

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

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

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

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

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

Councilmember Wallace moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Martin and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Wallace moved to approve the agenda as presented and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hodo welcomed guest speaker Brent Wood from the PUD, who will speak during the open forum portion of the meeting. He said there would be time for citizen comment after he was done speaking, but the forum would be limited to thirty minutes.

STAFF REPORT

Clerk Stowe said when Mayor Hodo was seated she mistakenly said he would serve as Mayor for the full term. He will actually serve as the appointed mayor until the general election in 2017. She also said that someone had commented on phrasing in the Open Forum handout relating to removing disruptive people from the meeting. She said this holds true for all council meetings, and that if someone is disruptive, is asked to stop and doesn't, the mayor or facilitator has the power to ask to have the person removed. She said the wording did not mean that someone could be removed arbitrarily without any warning.

Office Manager Beaston was asked by Mayor Hodo to talk about water usage and quality. The water quality of PUD systems includes some satellite systems with arsenic. She compared the PUD price for water per cubic foot to Gold Bar's pricing per gallon, with the PUD pricing higher. She compared the pricing and usage between other cities, including Sultan and Monroe, and showed they allow less usage and charge more. She also pointed out that information on arsenic, usage, and pricing for PUD systems is on their website for anyone who cares to review the information.

Steve Fore said citizens should be allowed more than three minutes and said the PUD had more resources. Mayor Hodo said Mr. Fore was not asking a question of Ms. Beaston and that this was the staff comment period of the agenda. Mr. Fore talked about not being allowed to present information. Office Manager Beaston reminded him that he had presented information in the past and was welcome to do so again. Mr. Fore said garbage was being pushed down his throat. Mayor Hodo asked him to stop. Mr. Fore did not, and chose to leave the meeting voluntarily without being asked to leave by the Mayor, Council, staff, or Chief Casey.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Ware attended a productive meeting hosted by the Association of Washington Cities, and said the City should have a GIS mapping system.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Maryann Sutton presented a handout to the Council with photos of the parking issues on May Creek Road due to overflow traffic from Wallace Falls State Park. Cars park fully on sidewalks, in front of hydrants, and narrow the road to the point that emergency vehicles will find it difficult to make it down the road. There was discussion around solutions, including marking and signage. Mayor Hodo will put this issue on the May 3rd agenda.

Joanna Price asked if any discussion happened relating to her comments at the previous meeting around water usage. It was pointed out that the topic was on the agenda and would be talked about at that time. Clerk Stowe realized that the agenda copies at the back door for citizens were not the correct version that the Council had. The correct version was displayed on the wall but Office Manager Beaston made copies and handed them out to the audience. Clerk Stowe apologized for the mistake.

Sharon Fore talked about arsenic and the symptoms of ingesting too much, and how she wants to educate the community.

Joe Beavers talked about the presence of arsenic in everything, including beer.

Rosalyn Santerne would like to move the location of the Farmer's Market to the other side of the highway as the present location is not attracting the desired demographic and is not visible. Her request included moving the Port-a-Pottie. There was discussion around the move, if it was city business, and if it should be on the agenda at the next meeting. Clerk Stowe clarified that the change of location of the market itself is an issue dealt with through the event application process. The issue of the port-a-pottie is under Council jurisdiction because the original motion was to provide the service for the specific park to benefit more than just the people attending the market. Ms. Santerne's three minutes then ran out. Clerk Stowe asked the Council to consider giving her more time since Clerk Stowe used up some of her time in explaining city involvement. Councilmember Wallace moved to allow Ms. Santerne one more minute and with a second by Councilmember Diaz the motion carried. Ms. Santerne then said she would also like to have some sort of permanent banner on the highway to make the market more visible. The port-a-pottie question will be on the next agenda.

