

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Work Session and Town Hall Meeting of April 10, 2014
Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Gordon called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and lead us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Morgan, Edelman, Benson and Taylor.

ABSENT: None.

Staff present were: Aaron Nix, Natural Resources/Parks Director and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

WORK SESSION:

Shoreline Master Program – Aaron Nix

Mayor Gordon welcomed everyone and announced that the work session is on the Shoreline master Program and asked Mr. Nix to address Council on this issue.

Natural Resources/Parks Director Nix noted this being a long process and thanked Mr. Sperry for his help. He discussed the process that has taken place so far and moving this item forward. He reviewed with Council the six remaining issues on the plan and discussed Ecology's responses to the six items as stated in their March 14th letter to the City.

Councilmember Edelman noted we need to move forward and accept the Department of Ecology's responses as the City has been able to get a lot from Department of Ecology thanks to the help of citizens and staff.

Jack Sperry, Black Diamond – commented that the City should not turn in anything to the Department of Ecology that they will not accept and have liability to take over the project, however there still is time to have dialogue on some issues and especially on item #3.

Councilmember Taylor stated he does not like the process and understands that at some point we need to cut our losses and move forward. However, if another meeting with the Department of Ecology is okay, and it doesn't hold up the process then go ahead and try.

Natural Resources/Parks Director Nix noted the goal is to get a document to Council by May 1st that the Department of Ecology has agreed to.

Mayor Gordon noted Mr. Nix is doing very good work along with Mr. Sperry.

TOWN HALL MEETING:

Mayor Gordon announced the next item on the agenda is the Town Hall meeting and Council has asked him to let folks know that there will be a five minute limit for all speakers.

Councilmember Taylor commented on the statewide failure of 9-1-1 last night and assured folks that there were no major issues here in town. Mitigation was put in place for folks who needed to get in touch with public safety services.

Councilmember Taylor noted respecting the Mayor personally and did not enjoy doing this but felt things had run-a-muck at City Hall and if he didn't say something then his talk about transparency is for nothing and it was meant to spur conversation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark Taeschner, Black Diamond – noted his family history and growing up in Black Diamond. He asked if the City has an anti-bullying ordinance and if so, he would like to make a citizen's arrest. He stated he was proud to help elect Mayor Dave Gordon and is proud of that effort and support. Positive aspects - the Police not acting like tax collectors for the City; complimented Mayor Gordon for spending \$20,000 on making this town a better place; he noted needing to make Black Diamond a hot rod town and a positive place to come. In his opinion the people should work on lifting people up not cutting them down. He also asked what the fee is to cut down trees by YarrowBay and if they have paid.

Mark Taeschner, Black Diamond – talked about water run-off. In his opinion, Black Diamond should change their name to YarrowBay, WA; he stated it angers him that Mayor Gordon has been accused of improprieties and his shame on the City Council for how this has been handled.

George McPherson, Black Diamond – commented on the letter in the newspaper and noted there being a battle going on and has a suggestion that could help the city budget. He suggested instead of lawyers that we try mediation and could supply a place and phone number, he noted he lessens attorney fees and is for both sides; they bring folks together and try to solve the problem without an adversarial approach. He discusses percentages and rates for both approaches. Mr. McPherson noted he doesn't want this town to look like Pacific and gave the Dispute Resolution Center of King County number as 206-443-9603 and asked Council to look into this as it could be well worth the effort.

Gary Davis, Black Diamond – stated on the Palmer Coking Coal blasting at the John Henry Mine. He noted no permission has been given yet and this is not a done deal as there are a lot of issues with this as folks think they are trying to mine again so they do not have to go through the reclamation process.

Robert Taeschner, Black Diamond – commented he thinks it's necessary that we proceed as this is a nation of laws and the last two elections the citizens of this City decided that

Mayor Gordon would be Mayor and City Council would not be the dominate exerciser of influence in their City and the votes are the law and if we are Americans we will respect that law. He voted for a strong City Council and the Mayor. He noted an attempt to work out of the established way things should be done; he noted the folks that write the articles are reporters not initiators; not a person in the room who has not made mistakes, we all make mistakes, especially in the beginning when we don't know much about it. He discussed his background on creating a television show and writing a script and teaching classes in Japan and is on his 54th year of teaching. He stressed having to follow the law and how folks learn from their mistakes; he asked that they please respect the law and don't try things in the newspapers as their goal is to sell issues.

Mario Sorci, Black Diamond – stated based on comments in the newspaper from Councilmember Taylor, he should never have been on a Council because everyone came without any experience and every one of you has learned on the job. Mr. Sorci noted he supports Mayor Gordon, although not voting for him and believes he will do an incredible job for Black Diamond. He noted the landslide election for Mayor Gordon and we need to respect that; he feels it is wrong for the Council to try and get the Mayor to resign and noted wanting to move on and making this a better place for everyone.

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue – discussed Horseshoe Lake and clear cutting cost. She discussed with Council the handout of pictures she distributed. She gave background information on Horseshoe Lake and the fluctuation of water levels. 4.7 inches of rain in February the Lake rose quite a bit and noted the Horseshoe lake water level chart in her handout. She noted her calculations on clear cutting and how much water would have been taken out by the trees and wonders if that water is now in the Lake. She noted pictures of water running through folks property on the south end of Horseshoe Lake.

