

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting of September 13, 2012
Community Center, 31605 3rd Ave, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: None

Staff present were: Pete Butkus, Interim City Administrator; Chip Hanson, IS Manager; and Rachel Pitzel, Deputy City Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Olness welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that everyone will have a chance to speak once before anyone is allowed to speak for a second time.

Councilmember Deady asked Interim City Administrator Butkus to recap the budget.

Interim City Administrator Butkus recapped budget process and where staff is at regarding the budget, he stated it is not an easy budget year. The General Fund is the most critical fund; looked at opportunities to raise revenue, minimum at best; staff is ahead of schedule - about two weeks; he noted that on October 18 it will be ready for Councils input at a workstudy; read dates of budget process and talked about adoption process and when the adoption process needs to be completed.

Bill McDermott, Black Diamond, extended an invitation to Council for the K9 fundraiser at the Eagles this Saturday.

Cindy Proctor, Enumclaw, thanked City for the public notice icon on website discussed Tough Mudder event regarding the impact on traffic; discussed public notice process and proper public notices; stated she was frustrated as a professional.

Valarie Brazier, Black Diamond- commented that there was no notice of dog leash law at Lake Sawyer that the signs were just put up without notice; doesn't feel safe walking at night with dog on leash. Asked what can be done about the leash law and inquired if an electronic leash works under the law.

Mayor stated there has always been a leash law, but the signs are new.

Councilmember Deady stated she understood wanting a place where you can bring your dog, looking into segregating a part of the Park to do that.

Dianna Boxx, Black Diamond- commented on the organizational chart and provided Council with a handout; she noted that the organization chart says nothing about the City Council; stated she looked at other City's Maple Valley, Covington, Enumclaw and Redmond and they all have the same thing, the citizens first and then the Council on down. She asked why the City's chart doesn't reflect the citizens and the Council.

Mayor Olness stated that as long as she was a Councilmember and now Mayor, the organizational chart has always been the same; commented that staff will look into the organization chart and thanked Ms. Boxx for bringing it to their attention.

Councilmember Taylor commented that it looked like the City can improve the chart and he thought it was something that Council can visit and it is a good point that Ms. Boxx brought up.

Councilmember Deady agreed and noted it should be reorganized with Citizens, Council and Administration.

Mayor Olness asked if there was anyone else who would like to address Council; seeing no one, she clarified that there has been a lot of news about the K9 benefit and the statement that was in the paper about accepting funds which was based on advice of the Attorney. She also noted that she met with Jennifer Slape who has worked on the fundraiser for the last 5 years, after meeting with the Mayor, Ms. Slape had agreed to let the controversies die down and Ms. Slape along with the Eagles will put on a fundraiser in February/March 2013 and the Mayor noted that the City will support it. Mayor Olness did state that she couldn't speak for the Black Diamond Community Center.

Councilmember Deady stated she didn't understand the discrimination against any group willing to donate to the K9 program and asked the Mayor why she didn't go to the board of the Eagles hall to discuss further.

Councilmember Benson noted there was an announcement tonight regarding the K9 fundraiser and Council is bringing forth a resolution regarding accepting those funds at the next Council meeting.

Cindy Proctor, Enumclaw – stated she believes the Attorneys advice was illegal and noted the City has taken funds from nonprofits before, in times of limited funds, it's a necessity; bench donations accepted; political views should not be part of a decision to accept funds; create a Public Development Authority (PDA) which is open public meetings, separate audits, eliminates some legalities of accepting funds; Ms. Proctor also noted that the City may want to seek new legal counsel.

Mayor Olness stated staff went before Council to accept the donation of benches.

Mayor Olness noted that due to a scheduling conflict- SEARCH will hold a meeting in Black Diamond at the Black Diamond Community Center on October 11 which is the same night as the Town Hall meeting which means Council is cancelling the Town Hall meeting and replacing it for the SEARCH meeting, if Council so chooses, the Town Hall meeting can be rescheduled if necessary. She also noted that the public is invited to the SEARCH meeting.

Councilmember Goodwin asked Ms. Brazier from the audience if she could get information on the electronic leashes so Council have a perspective on them.

Valerie Brazier, Black Diamond- explained the electronic leash and what it does.

Councilmember Taylor commented that Council needed to research the information and see the effectiveness of the electronic leash and the Code may need to be modified.

Vern Gibson, Black Diamond- commented that dogs are constantly running loose all the time in Rainier View and nothing ever happens, he asked who enforces the leash law.

Mayor Olness stated that Animal Control enforces as well our Black Diamond Police.

Mayor Olness asked Acting Sergeant Lynch if he wouldn't mind speaking on this issue.

Acting Sergeant Lynch commented the major problem with loose dogs is Animal Control will not respond to take care of it unless the dog is vicious, he noted the City does not have a facility to lock up animals and the Police try to find the owners, but it makes it difficult for the Police Department to control them.

Erika Morgan, Black Diamond- commented on an email she sent to the Planning Commissioners and there being an issue with the Commissioners getting their email; wanted to follow-up and see if council and Planning Commissioners received it.

Council responded to Ms. Morgan that they all have received the email.

Councilmember Taylor asked Ms. Morgan if she sent the email to the Planning Commission email address.

Ms. Morgan replied yes, it is the same address she has always used that she copied from the City website.

Mayor Olness replied that the Planning Commission has a city email address, and the City then forwards them on the Planning Commission members.

Councilmember Deady commented the City has had email issues with email recently.

Councilmember Taylor noted that he wanted to make sure that those messages are getting forwarded on to Planning Commission members.


Jack Sperry, Black Diamond- commented that there is a single email address to send to Planning Commission members, but the members are not going to that address to retrieve that email, he stated it is unfortunate that they cannot have their own email address to get those messages. He requested that Council talk to IT Department to see if the Commissioners can get individual email addresses.

Bill Roth, Black Diamond- stated the solution could be just as easy as setting up Comcast accounts for each member and having the emails automatically forward the message to that account.


ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Goodwin and **seconded** by Councilmember Deady to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0).

ATTEST:



Rebecca Olness, Mayor



Rachel Pitzel, Deputy City Clerk