

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Loen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Clerk Stowe administered the Oath of Office to Kendall Lewis Wallace for Council Position 4. After the Oath, Councilmember Wallace took his seat.

Roll was then called. Present were Councilmembers Martin, Palmer, and Wallace. Also present were Public Works Director Light, Clerk Stowe and Chief Casey.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to amend the agenda to add Dan Chaplik under 'New Business' and with a second by Councilmember Palmer, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Loen reviewed accomplishments over the past year, including the successful audit.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Casey submitted a report for November and talked about the continued learning process for reports with the new computer system.

He then talked about acceptable conduct during a Council meeting.

Director Light also reviewed the past year, including the completion of the water comprehensive plan, and spoke about the upcoming required revisions of the Critical Areas Ordinance. He reminded people that the website always has up to date information, and that he is available to meet with residents.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Martin was happy to see so many people attending this first meeting of the year and hopes some will be inspired to apply for open Council seats.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers complimented the city on installation of lights at the park.

Steve Fore said councilmembers feel people only come to meetings when their pockets are impacted. He said residents didn't sign on for attending meetings and wanted to know when a town hall meeting would be held. He also said he'd been approached by a Councilmember who promised to contact him but never did. Councilmember Palmer said he was the one who approached Mr. Fore, and that he had called, only to be told by Mr. Fore that he did not have time to speak to Councilmember Palmer and would call back, which he never did.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. School Bond. Dan Chaplik spoke about the upcoming school bond, up for vote on February 9th. He talked about the size of buildings vs. the size of classes, the age of infrastructure, the need to replace roofs, matching funds and what those funds will cover, and about mailings going out with bond information. He is available to meet with people.

2. Resolution 15-12, Personnel Manual. Clerk Stowe asked the Council to delay action because she has received comments from the city attorney that need to be incorporated, and because Councilmember Wallace has not had time to review the draft.

3. Resolution 15-11, Draft Water Rates. There was a great deal of discussion around this issue.

Toni Jurin voiced concerns that Councilmembers are not discussing rates and have already decided that rates are going to go up for five years. She asked if anyone had reached out other districts or applied for grants. She understands work needs to be done and commented that water is not drinkable.

Councilmember Martin responded by saying workshops were held, that the rate increase was worked on by an expert, that other entities were consulted with, and that discussions were held but no residents showed up. She said she is not happy either about the increase but is trying to be as responsible as she can be and still do her job which is to provide good water. Unfortunately the city has an aging system so they are stuck between a rock and a hard spot.

Mayor Loen said water is drinkable. She reminded people that the discussion is about rates and said the city continues to apply for grants. She said replacing the system is what the assessment fee is for and that usage is looked at every year but that doesn't mean it's going up.

Steve Fore said people should listen to what Director Light says. He said the Council won't listen and that former Councilmember Lee Hodo left for a good reason and the city lost its best councilmember. He said the system could fail right now and the city needs three million and why not apply for a grant for three million. He wants a town hall meeting.

Vicki McDaniel is upset that she didn't get any information other than from neighbors. She also wants a town hall meeting. She also asked about grants, and said residents had no chance to talk about this before this point. She asked what the purpose of the rate increase was.

Councilmember Martin repeated that the city had had multiple meetings and that they had been clear that infrastructure needs to be improved and that is what the rate increase is for. She said the Council has done due diligence, applied for grants, and worked on conservation, and that this is very complex. The Council is not doing this lightly, has had lots of meetings and lots of questions, and she is doing the best she can.

Vicki McDaniel thanked Councilmember Martin, then said they need to reach out to citizens in other ways if they are not getting people to attend. She asked if the city could guarantee that after five years water will still be good.

Director Light said water quality already is good. There was one hit on well four which was solved by blending, an acceptable and common practice. He said the water comprehensive plan estimates 9.8 million for system improvements and that rates help pay for that. The increase won't pay for it alone and that is why the city continues to go out for loans and grants. He reiterated that the rate increase is for infrastructure.

Vicki McDaniel asked if the water is acceptable then why is there this huge increase.

Mayor Loen said the five year time frame is a study and is not what the Council has taken on. The Council does not want to do the five year increase, only the first year, which they hope will be enough. That one year cost is for the

assessment for improvements. She said the Council has chosen to do just one year in order to help citizens by not raising rates every year. The Council hopes that a combination of one year plus grants and loans will be enough.

Joe Beavers thanked the mayor for sending out post cards to all the residents and pointed out that only three people showed up.

Clerk Stowe reminded the audience that the city is under a legal obligation to provide a level of service for water and that the city is answerable to outside agencies.

Steve Fore said he understands they are trying to do something but doesn't understand the rate increase as it will not raise enough. He repeated his previous comments. He also said the city has no storm water.

Sharon Williams said the Council is not responding. She doesn't care if post cards were sent out, stated no one got any, and that it's a rude way to get information out. She asked what would happen if something breaks now because raising rates one year isn't going to work.

Tracy Cotterill asked if the city had talked to the PUD about taking over the water system.

Councilmember Wallace asked if that was a possibility. Councilmember Martin said it was, but that if people thought this rate increase was high, the PUD increase would be higher. Councilmember Martin also said that information goes out on water bills.

Jane Boglivi said she hasn't heard any more discussion on commercial rates. She asked the city to use the highway reader board. She also said she doesn't read anything printed on the water bills or post cards and that the city fails at getting information out.

Councilmember Martin reminded everyone that the highway reader board belongs to the school, not the city.

Steve Fore asked why the Council did not immediately schedule a town hall meeting. He said people did not come to Council meetings because of the Council. He then said he would create a petition to remove the mayor and put a city administrator in her place.

Clerk Stowe reminded the audience of the difference between a council meeting and a town hall meeting, the differences in allowed conduct at both, the requirements a councilmember must follow, and that just because a resident did not see a councilmember taking action, that did not mean no action was being taken.

Tracy Cotterill asked if the PUD could be invited to another meeting. She feels there's more effort going into notifying residents of community events than the rate increase.

Joe Beavers pointed out notifications for community events are done by the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce and not the city.

Vicki McDaniels said the Block Watch is also a way to reach out to residents. She asked about a past volunteer committee. Director Light said the committee worked for a year on water issues and then dissolved.

3. BIAS Service Agreement. Clerk Stowe said this is the annual service agreement for software and that it would be appropriate to make a motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into this agreement, or other action as the Council chose. Councilmember Martin asked if the city was happy with the level of service, which it is. Councilmember Martin then moved to authorize Mayor Loen to enter into the BIAS Service Agreement and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Under Council comments, Clerk Stowe asked the Council if they would like to have the issue of a town hall meeting placed on the next agenda for discussion and the Council agreed.

Councilmember Wallace asked if there would be a vote for the water rates. Mayor Loen said there may possibly be a vote at the next meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to amend the minutes for December 15th, 2015 to correct a spelling error, and with a second by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve vouchers 31081 through 31124, with \$27,206.89 for payroll and \$22,913.27 for claims, for a total of \$50,120.16 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jane Boglivi asked what claims were and was informed those are the bills of the city, which are posted on the city website.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilmember Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

 , Linda L. Loen, Mayor

 , Lisa Stowe, Clerk

