



The City Connection

January/February 2010 Volume 2, Issue 1

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A Message from your Mayors...Past and Present



It has been my privilege and honor to serve the citizens of Black Diamond for the past 47 years; 26 as Mayor, 6 years as Councilmember, 10 years as Planning Commission Member and 5 years on a special board appointed by the Mayor.

I have seen a great deal of change from a town of 1,000 to a city of 4,100. I want to thank all of the wonderful staff both past and present for all their diligent

dedication to our City. When I came into office as Mayor in 1983 the staff consisted of about five in city hall and five police officers and some part-time. The city had a failed sewer system and this was my first big challenge. We were able to get the Department of Ecology and the EPA to fund connecting the city to King County Metro. We were also able to build a new reservoir to replace the old leaking one.

The City is on the verge of major change and will face many challenges in the future. I hope the citizens will get involved and help the Mayor and Council make wise decisions. I wish Mayor Olness and Council the best as they face these challenges.

As I leave the service to the City after 47 years it is a difficult transition for Dorothy and I. We have enjoyed serving the citizens all these years and consider the staff like family. I will always feel proud of what I've done here and what I have accomplished with the support of the community, the Council and the staff.

Thank You and Farewell,

Howard Botts



I am honored to serve as your new Mayor for the next four years. I want to personally thank Mayor Howard Botts for his long service to Black Diamond and to assure his supporters that I will do my best to represent the City and carry out the wishes of the citizens and the Council. I also want to

thank Geoff Bowie for his many years of Council service. Now is the time for us all to unite as we welcome two new Councilmembers and move forward.

In these fiscally hard times we are committed to spend wisely and less, when possible; to preserve the jobs of our employees, while striving to be more efficient; and to remain open in our communication to the public.

I pledge to bring a renewed energy and tenacity to finding solutions to the challenges that face us. With a dedicated Council and expert staff, we can and will make a difference. I urge you to contact me, Councilmembers, or staff with any concerns you have.

~Rebecca Olness, Mayor



Elected Officials

- ◆ Mayor, Rebecca Olness
- ◆ Councilmember, Kristine Hanson
- ◆ Councilmember, Craig Goodwin
- ◆ Councilmember, Bill Boston
- ◆ Councilmember, William Saas
- ◆ Councilmember, Leih Mulvihill

Thank You Geoff Bowie and Welcome Aboard Councilmembers Goodwin and Saas

The 2009 elections are over and Black Diamond has two new Councilmembers; Councilmember Craig Goodwin who is replacing former Councilmember Geoff Bowie and Councilmember Bill Saas, replacing newly elected Mayor Olness.

The City of Black Diamond would like to thank Geoff Bowie for his many years of dedicated service.

Over the next few years, Council

will face several issues and make decisions that impact the citizens of Black Diamond. During these changing times Council and staff are committed to working hard to "provide a safe and healthy quality of life for all citizens, from children to seniors".

Congratulations Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Saas and welcome to the Black Diamond City Council.



Craig Goodwin



William Saas

2010 Budget Adopted



The 2010 Budget was an especially difficult Budget to balance with the revenue shortfalls all agencies are facing this year. After five Council workstudy sessions and two public hearings, the Council adopted the 2010 Budget on December 17, 2009, the last Council meeting of the year.

Many workstudy sessions were held

to discuss ways to reduce the 2010 Budget since revenues were budgeted at the current conservative level for 2010. The 2010 General Fund expenditure operating budget was reduced \$610,834 or 12.9%. All departments prepared budget with cuts of at least 10% of non-salary and benefits. In addition, cuts were achieved with elimination of step and COLA increases for all non-union positions, 13 days of Furlough (leave with out pay) for all but Union and Public Works positions, and freezing the health insurance costs at the 2009 level for all non-union employees (employees picking up 100% of the 2010 health insurance increase). This provided a start to the budget balancing, but did not provide enough savings. The final budget included additional savings from freezing the Police Commander position, and the vacant Police Officer position, laying off the Planner and reducing Court salaries

and benefits for the Court Administrator plus reducing the Court Clerk position to ¾ time with no benefits. Every effort was made to preserve core Public Safety and Public Works for the Black Diamond community.

On a positive note, the 2010 Budget included the capital projects approved in the city's Capital Improvement Plan adopted by Council on December 3, 2009. This includes improvements to Railroad Avenue with a \$967,943 State TIB Grant, both the project design and improvements were completed in 2009 and the project is currently out to bid.

Also included is \$533,600 for the Morgan Street Sidewalk project, which will be paid for with a Federal CBDG Grant and State TIB Grant. We are lucky to have grant funds to complete two major projects for the Black Diamond citizens.

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Recently Adopted Ordinances

To be added to the Council agenda distribution list, please call us at (360) 886- 2560 ext. 209 or contact the City Clerk by email at bmartinez@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Ordinance No. 09-924 —
Property Tax Levy 2010

Ordinance No. 09-925 & 09-925A—
Tax Levy & Property Tax Increase 1%

Ordinance No. 09-926 —
2010 Sewer Increase-Soos Creek

Ordinance No. 09-927 —
2009 Budget Change

Ordinance No. 09-928 —
2010 Budget

Ordinance No. 09-929 —
2009 Water Comprehensive Plan

Ordinance No. 09-930 —
PSE Franchise Agreement

Ordinance No. 09-931 —
East Annexation Area

Ordinance No. 09-932 —
South Annexation Area



Public Safety Levy Recap



On November 3, 2009 Proposition No. 1 was on the ballot for the Public Safety Services Replacement Levy, which failed by 11 votes. We will continue to make Public Safety a top priority; at the end of 2010, the current public safety levy will expire and the City will be placing the Levy on the ballot again in May of 2010 hoping it will be passed.



This replacement levy will maintain funding for public safety services. The City of Black Diamond relies on property taxes to provide public safety services. The City's general property tax levy rate has decreased 25 percent from 2005 to 2009. If the levy is passed, Black Diamond's overall property tax rate would still be lower than neighboring cities.

City Offices will be CLOSED:

January 1-
New Years Day

January 18-
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 15-
Presidents Day





For those Lake Sawyer residents receiving only a stormwater statement (no utilities), you can pay your stormwater bill in advance for the whole year, several months or monthly since it is a fixed rate per month. You will still receive your bill in the mail, but it will show a negative balance indicating a credit. We also accept payments over the phone using your debit/credit card!



Stormwater Utility Rate Change for 2010

Stormwater rates will change from \$10.00 per month for residence or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to \$11.50 a month effective January 1, 2010. The new amounts will show on the utility bills mailed at the end of January 2010.

Lifeline discounts will continue at 50% of the residential rate for low-income seniors or low-income disabled residence until June 1, 2010. During May of 2010 the lifeline program will post the new guidelines and accept applications for the June 2010 through May 2011 timeframe.

How and when were the rates established?

The Stormwater Utility Fund and rates were established by Ordinance on November 6, 2008 for the 2009 billings. The original rates of \$13.00 per residence or equivalent unit (ERU) was reduced by Council in Ordinance 09-901 on April 22, 2009. Council recognized the economic difficulties that residences and businesses were encountering and the additional effect of the Kummer bridge closure. While the Council recognized that \$13.00 per month is needed to adequately fund the stormwater utility, in response to the impact of the new stormwater utility rates during difficult economic times, the Council rolled back the rate 23% with the plan to ramp back up to the \$13.00 in two years. The initial rate was reduced to \$10.00 per resident or ERU in 2009, to be adjusted to \$11.50 for 2010 and back to the original rate of \$13.00 in 2011.

How is the Stormwater revenue used?

The Stormwater Fund pays for two major categories of effort within the City:

Maintenance: Most of the funds are used to maintain the City owned stormwater systems that provide drainage for the City streets. The City maintains 572 catch basins, over nine miles of

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2010 Budget Adopted *(continued from page 2)*

Other projects scheduled for 2010 are funds for design Engineering for the Boat Launch project, funds for Signage for the City and funds for picnic tables and benches for the Skate Park. These projects will be paid for with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) which the City receives when Black Diamond properties are sold. This revenue can only be spent on Capital Improvement Projects. The water fund will continue replacing outdated water meters, (166 already installed in 2009) and the stormwater fund will replace 870 feet of undersized storm drainage main during the Railroad Avenue upgrade.

Even though the City budget was reduced for 2010, the Mayor and employees will continue to work together to provide core quality services at the most economical costs to our Black Diamond citizens.

Railroad Avenue Street Improvement Schedule

This project will provide sidewalks, curbs, street lights, storm drainage, angle parking and a regarded new street from Baker Street to 300 feet past Merino Street.

Bids were opened on December 22, 2009 and the project is under budget. The public works committee will consider award of the bid on January 12, 2010. The Council will award the bid on January 21, 2010. A notice to proceed will be issued to the contractor in late February 2010.

During the month of January and early February Puget Sound Energy and Qwest will relocate the gas lines and fiber optic phone cables to prepare for the street work. The City's contractor will be working 10 hour days Monday through Thursday and is scheduled to have the project completed by Memorial Day.

