

BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Meeting of October 1, 2020
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Deady, Oglesbee, Wisnoski, Stout, de Leon, and Paige.

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Jamey Kiblinger, Police Chief; David Linehan, City Attorney; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR Manager.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to adopt the agenda; **second** Councilmember Oglesbee. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (6-0).

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Executive Session

At 7:03 p.m. Mayor Benson announced that pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) the City Council would be going into executive session to discuss the qualifications of candidates to an appointed position. The Executive Session was anticipated to last 20 minutes with possible action to follow.

At 7:23 p.m. a ten-minute extension was announced.

At 7:33 p.m. an additional ten-minute extension was announced.

At 7:43 p.m. Mayor Benson called the meeting back to order.

Appointment

Councilmember de Leon **moved** to appoint Bri Durham to Council Position #6. (There was no second to this motion.)

Councilmember Oglesbee spoke about the applicants and **moved** to appoint Bernie O'Donnell to Position 6.

Other Councilmembers then took turns speaking about the applicants and who their top candidates where and why; all noted it being a strong pool of candidates.

During discussion Councilmember Wisnoski **seconded** Councilmember Oglesbee's motion to appoint Bernie O'Donnell to Position 6.

Councilmember de Leon spoke to her motion to appoint Bri Durham.

Vote: Motion passed (5-1) (Councilmember de Leon).

Oath of Office

Mayor Benson administered the Oath of Office to Bernie O'Donnell. Following this he took his place in the virtual zoom meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Oglesbee **moved** to adopt the Consent Agenda; **second** Councilmember de Leon. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0). The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- 1) **Claim Checks** – October 1, 2020 Check No. 49181 through 49218 in the amount of \$259,178.17
- 2) **Minutes** – Work Session of August 13, 2020, Special Meeting of September 17, 2020, and Council Meeting of September 17, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Any written comments received are included with the minutes for this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire – Chief Smith reported 12 volunteers are at the volunteer academy and that two career firefighters are attending that academy. He shared that on Monday, October 5th the new Deputy Chief starts and noted she comes from the Tukwila Fire Department which is also in Zone 3; he hopes to have her attend the next council meeting for an introduction. He reported on the pre-construction meeting for the new fire engine and what the next step in the process is. He stated that recreational fires are now open and that yard vegetation fires in the City limits are not allowed. He also shared that the Department will be participating in the Trunk and Treat event.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Benson asked about a work session on inclusivity before the Town Hall meeting next Thursday. She also asked Council if two Councilmembers would be willing to participate in the assessment center testing for the sergeant position. She noted this is a good way to interact with the department; Councilmembers O'Donnell and de Leon volunteered. She also discussed adding boating regulations to the work session too. There

was Council consensus to have the two agenda items for next week's work session be: 1) Welcoming and Inclusive Proclamation, and 2) Boating Regulations.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember de Leon congratulated Bernie O'Donnell to the City Council position and noted being impressed with his application and looks forward to working with him. She stated that even with her vote she really does respect his application. She discussed the conversation around the inclusion and diversity statement and looks forward to what it will look like especially when the public has a chance to see it. She noted reviewing the budget conversation from last week and really looking forward to continuing that process and following up with any questions she may have.

Councilmember O'Donnell thanked Councilmember de Leon and noted what makes us stronger is the diversity of opinions and he respects that and looks forward to working with the Council. He talked about Tony Moss and his work with events in Black Diamond and offered his salary for his term to the Miners Day event. He shared with the candidates from Ten Trails knowing the importance of that community and bridging the communities together. He noted only having a little over a year in the position and wants to be a catalyst for making sure we can provide the public services to residents as the city grows. He stated being honored and humbled to be a part of this team and meeting with them and the department heads.

Councilmember Paige congratulated Bernie O'Donnell and welcomed him to the council. He shared with the other candidates that it is important to show continuity and by applying it demonstrates you want to serve. He encouraged them to be involved in the future and that just because another applicant was chosen, it doesn't mean they did not have great qualities. He noted the Council is entering a time where the focus is on budget and it's great to have Bernie on board. As a community he encouraged everyone to show respect to everyone as a lot of times people rush to judgment and an apology is okay, however it's important to think before you talk and he said that in generality as there is too much hate and conflict in our society - as small as we are we can be a role model for the community.

Councilmember Deady welcomed Councilmember O'Donnell and noted she feels he will do great. She shared that the other three candidates were very good and hopes they will put their names in the hat to run during the next election. She spoke about meeting minutes to residents and reminded everyone that minutes do not need to be a verbatim of public comments and the majority of cities just do have action minutes. She gave examples and noted citizens have the option to go back into the audio to see why a person was for or against something. She gave a big "Yeah" that the log piles are getting picked up and taken away as its been a long process and the citizens in that area are happy to see them go. She reported that the Lake Sawyer church is working on a Trunk or Treat and referred to area locations where kiddos can go.

Councilmember Oglesbee congratulated and welcomed Bernie and noted looking forward to working with him. She shared that she also looks forward to the other candidates putting their names in the election for next year and hopes one of them will. She reported attending the Public Safety Committee meeting and again noted looking forward to working with Bernie on that Committee.

Councilmember Wisnoski congratulated Councilmember O'Donnell and to the other candidates he asked them not to get discouraged and to stay engaged. He encouraged them to run in the election next year as they all would be a good addition to Council. He reported attending the Public Safety Committee meeting where they discussed space needs, website, and feedback on permitting process. He touched on the inclusivity and welcoming document that will be going out to council and shared that it is a really good illustration of people working together for the good of our community. He's excited for the public to see the proclamation and looks forward to the citizens' comments - we are one community not a community of neighborhoods.

Councilmember Stout welcomed Councilmember O'Donnell and noted it being fun to learn to be a Councilmember. She commented that all the candidates have a lot of energy and there are upcoming chances to be on the Council. She talked about her technical difficulties at the last meeting and shared she did go back and relisten the meeting. She reported attending the Public Works Committee meeting where they went over the water system plan, the Finance Committee meeting and talking with staff about new city website. She announced the good news that this project is back on track, however there is not a go live date yet, but hopes it is just around the corner. She noted the committee worked really hard on the Black Diamond welcoming proclamation and commented that this is a hot topic and very sensitive for many people. She stated the three of them were able to work together really well. She shared reading a lot of these statements from other organizations and when Council gets a copy of the draft the prepared, they will see a really different and beautiful proclamation. She again welcomed Bernie and thanked the other candidates and encouraged them to keep engaged.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

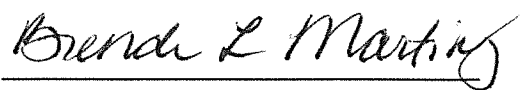
Councilmember Wisnoski **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Deady. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (7-0).

The meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk