

**BLACK DIAMOND CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2018**

Council Chamber, 25510 Lawson Street, Black Diamond, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Benson called the special meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led us all in the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Oglesbee, Edelman, Stout and Wisnoski. (Councilmember Edelman was not present for roll call and entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

ABSENT: Councilmember Deady (excused)

Staff present were: Mayene Miller, Finance Director and Kathy Allen, Deputy City Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) **AB18-095** – Proposed General Fund Revenue Sources for the 2019 Budget Including Possible Increases in Property Tax Levy

Finance Director Miller addressed Council on this item.

Mayor Benson opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Kristen Bryant, Bellevue stated that she reviewed the agenda bill for the property tax ordinance and noted it would be helpful if Council summarized anything from the work session so it is on the record. She also noted the wording on the agenda bill is misleading information that it could be interpreted a couple of ways, regarding property tax certifications filed in King County being used for public safety, including fire, police and emergency services. She stated there is no rule or law that says that's where the property taxes will go, they go to the general fund and the way this is written is unclear as it sounds like that is a requirement and it certainly is not. She noted the City may want to adjust that and use funds for something else. She also noted there are ways to get through budget without raising taxes and raising taxes 1% on everyone isn't necessary this year – there are more efficient ways without raising everyone's tax burden.

Gary Davis, Black Diamond agreed with the previous speaker's comments and suggested that a real effort be made to educate the public on how this tax increase and the interaction with King County goes on annual basis. He noted that perhaps a letter to the editor could be done in the City's paper of record. Some people seem to think the City has

enough money coming in and there is not a need for this 1% increase. His understanding is that maybe the City does and or maybe it doesn't. He further stated that education might make it a lot easier when the City really does need a tax increase to sell it to the public.

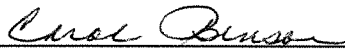
Mayor Benson closed the public hearing at 7:16:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

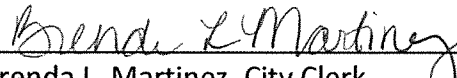
Councilmember Wisnoski **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **second** Councilmember Edelman. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor (4-0).

The meeting ended at 7:16:21 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carol Benson, Mayor



Brenda L. Martinez, City Clerk