Planning Commission Vacancy

The City of Black Diamond is seeking applicants for the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy which will occur on January 1, 2010.

The Planning Commission consists of seven (7) members. The Commission prepares and makes recommendations to the City Council on the Comprehensive Plan and various development regulations that guide the physical development of the City. The Commission typically meets once per month on Tuesday evenings, but may meet more frequently if needed.

Anyone interested in serving the community on this important Commission is encouraged to submit an application to the City of Black Diamond, Attn: City Clerk, 24301 Roberts Drive, PO Box 599, Black Diamond, WA 98010. If you would to know more about the Planning Commission please contact Community Development Director Steve Pilcher at (360) 886-2560.



Application forms are available at City Hall, 24301 Roberts Drive or may be found on the City's website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us under Notices.

Black Diamond Park's Completes Projects at the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch Facility



Thanks to funding from the King Conservation District (\$30,000) and King County (\$50,000) a new single car parking area was completed last summer utilizing a pervious paver system that allows surface water to infiltrate and filter through free draining material.

In addition to these improvements, this grant money was utilized to further the design of improving the boat launch facility and replanting shoreline vegetation. "Without the help of these participating agencies, the City of Black Diamond wouldn't have been able to complete these projects," said Parks/Natural Resources Director Aaron Nix. "Our hope is to have design and permitting for the rest of the boat launch improvements completed prior to the June 2011 construction season. Construction would follow shortly thereafter".

The projects completed this summer are a great first step in improving access for folks that utilize the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch. Many thanks to these two agencies.

Black Diamond Police– Year in Review

In 2009 we saw a ten percent increase in calls for service. Over the past year we have been dispatched to approximately 2,800 calls for service. These calls ranged from burglary reports to domestic disputes, thefts, traffic collisions and numerous other crimes. Additionally we continue to provide a safe commute for our city through traffic safety and enforcement, initiating about 2,800 traffic stops. About 1,400 of those traffic stops resulted in a warning and about 2,000 infractions were issued (driver and passengers).

As a department we made approximately 65 DUI arrests and 420 arrests for other criminal violations.

Additionally, we continued to patrol Lake Sawyer through our Marine Services Unit, which logged approximately 200 hours of time on the water and visually or "spot" inspected 530 vessels. During these inspections 31 citations were issued and 33 warnings were given.

An important aspect of policing is community involvement. We continue to be active in the community, but will strive to increase our involvement every year. This past year we saw new DARE students from the Black Diamond Elementary school graduate their 8-week program. We also attended and contributed in many local events, including Miner Days, the Xterra Race, National Night Out, Labor Days, Septemberfest and the Christmas

Tree Lighting Festival. As the holidays approach our officers feel this time of year is a chance to "give back", this year serving the senior citizens at the Community Center Thanksgiving Luncheon. We also participated alongside the Fire Department with the local food & toy drive.

As we enter 2010 we continue to apply our Mission Statement and Values to our policing philosophy (see website). We are reminded every day that crime is on the rise around us by news that there is a 24 percent increase of police officers killed by gunfire this year alone and specifically in our area by the recent loss of officers in Seattle and Lakewood. It's important to remember that we work together to continue to make our community a safer place.



Stormwater Utility Rate Change for 2010 *(continued from page 3)*

storm drainage pipes and culverts, nine storm ponds and approximately 15 infiltration facilities. The City maintenance crew is typically busy during heavy rain events keeping the inlets and outlets of the storm system free of debris to prevent street and property damage. Other maintenance activities are ditch maintenance and catch basin cleaning.

Water Quality: This category of effort is focused on dealing with the impacts of urban living on the water environment. When we live in a dense urban environment, we truck in food, fuel, supplies and equipment and build all kind of things to sustain life in an urban environment. Our activities and habits of washing cars, applying chemicals and cleaners for every imaginable purpose, keeping dogs and cats, fertilizing lawns, piling lawn clippings near creeks or wetlands, leaky garbage cans, all contribute to the degradation of surface and ground water quality. Even driving on our streets distributes heavy metals, hydro-carbons and other contaminants along the streets that add pollutants to the creeks, wetlands and lakes in our area. The City is required under our stormwater permit from the Department of Ecology to reduce these impacts by educating our citizens and directing them to better management practices, tightening the requirements for proper erosion and sediment control on construction sites, policing illegal discharges into the storm system or natural water systems and improving the city maintenance activities in the interest of protecting stormwater and providing for lower impact development standards for the future.

