

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 19, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

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

Present were Councilmembers Martin, Palmer, and Wallace. Also present was Clerk Stowe.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Wallace moved to approve the agenda as written and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS

Clerk Stowe told the Council that Lee Hodo was interested in regaining his Council seat. The Council could choose to rescind his letter of resignation, or to appoint him to the Council seat for the remainder of the term. Councilmember Wallace asked Hodo how the Council could know that he might not choose to resign again. Hodo responded that they don't. Councilmember Martin moved to appoint Lee Hodo to Council position #1 and with a second by Councilmember Palmer, a vote was called for. Councilmembers Martin and Palmer voted in favor, Councilmember Wallace voted against, and the motion carried. Clerk Stowe administered the Oath of Office and Councilmember Hodo took his seat.

Two letters of interest from Larry Dum and Brian Diaz were presented for the remaining open seat. Clerk Stowe asked Diaz to verify that he was a registered voter in the city limits because he had not included that information in his letter of interest. She then told the Council they could choose to appoint one to the open position or to leave the position open for further review.

Councilmember Martin asked Dum how long he had been a Gold Bar resident and he stated eighteen years. Councilmember Wallace asked each applicant why they wanted the position. Diaz said he wanted to gain experience, reviewed his work history, and said he wanted to help out. Dum also reviewed his work history.

Councilmember Wallace moved to table an appointment for further review and with a second by Councilmember Palmer the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Loen said work is being done on researching grants for water mains and improving the animal kennel area.

STAFF REPORT - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Palmer welcomed Councilmember Hodo back.

Councilmember Martin talked about membership deals the YMCA was holding and a fundraiser for the Startup gymnasium.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jay Prueher talked about the upcoming Sultan school district bond and how much more this would add to resident's property taxes.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. Resolution 15-12, Personnel Manual. Clerk Stowe presented changes to the draft that include comments from the city attorney and from staff. Councilmember Martin asked to have the city attorney review staff comments. There was brief discussion around the abuse of medications.

2. Resolution 15-11, Water Rates. Councilmember Wallace knows something needs to be done but asked if there was any way to cut the amount or change the usage. Mayor Loen said the usage is federally mandated for water conservation. She said the assessment pays for improvements and it could be adjusted but that the city is hoping to leave it as it is with this increase and avoid annual increases.

Discussion then followed the same lines as it has in previous meetings and included clarification that those with larger meters will not be paying more for the size, review of rates, usage amounts, early leak detection, assistance for low-income elderly residents, comparisons with PUD rates, and the need to bring new Councilmembers up to speed on the rate study.

Councilmember Hodo asked what the total cost of repairs would be and if anyone had researched the cost to the city for a loan. Mayor Loen said the repair costs in the water comprehensive plan. Clerk Stowe said it was unlikely the city could afford payments on a loan of millions of dollars. Mayor Loen also reminded everyone again that repairs will happen over years and not all at once.

Councilmember Martin moved to continue the resolution to the next meeting and with a second by Councilmember Hodo the motion carried.

Steve Fore spoke, with the same comments as he had at previous meetings relating to increases not solving anything. He then suggested the PUD could take over, or the city could buy out PUD customers.

3. Town Hall Meeting. Discussion included possible dates, how Town Hall meetings are conducted, who should be present, limiting the time, and notifying the public. Councilmember Hodo moved to hold the Town Hall meeting on January 25th from 7 to 9 pm and Councilmember Martin seconded the motion. It was pointed out that this would not allow enough time for public notification. Councilmember Hodo then moved to amend his motion to change the date to February 8th. Councilmember Wallace seconded the amended motion and with no further discussion a vote was called for and the motion carried with Councilmember Martin abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Pro-Tem. Clerk Stowe said that with the resignation of Councilmember Strom, a new Mayor Pro-tem was needed. Councilmember Palmer moved to appoint Councilmember Hodo as the mayor pro-tem, and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

2. Open Forum Discussion. Councilmember Hodo suggested holding an open forum for thirty minutes at the end of each Council meeting. There would be a moderator, no three-minute limitation on speaking, and no action taken. Clerk Stowe said that there would still be rules of conduct. Councilmember Hodo moved to hold an open forum the last council meeting of each month and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

3. Eastside Computer Contract. Clerk Stowe asked the Council to hold off on action on this contract until there had been time to further review the costs involved. Councilmember Wallace moved to shelve action on the Eastside Computer contract and with a second by Councilmember Hodo the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Wallace asked about bank-owned properties that are in derelict conditions. Municipal code allows for enforcement when conditions become health and safety issues. There was discussion around volunteer groups assisting low income residents. Mayor Loen will get definitive answers.

Councilmember Palmer tendered his resignation due to health issues, effective immediately. Councilmember Martin said he had been a valued member of the Council and appreciated his work.

His resignation resulted in two open Council positions. Clerk Stowe told the Council they could revisit the two letters of interest and choose to appoint both or one, or to continue with the previous motion of tabling action.

Councilmember Martin then moved to appoint both Larry Dum and Brian Diaz to the two open Council positions and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

Clerk Stowe administered the Oath of Office to Larry Dum who then took his seat as Councilmember, in position #2.

Clerk Stowe administered the Oath of Office to Brian Diaz who then took his seat as Councilmember, in position #5.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve the January 5th, 2016 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Hodo, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Hodo moved to approve vouchers 31125 through 31152, with \$2,200.00 for payroll and \$15,900.31 for claims, for a total of \$18,100.31 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

There was brief discussion around the Finance Committee and the need for two Councilmembers. Councilmembers Martin and Dum will take on this duty, meeting the Friday before each Council meeting, at 3:00.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Steve Fore thanked Councilmember Hodo for returning.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilmember Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by both Councilmembers Martin and Hodo, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

 _____, Linda L. Loen, Mayor

 _____, Lisa Stowe, Clerk

