

# City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 16, 2016

## **CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL**

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

Present were Councilmembers Martin, Dum, Diaz, and Wallace. Also present was Chief Casey and Clerk Stowe.

Councilmember Kendall moved to excuse Councilmember Hodo's absence and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilmember Kendall moved to amend the agenda to include discussion of a PUD Feasibility study and with a second by Councilmember Diaz, the motion carried with Councilmember Martin opposed.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Loen passed on a message from Councilmember Hodo, who said he had planned to make a motion on the water resolution raising the usage rate to 6000. She mentioned it in her mayor report so that it could be considered when the agenda item came up.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Chief Casey talked about an arrest of a person who, when arrested previously, dramatically reduced crime in Gold Bar. He also talked about progress in the burglaries at the Post Office.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Diaz started to talk about the water resolution and was reminded that would be discussed when it came up on the agenda.

Councilmember Wallace started to talk about the feasibility study and his conversation with the PUD, and was reminded that would be discussed when it came up on the agenda.

Councilmember Martin thanked Chief Casey for his work on the recent arrest, as did Councilmember Dum.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Sharon Williams started to talk about the feasibility study and was reminded that the Citizen Comment time was for items not otherwise on the agenda.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

1. Resolution 15-11, Water Rates. Councilmember Martin moved to amend the agenda to move this item to follow discussion on the feasibility study, and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

2. Ordinance #690 Amending Title 15. Clerk Stowe received no comments on this ordinance. Councilmember Dum made a motion. Clerk Stowe asked if he was moving to adopt, amend, or reject the ordinance. Councilmember Dum then made a motion to adopt Ordinance #690 amending Title 15 relating to flood damage as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

3. Ordinance #691 Amending Title 17. Clerk Stowe received no comments on this ordinance. Councilmember Martin moved to accept and enact Ordinance #691 amending Title 17.05 relating to parking as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

4. Resolution 15-12, Personnel Manual. Councilmember Wallace moved to adopt the Personnel Manual as amended to correct any typographical errors, and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

5. PUD Feasibility Study. Councilmember Wallace talked with Brent Wood of the PUD regarding a feasibility study. He said Wood explained there would be a two parts. First would be free and more general. The second part would require a commitment from the City and would cost \$15,000 - \$30,000. If the PUD could not fund that through a grant, the cost would be borne by residents. The PUD could not commit to what rates might be if they took over the system but said rates could be quite a bit more because of the needed repairs. PUD did say there was a chance the rates might be less. The PUD also warned Councilmember Wallace that other cities that have given up utilities have ended up disbanding.

Councilmember Martin said that this was close to what she had also been told by Wood, with the exception of the possibility of a grant covering the cost.

Clerk Stowe reminded the Council that there was a big difference between raising rates and moving to the step of giving up the water system. She said research would have to be done before taking the first step of the study. Councilmember Wallace asked if rates could be raised as a first step as the City did the research. Councilmember Martin said they could and reminded people how many times the rate increase has been delayed. She said she is not happy with the rate increase but that the reality was it had to be done. She suggested adopting the resolution with Councilmember Hodo's suggested change.

Councilmember Diaz asked if the first part of the study could be started tomorrow. Clerk Stowe reiterated her comments about the research that would have to be done first.

Councilmember Diaz then moved to research a feasibility study with the PUD and Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

Steve Fore feels letting the PUD take over the water system is a bad idea. He talked about there being better ideas out there for repairing the water system, like the city doing it itself. He suggested a higher increase, obtaining loans, and that residents need to know where the money is going.

Chuck Lie said some might see the city fading away as a downside to the PUD but that he doesn't feel that it is a downside. He said the Council needs to think about what the city is providing to its citizens and asked them to not rule out disincorporation. He said disincorporation did not mean there would be an increase in pedophiles and that the sheriff deputies would still be doing their jobs.

Mayor Loen called for a vote on the motion to research the study and the motion carried. The issue will be on the March 1<sup>st</sup> agenda.

6. Resolution 15-12, Water Rates. Councilmember Wallace asked if Councilmember Hodo's suggestion was for both commercial and residential services, which it was. Councilmember Martin agreed with Councilmember Hodo's suggestion and felt action could be taken prior to research on the feasibility study.

Councilmember Martin then moved to adopt Resolution 15-12 as amended to raise usage rates to 6000 and Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

Councilmember Diaz said usage should be left at the original 7500. Clerk Stowe reminded him that the city must show conservation efforts.

Sharon Williams said more facts were needed and questioned what the money would be used for. She talked about old pipes and that she planned to take her own water samples. She also felt the city should get a loan for the whole system repair.

Steve Fore talked about the rate study, that what was presented to the people was nothing, and that he planned on getting an injunction against the city. He repeated earlier comments about there being other solutions, his higher rate proposal, and obtaining loans. He talked about property values and that raising rates won't work.

Mayor Loen called for a vote on the motion and the motion carried with Councilmember Diaz opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS - None**

**FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilmember Martin moved to accept the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

Councilmember Martin moved to approve vouchers 31189 through 31219, with \$2,200.00 for payroll and \$113,867.97 for claims, for a total of \$116,067.97 as presented and with a second by both Councilmembers Dum and Wallace the motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Steve Fore repeated earlier comments including that he planned on taking the water rate issue to court.

Chuck Lie said the water rates issue is part of an ongoing cycle.

**OPEN FORUM**

This was the first open forum as adopted by the Council to provide a more casual period for residents to interact with the Council without the normal constraints imposed by a Council meeting.

Steve Fore utilized the open forum to repeat points he said previously in both Citizen Comment portions of the agenda and during discussion of agenda items. When he finished, Clerk Stowe said that because Fore said he was taking this to court, she suggested the Council not engage in further interaction on the topic. Fore said that Clerk Stowe was telling the Council to not talk to him, and she clarified that she suggested they not talk to him, but had not told them they could not.

Councilmember Martin said there would be continued future discussions, appreciated Fore's work, and would like to see him be part of the process. She reminded everyone that adopting the rate increase was not the end.

Steve Fore then repeated all his previous comments. He asked again what the money was to pay for. Mayor Loen pointed out to him that the project list hung on the wall behind him.

Sharon Williams then repeated her earlier comments.

With no time left for other resident comments, the open forum ended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Councilmember Dum moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

 \_\_\_\_\_, Linda L. Loen, Mayor

 \_\_\_\_\_, Lisa Stowe, Clerk