Examples of this type of effort underway are:

1. Preparation of the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan which provides the professional guidance for the activities listed above

YarrowBay Master Planned Developments Update

Another milestone was recently reached in the City's consideration of the two Master Planned Developments (MPD) being proposed by YarrowBay Holdings: The Villages and Lawson Hills. On December 11, 2009, the Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the two proposals were issued, wrapping up over 18 months of studies and consideration of public input on the potential environmental impacts of the two MPD proposals. Completion of the EIS process positions the MPD projects to move forward to

public hearings in early 2010.

Per City code, the City's Hearing Examiner must first consider the MPD projects before passing on his recommendation to the City Council. The Hearing Examiner will conduct an open public hearing at which anyone may testify or provide written comment (or both). The Examiner typically will close the hearing after hearing all comments and then issue a written decision afterwards. Once the Examiner's decision is issued, the matters can be scheduled for a closed record hearing by the City Council. "Closed

record" means that the Council cannot consider any new information that was not presented to the Hearing Examiner. So, it is important that anyone wishing to comment do so before the Hearing Examiner.

At this time, dates have not been established for the MPD hearings. However, they are expected to occur sometime during the first quarter of 2010. Please contact the Community Development Department if you have any questions at (360) 886-2560.



A Note from your Police Chief

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Black Diamond for all of their generous thoughts and prayers during a very tragic time. The outpouring of well wishes, hugs, and thanks are very appreciated by all our staff and officers. We are proud to serve this community and endeavor every day to keep it safe.

Within a five week period, five officers paid the ultimate price because they believed in service; service to the community and service to the people.

I hope a day does not go by where we forget what they and their families sacrificed.

~Chief Kiblinger

Stormwater Utility Rate Change for 2010 *(continued from page 4)*

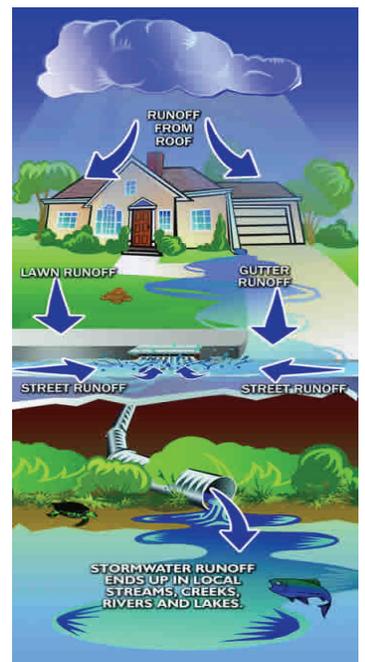
2. Training our staff on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Erosion and Sediment Control
3. Water Quality testing on Lake Sawyer as required by the Department of Ecology
4. Storm Pond inspections and maintenance
5. Public education
6. Implementing the best management practices with all city operations
7. Requiring new development to provide facilities that provide stormwater treatment with the best stormwater treatment practices

What can I do to help?

One of the first things you can do to help is take the time to educate yourself on the various activities and practices around your home that impact surface water and ground water. The following website is a great site to explore that will help raise your awareness and provide in-sight in how you reduce your impact to the local and regional water environment

www.pugetsoundstartshere.org.

We will continue to provide you with more information on how we can reduce our impact to the creeks, wetlands and lakes. Check out our website www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us to view the press release on the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign and the effort to save Puget Sound waterways.



It's Time for 2010 Business License Renewals

The City of Black Diamond has approximately 400 businesses that operate in the city throughout any given year. These include stores offering all types of retail goods, restaurants and bakeries, espresso stands, real estate agents, hair and nail salons, daycares, construction firms and more. Some operate in buildings here in Black Diamond, others run their businesses out of homes in Black Diamond, and still more perform frequent business in Black Diamond but have offices elsewhere.



Access the Business License Application on-line at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

The Black Diamond Municipal Code requires businesses operating in the City of Black Diamond to have a current license. The license helps ensure all businesses have acquired the appropriate state licenses and permits, follow zoning restrictions, conform to building codes, and meet safety requirements. All peddlers or solicitors are required to obtain a solicitor's license before contacting the public. Background checks are performed on every peddler/solicitor operating in Black Diamond.

The on-time fee for a business license renewal is \$60 for 50 employees or less. License renewal fees are due by January 31, 2010. Business operators are delinquent if license fees are not paid/postmarked prior to February 1, 2010. A late fee of \$10 will be assessed after January 31, 2010.

Renewal letters were mailed out in mid-December. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Donlan at (360) 886-2560 ext. 218. It is our desire to make this procedure as simple and timely as possible. Please remember to sign and return the renewal form and enclose all payment. Checks should be made out to the City of Black Diamond.



If you are a new business, now is the time to apply. Fees, applications and other business licensing information are available on the Finance Department page of the City website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us. If you do not have access to a computer, you may request an application packet by calling City Hall at (360) 886-2560.

Cold Weather Safety Tips

We have already had some cold weather this year, but we are just now in the heart of Winter. Mountain View Fire & Rescue / Black Diamond Fire has a few tips to keep you safe in the cold weather.



Clothing:

It is best to wear layers of clothing that include a base layer (long underwear), thermal layer (wool or fleece), and an outer shell (something wind resistant and water resistant such as Gore-Tex). These layers will work in conjunction and help protect you from the elements. The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.

Blankets, quilts, pillows and other loose bedding should be kept away from an infant's sleeping area. This will help protect them from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). One-piece sleepers are preferred clothing.

Home Heating:

Never leave combustible material near a heating source.
Never use a range, oven, or grill for a heating source.
Be sure to only use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off if they tip over. (*Space heaters should not be left on while unattended.*)
Be sure to have your furnace, chimney, or other heating source maintained by a professional at least once a year.

Here are a couple more resources for some winter safety tips:
Washington State Department of Transportation, (Winter Driving)

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/>

Take Winter By Storm (Disaster Preparedness)

<http://www.govlink.org/storm/>



Community Contacts

Black Diamond Community Center
(360) 886-1011

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Black Diamond Museum / Historical Society
(360) 886-2142

Hours of Operation:

Thursdays — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays — Noon - 4 p.m.

Black Diamond Post Office
(360) 886-9429

Hours of Operation:

Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Black Diamond Library
(360) 886-1105

Hours of Operation:

Monday — Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Fridays — 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturdays — 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Contact Information

All City Offices Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Departments

- ◆ City Administrator,
- ◆ Asst. City Admin./City Clerk,
Brenda L. Martinez, CMC
- ◆ Community Development,
Steve Pilcher
- ◆ Economic Development,
Andrew Williamson
- ◆ Finance,
Mayene Miller
- ◆ Natural Resources/Parks,
Aaron Nix
- ◆ Police,
Jamey Kiblinger
- ◆ Public Works,
Seth Boettcher, PE

CITY HALL P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351 Fax: (360) 886-2592
POLICE DEPARTMENT P.O. Box 309 / 25510 Lawson Street	(253) 631-1012 Fax: (360) 886-2901
MUNICIPAL COURT P.O. Box 599 / 25510 Lawson Street	(360) 886-7784 Fax: (360) 886-7758
FIRE DEPT. DISTRICT #44	(253) 735-0284
PUBLIC WORKS P.O. Box 599 / 24301 Roberts Drive	(360) 886-2560 (253) 631-0351
UTILITY AFTER HOURS (EMERGENCY PAGER)	(253) 333-5555 Fax: (360) 886-2592

Check out our website at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us



CITY OF
BLACK DIAMOND



PO Box 599
24301 Roberts Drive, Suite B
Black Diamond, WA 98010
Phone: 360-886-2560
Fax: 360-886-2592
Email:
info@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

Council/Commission/Committee Meetings

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS **25510 LAWSON STREET**

- JAN 7- 7 p.m.
- JAN 21 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 4 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 18 - 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSTUDIES **25510 LAWSON STREET**

PLANNING COMMISSION **25510 LAWSON STREET**

- JAN 12 - 7 p.m.
- FEB 9 - 7 p.m.

**ALL COUNCIL/COMMISSION
MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM**

FINANCE COMMITTEE **24301 ROBERTS DRIVE** JAN 11 and JAN 25 - 4 p.m.

FEB 8 and FEB 22 - 4 p.m.

PARKS COMMITTEE **24301 ROBERTS DRIVE** JAN 21 - 2 p.m.

FEB 18 - 2 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE **24301 ROBERTS DRIVE** JAN 12 and JAN 26 - 5:30 p.m.

FEB 9 and FEB 23- 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **24301 ROBERTS DRIVE** JAN 28 5 - 2 p.m.

FEB 25 5 - 2 p.m.

**ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE
TENTATIVE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR ANY
CHANGES. MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE
PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM**



Monthly meetings for City Council are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the first Council meeting at 7 p.m. of each month (unless otherwise noted). Please contact the Clerks office for more information or meeting materials at (360) 886-2560 or check out the City Clerks webpage at www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/Clerk.