

**CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSTUDY NOTES**

**October 29, 2012**

Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

Mayor Olness called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers May (late) and Benson (excused).

Staff present: Andy Williamson, Executive Director of Economic Development and Engineering Services, Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; Mayene Miller, Finance Director; Dave Gray, Deputy Finance Director; Pete Butkus, Interim City Administrator and Brenda Martinez; Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk.

Mayor Olness announced this workstudy is to work on the following items:

- 2013 Budget- Police
- 2013 Budget – Cemetery and Parks
- 2013 Budget – Public Works

Interim City Administrator Butkus referred to the police budget as present in the packet material.

Chief Kiblinger handed out a budget comparison for police budgets for the cities of Black Diamond, Maple Valley and North Bend.

**2013 Budget – Police**

Councilmember May entered the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Councilmember Goodwin noted how he reads the handout that it reinforces us having our own police force and the crime rates also reinforces this as the crime rate is lower than those cities. He also added that we provide more than the basics with our police department.

Councilmember Taylor added if you were to contract out you get to choose from a menu of items for the type of services you want and get and it gets more expensive the more you want.

Councilmember Deady added North Bend did a phone survey and results showed folks were happy with the police service being provided, but was willing to go with Snoqualmie for the costs of savings.

Mayor Olness noted that the County has never contracted with another City that has their own police service.

Councilmember Deady commented that keeping our police department is important, but it is also just as important to look at all costs during the budgeting process.

Chief Kiblinger distributed a handout regarding DARE costs for the police department.

Finance Director Miller highlighted for Council the increase in the police department is largely due in part to the increase in salaries and benefits, which also affects other areas such as mandatory employer costs. She noted other reasons we were out of budget in the police fund is due to lower revenue projections that help offset their costs.

### **2013 Budget –Parks**

Finance Director Miller discussed with council the staff and supply allocation model for this fund.

Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson discussed the level of service at the parks.

### **2013 Budget –Cemetery**

Finance Director Miller discussed with Council the staff and supply allocation model she prepared for this fund.

Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson talked about having folks pay for their care to be parked at the boat launch area. The City charges folks to park who are launching a boat, but not for a car; discussed other areas to look at on the fee schedule.

Councilmember Goodwin presented to Council an alternative budget that has been discussed thus far. Noted he has been working with folks in the community and each other and reflecting on what the Mayor has proposed.

He noted the outline for the discussion is the history and outlook on budget:

- Budget Silos
- Why General Fund Budget Deficits are a Long Term Structural Problem in Black Diamond and other Communities
- Black Diamond budget History

2013 – 2020 Budget Strategy:

- Principles & Priorities
- Specific Goals for 2013, 2014 and 2015
- Budget Framework & Recommendations
- Next Steps

Councilmember Goodwin noted with the consent of Council he would like to see this posted to the website.

There was Council consensus for staff to post to the City's website.

Mayor Olness noted that her cover letter to the budget never proposed using fund balance and she asked for Council's support in making the tough decisions.

### **2013 Budget –Public Works**

Interim City Administrator Butkus gave a brief summary of the Mayor's memo and noted that in Streets Operations and Maintenance we are using some reserves from the Street Funds and the end of these reserves in three years also coincides with the REET changes sunsetting in 2016. He noted possible options that need to be investigated well in advance of the budget year of 2017. He discussed water maintenance and operations and utility revenues being relatively flat due to decrease in water use, largely due to personal reduction in use and the installation of water-efficient fixtures. Sewer Maintenance and Operations and Stormwater Maintenance and Operations were recapped.

Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson noted that gas tax continues to decrease and unfunded mandates continue to be a hardship on the City. He noted the changes to the signs and the costs associated with this change; the sidewalk repairs being the responsibility of the City; asked Council to look at the formation of a TBD imposing a per-vehicle tax that is commonly known as the car tab tax.

Finance Director Miller reviewed the Street Fund Finance Report.

Street Fund - Interim City Administrator Butkus encouraged Council to look at options for sidewalk repairs as other cities do not fund 100% of their repairs. It could be a 50/50 with the property owner or 100% from the property owner.

Water Fund - Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson noted revenue is down as the reports show this and could be attributed to conservation. Added costs for operating the water system is going up due in part to the cost for the chemicals and training of staff. Need to determine what happens to our rates the day we turn the tap on from Tacoma and we will need to address this.

Finance Director Miller reviewed the 401 Water Fund Financial Report.

Sewer Fund - Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson noted this being a fund that is healthier; noted upcoming projects that need to be addressed.

Finance Director Miller reviewed the 407 Sewer Fund Financial Report.

Stormwater - Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson commented on the PWTF monies that have been set aside for Stormwater. We got the jump in applying for this and the project will be a Regional Stormwater Pond and looks like it's moving forward. He noted other ideas that could work with this project; noted down the line having to look at Revenues vs. Expenditures.

Finance Director Miller reviewed the 410 Stormwater Fund Financial Report.

Executive Director of Economic Development Williamson discussed the employees in this fund and lobbied very hard that his employees be compensated by a COLA and step increases and asked Council to consider this.


Mayor Olness reminded folks that Judge Dane is being sworn in tomorrow and on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a Workstudy at 5:30 p.m. before the regular Council meeting.

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).

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The workstudy ended at 6:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Rebecca Olness, Mayor

  
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Rachel Pitzel, Deputy City Clerk