 886-2592

POLICE DEPARTMENT
 P.O. Box 309
 25510 Lawson Street

(253) 631-1012
 Fax: (360) 886-2901

MUNICIPAL COURT
 P.O. Box 599
 25510 Lawson Street

(360) 886-7784
 Fax: (360) 886-5354

FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44

(253) 735-0284

PUBLIC WORKS
 P.O. Box 599
 24301 Roberts Drive

(360) 886-5700
 (253) 631-0351
 Fax: (360) 886-2592

UTILITY AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY PAGER (253) 333-5555

Departments >>>

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

