

**Elected Officials >>>**

Mayor, Carol Benson

Councilmember Tamie Deady

Councilmember Erika Morgan

Councilmember Janie Edelman

Councilmember (vacant seat)

Councilmember Ron Taylor



# the city connection...

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January / February 2015



*"Facets of Black Diamond"*

**City Offices will be closed:**

- ★ January 1 - New Years Day
- ★ January 19 - MLK Day
- ★ February 16 - Presidents Day



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## **From the Desk of our Mayor, Carol Benson...**



It is with great pleasure and honor that as your Mayor I welcome in 2015. With pleasure because I look forward to working with the Citizens, Council, and staff to face the many challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for the City of Black Diamond, and with honor that I have been entrusted to serve as your Mayor for the next year.

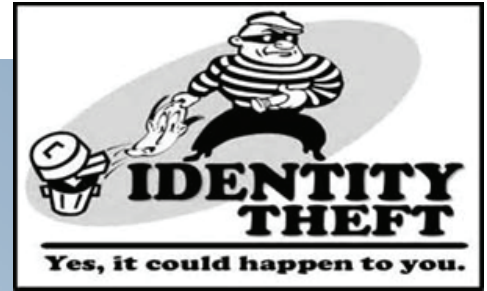
We have a lot of work to do as the city continues to face very challenging economic times, without a guaranteed "light at the end of the tunnel." On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Council adopted the 2015 budget which continues to struggle to fund basic and required services. I will be

working closely with both Council and employees to carefully manage expenses during these continually difficult financial times.

This past year we have had numerous issues to deal with, many of which are behind us, and some that continue to challenge us. I will be working collaboratively with Citizens, Council, and staff to work on those issues, and the many more that I am sure will come, in an effort to move the City of Black Diamond forward in a positive and constructive manner and make it an even better place than it already is to Live, Work, and Play! Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, questions, or concerns you may have.

*Thank you Keith Watson, for your service on the Planning Commission. Please welcome Patricia Pepper our newest Planning Commission member!*

## Police Department >>> *Preventing Theft of Mail...*



The theft of mail from residential mailboxes is an increasing problem. Con artists use this as a means to obtain your identity information and to steal checks and other items of value. This problem can be reduced or minimized by following these tips:

- Do not leave outgoing mail in your unlocked mailbox.
  - Deposit mail in a blue collection box or inside your local post office. Don't leave mail in a collection box that is full.
  - Promptly pick up your incoming mail after it is delivered.
  - Get together with neighbors and the Postal Service and arrange for the installation of locked group mailboxes for neighborhood delivery. These are known as Neighborhood Delivery & Collection Box Units (NDCBU). Each address has an individual locked unit for delivery and collection. A minimum of seven neighbors is needed to sign a petition requesting an NDCBU.
  - Purchase a locked mailbox or convert your unlocked box to the lockable type. Make sure the mail slot is large enough for the letter carrier to insert your mail. The letter carrier cannot pick up mail from this type of box.
  - Arrange for your mail to be delivered to a Post Office box for a small fee.
  - Have regular income checks deposited electronically into your bank account via direct deposit.
  - Promptly contact the senders if you do not receive credit cards, checks, or other valuable mail.
  - Notify the post office and mailers if you change your address. When going on vacation, have the post office hold your mail or have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your mail after delivery.
  - Be observant of activities on your street, including those near your letter carrier, the postal vehicle, residential mailboxes, and collection boxes.
  - If you see suspicious persons or activity, call 911 while the suspects are still present.
- To "opt out" of receiving pre-approved credit and insurance offers from the credit bureau mailing lists call: 18885OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit: [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com).

By following these tips and using common sense, you can lessen your chances of being a victim of mail theft and possible identity theft. If you have questions about postal regulations, contact your local postmaster.

Check out our Emergency Management page on the website at [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/emerg\\_manag](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/emerg_manag) there you will find tons of resources to help you plan and prepare to help you and your loved ones get through a disaster.

## Fire Department >>> *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)...*

Mountain View Fire & Rescue will be offering CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training once a month. The training is open to all residents within our fire district including The City of Black Diamond. We would love to see people that have never taken CERT before and anyone that would like a refresher.

January 14, 2015

6:00 PM

Contact Tim Perciful at [tperciful@kcf44.org](mailto:tperciful@kcf44.org) or 253-876-6788 to sign up.



