

**CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2012
Community Center, 31605 3rd Avenue, Black Diamond, Washington**

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Olness called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and lead us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Goodwin, May, and Taylor.

ABSENT:

Staff present were: Steve Pilcher, Executive Director of Community Development; Chip Hanson, IS Manager; and Brenda L. Martinez, Assistant City Admin/City Clerk.

Mayor Olness announced tonight is a Community Forum to promote open communication and dialogue between the Council and citizens.

Councilmember Goodwin gave background on the first forum that was held by Councilmember Deady and himself. He noted the one issue that came up was communication.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cindy Wheeler, Black Diamond commented on the failure of items noticed on the webpage and the need for more transparency.

Cindy Proctor, Enumclaw suggested having an area in the next City newsletter alerting folks that there will be a lot of new things going on and reminding them to check the website often. She also suggested adding an insert alerting folks of the Community Forum meetings. Lastly, she suggested posting things to the website earlier on Fridays to ensure the links are not broken.

Sean Taeschner, Black Diamond commented eye and body contact tell a lot to folks if that person is listening to them as perception has a lot to do if people feel accepted and heard. He added communication to be effective means eyes and ears on the person speaking.

Donna Gauthier, Black Diamond commented on resolutions and making it a process to have resolutions discussed at one meeting and then action taken at the next meeting.

Kristine Hanson, Black Diamond, commented on respect being a two-way street - you have to give respect to get respect. Commented on Council being available to folks and it is not only the six minutes during Council meetings.

Councilmember Goodwin commented that committees have already been set up as another form of communication and is there a way to set up a citizen committee

Cindy Proctor, Enumclaw commented on the need for training on how we communicate when things are quasi-judicial or legislative. She gave example of PPAs and CFDs and suggested getting a facilitator in to help with this.

Harvey Senecal, Black Diamond asked if community members who are not tech savvy know these meetings are going on and how do we reach those folks?

Councilmember Deady, Black Diamond, commented it also takes the community spreading the word too, as well as the City finding new ways to get the word out.

Peggy Sperry, Black Diamond, commented on the three minute rule and not having the back and forth dialogue.

Councilmember Deady noted during the regular business meetings of the Council the comment period is not a back and forth dialogue with Councilmembers, however these meetings are for that purpose.

Councilmember Taylor commented on resolutions being acted upon. He noted most things of substance and as a matter of general rule Council will likely postpone action so they can hear from the folks before making a decision.

Cindy Wheeler commented that all data on an issue needs to be up on the website so the public can comment thoroughly with an informed opinion.

Glennis Richardson commented on the notice board at the school and using it as an announcement board for these meetings.

Tina McGann suggested the idea of being more involved with the PTA for Black Diamond and having Council attend their events as a way to communicate with more folks. She also noted that there will be a spaghetti feed coming up on the 17th of February and invited folks to attend.

Councilmember Taylor asked Ms. McGann how to reach out. Ms. McGann responded by becoming a member so all stay involved.

Cindy Proctor, suggested having a city blog ran by volunteers that linked folks to the PTA Blog, Black Diamond Community Center and the City's website. This way folks

would only have one place to go for information regarding news within the City of Black Diamond. She also added it might be helpful to have a survey done on how folks want to get notifications.

Diana Boxx commented on the Fire Department having a reader board and wondered if it is still available and maybe the City could use it.

Peter Rimbos, Maple Valley, commented the elephant in the room being the quasi-judicial mode for the last two years. And the communication that was set up was the hearings as citizens were not allowed to contact Council on the quasi-judicial issue. His belief is Council didn't either read the material submitted or did not understand the material submitted and this was the communication breakdown and fears this will happen in the future for more quasi-judicial settings. His solution is no more quasi-judicial hearings for Council.

Sean Taeschner commented that Council meetings last year felt like a set up and decisions were made without the citizens being heard. He also noted the perception is YarrowBay has become part of the City whether we want them or not and the citizens were not listened to and were discounted.

Dave Amber, Lake 12 asked Council what they thought of the idea he presented to Council at the last meeting.

Cindy Wheeler disagrees with Mr. Rimbos regarding quasi-judicial although she feels we need to be careful with that process. She added the process has a place so it does not cost folks money if they wish to appeal.

Tina McGann suggested having a forum with local business owners.

Mayor Olness reported our Economic Development Director Mr. Williamson use to hold informational meetings with local business owners, however due to workload those meeting were put on hold. She added there has been recent discussion with Council to start this up again.

Ericka Morgan commented on the need to have a business plan.

Cindy Wheeler commented on testimony and when we provide testimony can it be a two way dialogue so we have good data and clarification.

Brock Deadly, commented he is willing to be on the committee for communication.

Councilmember Taylor reminded folks to bring issues forward where code needs changes.

Councilmember May, thanked staff for setting the equipment up tonight. He added he likes what he is seeing tonight and noted it's called cooperation. He then applauded the community for keeping it cordial tonight.

Mayor Olness commented on the business meeting of the Council and the Town Hall meetings being for dialogue.

Dave Amber, asked when are the comprehensive plan updates? Councilmember Taylor responded he believes it is in April.

Steve Picher reported on the comprehensive plan update process and also noted the process is on the City's website.

