

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

January 9, 2020

Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Benson called the regular work session meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers, Deady, Oglesbee, Stout, Nelson, and Paige.

ABSENT: Councilmembers de Leon (excused)

Staff present: May Miller, Finance Director; Andrew Williamson, MDRT/Ec Dev Director; David Linehan, City Attorney; and Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk/HR.

Mayor Benson welcomed everyone and Commissioners introduced themselves.

WORK SESSION:

1) Continuation of Discussion on Fire Services

Commissioner Ferrell addressed Council and Commissioners regarding the contract and cost for services. He shared a spreadsheet that refers to their budget, the number of calls, and the costs per call and mentioned it does not include capital. He discussed the difference in calls through the years and the amount the city pays compared to the cost for calls in 2019. He referred to the Ad Hoc Committee and noted needing to see a good faith effort from the city to pay a fair share of the cost. He noted the next step would be for the City to offer a plan the department can live with and if that can't be done the department will have to consider the termination of service.

Below are topics/highlights of discussion:

- Commissioner stated that if the department continues down the current path they will be in the red down the line. It was noted this is not only a fairness issue, but the department can not keep operating like this.
- Is the Capital included in the numbers? No, only operating costs.
- District paying for ordinary maintenance on equipment and station. The only thing the City is charged for are those expenses that are not routine.


- Councilmember questioned why the numbers are so high for only an 11% increase in calls. There was discussion on this with the focus from the department being their budget is based on Level of Service (LOS).
- Discussion on surrounding departments using a benefit service charge or property value for service. Currently the Chief looked at the assessed valuation for the City and citizens in Black Diamond pay something less than \$.50 cents per thousand.
- Councilmember wondered why the focus is on putting a number on the cost per call for Black Diamond as this is a service to our citizens and wanting Black Diamond residents to pay equal to those around us.
- Commissioner shared another Councilmember contacting Enumclaw to see what the cost to service Black Diamond would be and noted it being 3.1 million.
- Councilmember asked who did the first study? Chief's Barlow and Smith.
- Discussion on how to fund fire service and one option was to go out for a safety levy.
- Councilmember noted the decision that needs to be made is do we want to keep Mountain View or explore other options.
- Commissioner and Councilmember discussed why the department waited patiently through the past turmoil.
- City Attorney commented on the Council having a big decision and a three-year window to have someone providing fire service for the City. He noted that depending on options some take longer to implement. He suggested that at an upcoming meeting the Council can adopt a resolution with a timeline that has the options outlined. The four suggested options are 1) Interlocal Agreement, 2) Annexation, 3) Fire Authority, and 4) City maintains and operates its own department. He proposed the City hiring a firm to prepare a study that addresses and does a side by side comparison of those options. He noted the Mayor and staff being committed to getting the City Council the information they need to make a decision. He encouraged everyone to pass a resolution that has a date and go backwards from there to create a timeline.
- There was discussion on how to pay for the study and what the process would like moving forward regarding hiring a consultant.
- Brief discussion on the levy lid lift and doing the study at the same time.
- Suggested to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee and all meetings moving forward will be with the full Council.
- Discussion on having another joint meeting on March 12th.
- Suggested to make a motion at the next meeting to move forward with getting a consultant on board for the study.
- Commissioner thanked everyone for listening and working with them to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

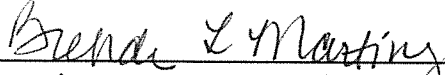
Councilmember Deady **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** by Councilmember Oglesbee. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (5-0).

The meeting ended at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk