

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 15, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Hodo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were Councilmembers Diaz, Dum, Hodo, Martin, and Wallace. Also present was Chief Casey, Public Works Director Light, Office Manager Beaston, and Clerk Stowe.

MAYOR UPDATE

Clerk Stowe said that Mayor Loen resigned for personal reasons. She explained that the Council could choose to appoint Mayor Pro-tem Hodo to the position of Mayor, or they could choose to solicit letters of interest from the general public and Mayor Pro-Tem Hodo would continue as Mayor Pro-Tem until the position was appointed.

Councilmember Dum moved to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Hodo as Mayor and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Clerk Stowe presented the Oath of Office to Hodo, who then took his seat as Mayor.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to amend the agenda to allow USDA representative Darla O'Connor to speak after staff reports and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hodo said he was sorry to see former Mayor Loen go and he will try to do a good job.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Casey talked about the person previously arrested for burglaries and how that person has now been charged and is still in custody. He spoke briefly about sentencing and burglary rates in the city.

The night shift has been filled, and Chief Casey introduced Deputy Stuart Gort.

Clerk Stowe responded to Steve Fore's comment from the previous Council meeting in which he cited RCW 35A.12.120 relating to the adoption of the resolution increasing water rates. Fore had said the RCW showed the city had illegally adopted the resolution. Clerk Stowe clarified the interpretation of the RCW and said the adoption of the resolution was legal.

Clerk Stowe also explained the open forum on the agenda. There was a sign in sheet for those who wished to speak during the forum, and a handout on the forum. She said that a decision had been made to not have the second citizen comment period on the agenda, during meetings with the open forum. That would allow the Council to continue with two citizen comment periods rather than three on open forum nights.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Martin attended a meeting on tourism, community events, and community resources.

USDA PRESENTATION

Darla O'Connor from USDA spoke about the agency, including rural development and her role with rural areas, and that they cover loans for new systems, system repairs, and capital improvements for water systems. She also talked about interest rates, the loan program, and when the interest rate gets locked in during the loan process.

Councilmember Wallace asked her how loans would be impacted if the PUD owned the water system. O'Connor said she was not aware of any impacts because she works with the entity that applies. Councilmember Wallace then asked if a loan had to be paid off before another could be applied for. O'Connor said no, that some entities have multiple loans.

O'Connor then talked about applications being taken throughout the year, that USDA is exempt from Davis Bacon wages, and also exempt from the Buy America program.

Mayor Hodo encouraged people to put any questions for USDA in writing and he would get those to O'Connor. He then thanked her for taking the time to come speak to the Council.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Roi Gift talked about interest only loans.

Ralph Wood asked what Davis Bacon wages were and Mayor Hodo explained.

Steve Fore talked about Resolution 15-11 increasing water rates. He said he had a conversation with Councilmember Dum who told him that Councilmember Dum had not been aware of what he was voting on. Mayor Hodo said he will give Councilmember Dum a chance to speak. Councilmember Dum did not respond.

Steve Fore then talked about rules for running a meeting and that he hoped it came from the Council and not the city. He also said councilmembers had the right to stay in council chambers after a meeting had been adjourned. Mayor Hodo said not if there were more than two councilmembers as that then became a quorum.

Tracy Cotterill asked what Buy America was but no one was sure. She then asked if USDA grants required a match and Director Light was not sure.

Gary Bull talked about a recent dog attack. He asked Chief Casey if there were any updates and Chief Casey deferred to Animal Control Officer Beaston. Beaston said the person who was attacked by the dog could not identify the dog and without a positive identification she was unable to impound the dog. She said a citation was issued for failure to license and she spoke with neighbors who were also unable to identify the dog.

Beaston then said she had not commented during staff reports and took a moment to say the new assessment rate increase was a hardship on senior citizens who were low income. She would like to present the Council with a suggestion to lower the assessment rate for qualifying low income senior citizens. Councilmember Wallace felt that was a good idea.

Joanne Price talked about those who grow vegetable gardens and suggested that water usage be increased for residents during the growing season. Councilmember Martin said that usage rates and summer usage had been discussed previously.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. Ordinance #692, Amending the 2016 budget. Ordinance #692 amending the budget was presented for a second reading and action. This amendment allows the previously approved expenditure for the purchase of a truck for the

water system to be included in the 2016 budget. Councilmember Wallace asked about the existing truck that this purchase replaces. Director Light explained that the truck doors don't shut any more, that the truck was here when he started fifteen years ago, and that he was unsure of the exact age of the truck. Councilmember Dum moved to approve Ordinance #692 amending the 2016 budget as presented and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

2. Farmer's Market. There was a great deal of discussion around the creation of this community event. Discussion included the steep cost of special events insurance, costs for a Honey Bucket, the cost of a park fee, booth rentals, the responsibility of the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce as the entity responsible for the event, revenue to the city through business licensing and taxes, security, cleanup after events, and locking the Honey Bucket.

After discussion, Councilmember Wallace moved to approve the cost to the city for the Honey Bucket, and to waive the park fee for the market, and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

3. Clarification. Clerk Stowe said at the beginning of the meeting that there would be no second Citizen Comment period because of the open forum. She realized that because the open forum was created through a motion this change should also come through a motion. Councilmember Martin moved to remove the second Citizen Comment period during Council meetings with open forums and with a second by Councilmember Dum the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - None

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Martin congratulated those involved with the Farmer's Market for bringing positive energy to the city.

Mayor Hodo reminded the Council that they are elected to run the city so each Councilmember should take responsibility to come up with ideas, do research, and get involved.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Wallace moved to accept the March 1st, 2016 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Dum the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve vouchers 31246 through 31272, with \$2,200.00 for payroll and \$22,522.32 for claims, for a total of \$24,722.32 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None (open forum meeting)

OPEN FORUM

Vicki McDaniel talked about the fast response from the city when she had an issue with her water and how she felt there would not be a similar result with the PUD. She also said that while she did not agree with the price hike, she understood the need.

Chuck Lie talked about also understanding why the rate increase happened but believes it will happen again in ten years. He talked about the Buy America program and pipes still made with asbestos. He also felt the city would be back in the same vortex because of management of the water system.

Tracy Cotterill asked if there was a reason the PUD had not been asked to speak. Councilmember Wallace said the Council had chosen to table that until after the presentation from USDA and so it should be back on the next agenda. Mayor Hodo said he spoke with the PUD and asked them to give him written information so that when the PUD

comes to the Council there can be direct answers. Once he gets that written response from the PUD it will then go to the Council.

Denise Beaston asked to have her name added to the list of speakers for the open forum as she had neglected to sign up. Councilmember Wallace moved to allow her to speak and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried. Beaston then invited residents to the Egg Hunt on March 26th, beginning at 9:30 am, with raffle tickets handed out to children starting at 9:00 am, at the Gold Bar Elementary school.

Vicki McDaniel reiterated previous comments about hoping people understood what they had in the community and city response times.

Steve Fore talked about where rules come from going forward. He also talked about arsenic levels in water and had a report on levels. Mayor Hodo asked him to make copies of his report available to the Council and he agreed to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilmember Dum moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Councilmember Diaz, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

 _____, Lee Hodo, Mayor

 _____, Lisa Stowe, Clerk

Gold Bar Open Forum

Sign-in Sheet

March 15, 2016

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone (optional)
Gary Bill		709 1st Ave W	
Vicki McDaniel		509 1st Ave W.	
Chad Lee		39964 May Cir	
Joe Ferraris		431 Lund	
Tracy Cottrell		301 Grand	
MADAME PRIZE		307 Grand	
Diane		819 Grand	
Gail			