The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

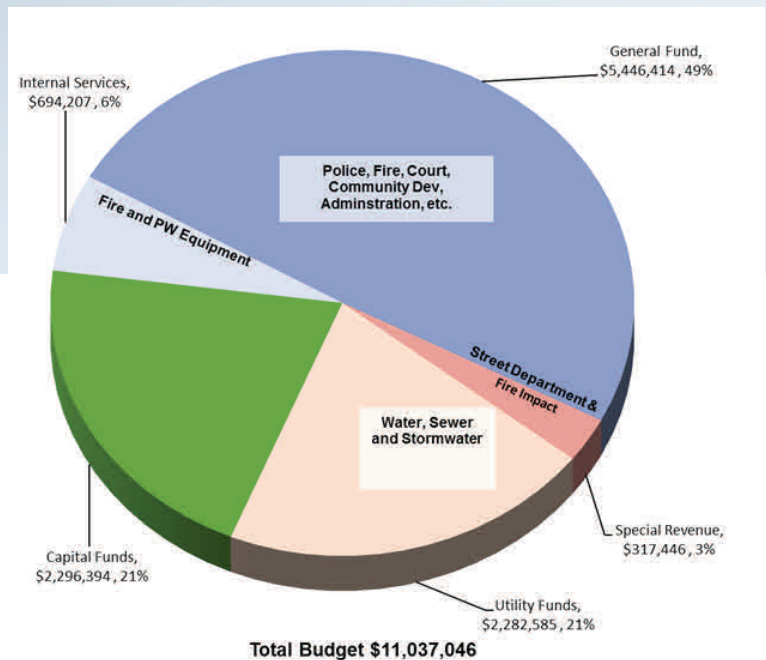
## Finance Department >>> Council Adopts 2015 Budget...

On December 1, 2014, Council adopted Ordinance No. 14-1038 approving the budget for 2015. Council began deliberations on the budget at committee and workstudy meetings in October and held public hearings in November and a final public hearing December 1, 2014.

The total 2015 budget of \$11,037,046 decreased by \$1,207,642 or 9.9% from 2014. This was due to the Funding Agreement reductions and completion of several Capital Projects. All funds are in balance and they include funds for Public Safety, General Government as well as Street, Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Capital Project funds. New Capital projects for 2015 include funds for the General Comprehensive Plan and Water Plan updates, and painting the Water Reservoir as well as Technology and Equipment replacements.

The 2015 budget honors the adopted Financial Management Policy of the city that recommends the General Fund maintain at least 10% in ending Fund Balance. The budgeted 2015 ending balance of \$645,080 is \$79,627 higher than last year and \$233,947 above the 10% recommended policy. All funds are in balance and they include funds for Public Safety, General Government as well as Street, Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Capital Project funds. New Capital projects for 2015 include TIB Grants received for the Rock Creek Bridge Project, and the Lawson Street Sidewalk Project as well as a DOE Grant for a Stormwater Treatment pond.

The Ordinance #14-1038 adopting the 2014 Budget is available on the city website. A final updated 2014 Budget Document will be available by February 20, 2015.



## Community Contacts...

### Black Diamond Community Center (360) 886-1011

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Friday 8 – 4

### 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

## RECENTLY ADOPTED ORDINANCES

- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1037 and 14-1037A - Setting 2015 Property Tax Levy and 1% Tax Increase
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1038 - adopting 2015 Final Budget
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1039 - regarding KC Metro 2015 Sewer Rate Increase
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1040 - 2014 Budget Amendment
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1041 and 14-1041A - Setting 2015 Property Tax Levy and 1% Tax Increase
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1042 - amending Municipal Code regarding SEPA
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1043 - amending 2015 Salary Schedule
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1044 - repealing Ch. 16 (Comp. Plan) of BDMC- revised language
- ★ Ordinance No. 14-1045 - adding New Chapter to BDMC- Public Defender Standards

## Water Department >>> 2015 Utility Rate Increases...

Council has the responsibility to insure that each Utility Fund has sufficient rates to provide the funds for their Maintenance and Operation, Debt payments and Capital costs. The following monthly rates will increase effective January, with payments due in February, 2015:

Rate Type	Old Rate 2014	New Rate 2015	Increase	Ordinance	Approved
Sewer-Metro pass/Thru	39.79	42.03	2.24	#14-1039	12/18/2014
Sewer-City Portion	19.52	19.97	0.45	#13-1007	8/1/2013
Water-Base Rate	30.98	35.63	4.65	#13-1006	7/11/2013
<b>Water Consumption plus cubic feet of water-used</b>					
0-600 cu. ft.	2.40	2.76	0.36	#13-1006	7/11/2013
601-1,200 cu. ft.	2.76	3.17	0.41	#13-1006	7/11/2013
Over 1,200 cu. ft.	3.17	3.65	0.48	#13-1006	7/11/2013

The Sewer Metro rates are remitted monthly to Metro for their Sewer Treatment processing. Stormwater rates did not increase and will remain at \$16.00 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Discounted Lifeline rates for city share rates are available to low-income or disabled utility customers at 50% of the initial listed rates. Applications are available annually on the city website - [www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us).

## Emergency Management - Know the winter terms ...

Know the terms used to describe changing winter weather conditions and what actions to take. These terms can be used to determine the timeline and severity of an approaching storm. (Advisory/Watch/Warning). The NWS also issues advisories and warnings for other winter weather, including blizzards, freezes, wind-chill, and dense fog. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop:



**\*Freezing Rain** - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

**\*Sleet** - Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

**\*Wind Chill**- Wind-chill is the temperature it “feels like” when you are outside. The NWS provides a Wind-chill Chart to show the difference between air temperature and the perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs. For more information, visit: [www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill).

**\*Winter Weather Advisory** - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening. The NWS issues a winter weather advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.

**\*Winter Storm Watch** - A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information. The NWS issues a winter storm watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area but the location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information. Monitor alerts, check your emergency supplies, and gather any items you may need if you lose power.

**\*Winter Storm Warning** - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

**\*Blizzard Warning** - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

**\*Frost/Freeze Warning** - Below freezing temperatures are expected.

# council / commission / committee meetings...

Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Work Sessions / Town Hall Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month starting at 6 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](http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk) to view meeting materials.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 25510 LAWSON STREET

JAN 1 - 7 p.m. - **CANCELLED**  
 JAN 8 - 6 p.m. (*Special Meeting & Town Hall Meeting*)  
 JAN 15 - 7 p.m.  
 FEB 5 - 7 p.m.  
 FEB 12 - 6 p.m. (*Work Session & Town Hall Meeting*)  
 FEB 19 - 7 p.m.

## PLANNING COMMISSION 25510 LAWSON STREET

JAN 6 - 7 p.m.  
 FEB 10 - 7 p.m.

## FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 8 - 1 p.m.  
 JAN 29 - 1 p.m.  
 FEB 12 - 1 p.m.  
 FEB 26 - 1 p.m.

## PARKS/CEMETERY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 15 - 10 a.m.  
 FEB 19 - 10 a.m.

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 2 - 8:30 a.m.  
 JAN 16 - 4 p.m.  
 FEB 6 - 4 p.m.  
 FEB 20 - 4 p.m.

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 2 - 10:30 a.m.  
 FEB 6 - 10:30 a.m.

## PLANNING/COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE 24301 ROBERTS DRIVE

JAN 6 - 4 p.m.  
 FEB 10 - 4 p.m.

**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.**

**CITY HALL**  
 P.O. Box 599  
 24301 Roberts Drive

contact  
information...

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

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT\* /  
 NATURAL RESOURCES\* /  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \***

P.O. Box 599  
 24301 Roberts Drive

**\*NEW OFFICE HOURS MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 \*CLOSED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

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

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 309  
 25510 Lawson Street

(253) 631-1012  
**Non-Emergency No: (360) 886-0022**  
 Fax: (360) 886-2901

## MUNICIPAL COURT\*

P.O. Box 599  
 25510 Lawson Street

**\*OFFICE HOURS MONDAY–THURSDAY 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 \*OPEN EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY FOR 1/2 DAY 8:30 a.m. – NOON**

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

## FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44

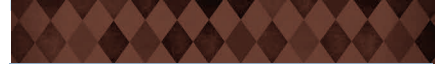
(253) 735-0284

## 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 >>>

- ◆ Administration,  
Mayor Benson
- ◆ City Clerk/HR Manager,  
Brenda L. Martinez, CMC
- ◆ Community Development/  
Natural Resources,  
Aaron Nix
- ◆ Economic Development/MDRT,  
Andrew Williamson
- ◆ Finance,  
Mayene Miller
- ◆ Police,  
Jamey Kiblinger
- ◆ Public Works,  
Seth Boettcher, PE