Peter Rimbo, Maple Valley distributed a proposal to Council regarding a transportation analysis and highlighted the four areas of the proposal. Discussed the pros and cons to his proposal. Asked Council to seriously consider this and the TAT team is willing to sit down and talk with Council on these issues.

Patrick Nelson commented on the trees down on his property from the recent storm and noted he has no way to get rid of them and asked if the City can help folks get rid of the debris.

Mayor Olness responded the city does not have the staff or the resources for this. She added folks were apprised via the website.

Melanie Gauthier, Black Diamond commented on the spring cleanup event coming up in the City.

Kristine Hanson commented Lake Sawyer Christian church has a big volunteer group that might come and get rid of the wood.

Harvey Senecal, suggested folks putting a sign out saying free firewood.

Sean Taeschner commented on story he brought up during the last Council meeting regarding septic systems around Lake Sawyer. Commented on the stormwater fees and folks around Lake Sawyer not understanding why they are paying for sewer fees. He noted he talked with staff regarding the stormwater bill. Commented on CFDs and gave an example of an amortization schedule he ran and what the costs would be to a potential homebuyer. His fear is the majority of folks can't afford a house payment of nearly \$2,000 a month. He added five years from now don't be surprised if the Council says we need to spread out the cost so everyone can help pay for the CFDs. Need to look down the road and see how we make the costs fair. Asked the Councilmembers to think about figuring out what it will cost a resident and will the costs be fully disclosed to a future buyer and what emergency measures can be taken if folks can't pay and leave and the city has many vacant homes.

Goodwin commented he believes Mr. Taeschner has a misperception of stormwater and sewer as they are not connected and would be happy to sit down and explain this to him. Commented on the formation of the CFD committee and what their role is.

Cindy Proctor commented the legislation for CFDs and added that homeowners will be notified. Commented on the Noise Committee and its formation. Asked if City staff could reach out to YarrowBay and get this committee formed earlier than the condition provides. She commented on the new MPD submissions and noted the city needs to come up with some solid answers. Asked for a workstudy on the school agreement to make the tri-party agreement a better agreement and would be happy to participate in this.

Diana Boxx, asked a budget question regarding YarrowBay funding of staff members and wonders who gets stuck with the bill that the City agreed on with YarrowBay so they could be repaid. Councilmember Goodwin responded as it stands there is no legal requirement for the City to pay it back. However, if they were to somehow get legislation passed they could put a surcharge on building permits for those permits pulled in the MPD property only.

Cindy Wheeler, asked if the all the funding issues regarding bonding is in place. Councilmember Goodwin responded yes. Discussed the sewer facility being different in the new applications and would like to see the Council pursue a new EIS as they are different from the first applications.

Peter Rimbo commented on the Green Valley Road committee and the conditions regarding it. He noted he would like to see the committee do far more than they are authorized to do and wondered how Council will change this. He gave some suggestions on what needs to be looked at. Noted there are other roads that are west and will be a problem as there will be congestion everywhere. Issues need to be addressed as they were ignored by previous Council. We have three major problems transportation, transportation, transportation. He then asked Council to please look at the committee structure and change it as you can legally.

Sean Taeschner commented on the eagle habitat at Lake Sawyer and the documents they submitted during the hearing regarding preserved habitat. YarrowBay tree cutting incident; asked City Council what their plan is in talking with YarrowBay about preserving the eagle habitat around Lake Sawyer.

Dave Amber commented on the grease pole not being part of the Labor Day events and wondered why.

Vicki Harp stated this meeting is really a pleasure tonight. Commented on attendance at Council meetings and noted it is always something that brings them out and we do need to reach out to all. Feels there is something good happening and feels it is okay to disagree and we all need to be a little bit kinder and bring it together.

Councilmember Deady commented on the core people attending and would like to see the community come together and have communication.

Harvey Senecal commented there are some people in Black Diamond and he is one that is excited about the Master Planned Community. We need to make Black Diamond an attractive place and excited about this.

Councilmember Taylor commented on business and Council being concerned. He added we have all seen businesses fail in our community and we need to change this so we can be economically vibrant and business wise and would like to see this item on an upcoming agenda to get ideas to make this a better business community.

Kristine Hanson discussed having a process in place that outlines what folks need to have and the timeline for those regarding the building process. She added there is a need for the Tri-City Councils to come together and be a stronger voice to the state to advocate for more help to our areas.

Peter Rimbo commented he is not aware of anyone who is against the MPDs, what they are against is the size of them.

Mayor Olness announced there is a City Council meeting next Thursday and the following Thursday is the Tri-City Council meeting regarding Shared Animal Services at Covington City Hall Council Chambers. She added March 1 is the first Council meeting in March followed by the Community Forum on the 8th. She thanked everyone for coming.

Councilmember Deady polled folks on the room setup and continuing the forum at this venue.

Mayor Olness discussed the challenges with having the forum at the Community Center and asked for suggestions on how to make Council Chambers a more inviting setting for this type of meeting.

Vern Gibson invited folks to make donations to the Community Center.

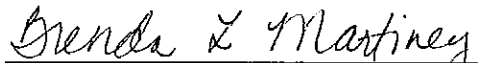
ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Goodwin and **seconded** by Councilmember Deady to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (4-0).

ATTEST:



Rebecca Olness, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, Asst. City Admin/City Clerk