Brian Derdowski, Issaquah – noted for several years coming to meetings and offering suggestions and lessons that he has learned while being on the King County Council. He noted the arguments and name calling and how they overcame those issues as you never say never in politics. He noted what helped him was not looking at them as Councilmembers but as people and that is when he had a different perspective about them. He noted Councilmember Morgan being a truth teller; Benson methodical and careful and brings a wonderful background from the development side; Dave Gordon being a decent person trying to do the right thing and doing something without a shred of self-interest and noted having a lot to learn and trying hard; Taylor methodical and careful and a wife that is a fireball and they make a dynamic duo; Edelman hospitable, big smile and her husband doing a lot to identify the problems with YarrowBay and noted her having to separate her rolls; Dedy her lovely family and her reflecting the soul of the town and always looking for the best in people. He noted staff giving a damn and that the City Administrator who has done some great things. He noted having the makings for a great government and the people needing them badly, and the voters voted for all of them. He stated there is a tomorrow; you've got a lot of great qualities and to please look at the qualities in each other.

Peter Rimbo, Maple Valley – spoke on behalf of the Citizens Technical Advisory Team, requests that the Mayor and Council focus on why they were elected. They are tired of hearing there is nothing that can be done about the YarrowBay Developments; as some things can be done. He discussed transportation requirements on the MPDs; noted what

the Advisory Team calls for regarding transportation; he stated he would like a response from the six page memo that was sent out.

Tina McGann, Black Diamond – noted loving the City of Black Diamond; commented on reading the article in the newspaper and is sad that another division is coming in to play. She had hope that we were all working together and moving forward. She is looking for good leadership and is teaching her children to be good leaders and about what good citizenship is. She commented on what good leadership is and it is time to move forward and focus on the future. She loves the Police Department and they are positive and not a tax collector and they support our Community.

Mark Taeschner, Black Diamond – thanked Mayor Gordon and his Father for his service in the Army and was trained never to leave a man out in the field wounded as he served in the military too. He commented on the water run-off tax and the City giving them a raise on this and nothing has been done and the money should be returned to the citizens. The biggest issue the City faces is the funds and it is the Police and Fire. He would like to see a City Congress division started and would work on it free of charge; he stated he would like to see a Bacon Bowl, drag racing, wrestling mat to pay for tickets. He stated community service to pay for tickets and these fun events would promote the town and be a fun place. He noted playing in a band and would like to get a dance going in town; would like to see Council and citizens promote this town. He noted the attorney fees quoted in the newspaper being pathetic; wants his money back form the stormwater and that should be the priority.

Councilmember Edelman noted the Boots and Badges basketball game that goes on every year with the police department; the Great Horror Campout that is coming forward at the next Council meetings, Tough Mudder event and the city is beginning to be known as a place where to come for fun events. She noted having limited staff and other issues on-going at this time. She thanked Mama Passerelli for the work she has done the past few weeks in the Oso mudslide and Councilmember Deady helped too and it is nice to see the City being represented in a positive manner.

Councilmember Taylor noted the stormwater being an unfunded mandate and he doesn't like it either.

Robert Taeschner, Black Diamond – asked who sets the amount of the fee.

Councilmember Taylor stated the Council sets the fees.

Councilmember Edelman noted the fund has to be self-sufficient and noted how Lake Sawyer residents reap the benefit by storm drains around the town being cleaned and the water going into Lake Sawyer naturally through Rock Creek and it is cleaner. She noted the exercise Council went through on the utility funds to make sure they were self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue – noted growing up here in Black Diamond and seeing Horseshoe Lake flooding. She noted talking to employees at the County and Town and stormwater being very complicated. She commented that the City of Black Diamond did not do any hydrology studies of where the water from the 100 acres of clear cutting that

has been done on the development. She discussed costs and consequences; noted that no one has done any studies on if the clear cutting made a difference in the recent Horseshoe flooding. She discussed the Oso landslide and the clear cutting that took place above that hill; she noted the soil that makes up the Lawson Hills development is the same kind of soils that made of the soils of the Oso landslide. She noted a landslide that took place on the Auburn-Black Diamond road earlier this year; she noted YarrowBay being connected with the County and City and they do ask for favors. She hopes that the research she and others did can be done in the future.

Brian Derdowski, Issaquah – noted the Town Hall meeting being a great mechanism and empowers the type of input the Council is receiving. He noted finding ways to harness that talent in a way they can work with staff should be look into; discussed the history on Horseshoe Lake and the political decision that was made in the past. He also discussed his comment to King County on behalf of Mayor-elect Gordon at that time.

Mira Hoke, Black Diamond – noted the Labor Day Committee has started to meet and they are looking for bands and local citizens for community involvement. The same goes for the Miners Day committee and they are looking for musical talent too. Many new folks are on the committee and bringing wonderful new ideas. Black Diamond's Farmers Market is launching into their second year and this being a community event and are diligently looking for local farmers to participate; discussed the promotional kiosk that will be available at the market to promote other city businesses; discussed the mural she is working on and is hoping to get it finished in the next month and putting it up on the outside of the Discovery building.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Edelman and **seconded** by Councilmember Deady to adjourn the meeting. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0). The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



Dave Gordon, Mayor



Rachel Pitzel, Deputy City Clerk