Chuck Lie talked about arsenic and beer, and cautioned women who were breastfeeding. He also suggested people talk to Tom Tiegen from Snohomish County Parks, as well as Hans Dunshee and Dave Somers because the parks department has another parking area for Wallace Falls and people should question why that isn't being used. He said that the city has wanted to encourage visitors and this parking issue is a result.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. Resolution 16-01, Finance Committee. Clerk Stowe missed the previous Council meeting when this resolution was originally presented. She was told that there was a mistake in wording relating to when the Finance Committee met. She corrected that wording, and then added wording allowing the committee to change meeting times in the event of an emergency. After making the changes she was told that the previous version had been adopted with the change from weekly to bi-weekly meetings. She told the Council they could choose to let the previous action stand, or to adopt this amended version with the emergency wording addition. After brief discussion, Councilmember Ware moved to adopt Resolution 16-01 as amended and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

2. Resolution 16-02, Senior Discounts. Mayor Hodo explained that discounts for the elderly on social security were common, but discounts for all low-income people were not. Clerk Stowe said she understood there had been discussion at the last meeting around opening this discount to all low-income citizens. She said the Council could choose to adopt this resolution as presented in order to allow discounts for the elderly to start, and that a

Councilmember could then take on the project of researching what impacts there would be to City revenue if a discount was given to all low-income residents. Councilmember Diaz moved to accept Resolution 16-02 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried. Councilmember Ware called for a point of order saying that Mayor Hodo had not asked for discussion prior to the vote. There was no further discussion.

3. Council Position. Clerk Stowe said that at the last meeting in which Councilmember Ware was seated, the motion made at that time did not include which position he was appointed to. She said the Council could move to assign the position and that technically Councilmember Ware could vote but it would be awkward. Councilmember Ware said he would abstain from any vote, which meant there would not be a quorum to vote because of the one open seat and Councilmember Martin's absence. This action will take place at the May 3rd Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water Usage. Councilmember Diaz would like to see the usage threshold raised to 7500 gallons during growing seasons. Mayor Hodo reminded the Council that the Department of Health requires the city to conserve water and that the conservation requirement is in the Water Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Ware asked about that requirement and Clerk Stowe said that it was a federal mandate. Councilmember Ware then asked why Washington DC cared about someone using a few gallons more in Gold Bar. Director Light reiterated that the City was mandated to conserve and that this was also in Water Efficiency reports. Councilmember Ware then moved to raise water usage thresholds to 7500 gallons during the growing season and Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion. During discussion, Joanne Price asked for clarification regarding what the growing season was. Councilmember Wallace said he felt the growing season was June, July, and August. Councilmember Ware then moved to amend his motion to allow 7500 gallons of water during June, July, and August and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS - None

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Ware moved to accept the April 5th, 2016 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Diaz moved to approve vouchers 31311 through 31335, with \$15,935.12 for payroll and \$5,888.51 for claims, for a total of \$21,823.63 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None (open forum meeting)

OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum began at 7:45 pm with Brent Wood from the PUD speaking on the water system. He talked about PUD systems, an overview of staff, satellite systems, the steps taken if the city wanted the PUD to take over the system, costs, PUD philosophy, and the PUD Capital Improvement Plan.

In particular, the PUD would initially do a basic study to see if it would be feasible to take over the system. After that study the PUD would then do a more formal feasibility study that could cost around \$30,000. There was discussion around grants that might cover the cost and that residents would have to cover the cost if grants would not be obtained.

There was discussion around the cost of water. The PUD charges a minimum flat rate of \$22. 57 no matter what a person's usage is. On top of that are charges per usage and then an additional assessment or surcharge fee between \$40 and \$50. The rates are also subject to change every four to five years.

Mr. Wood agreed that some PUD systems have arsenic in the water, but, like the City, all are below required thresholds set by the Department of Ecology and the EPA.

Councilmember Ware asked if the PUD was a public entity. Mr. Wood said the PUD is a not-for-profit public utility for power and water only. Water is a small percentage of the utility. Councilmember Ware asked if the PUD would work with local communities to develop the community. Mr. Wood said that the PUD was in the business of selling water and power and not in the planning business. Councilmember Ware then clarified that the PUD could transfer water to other entities.

Ralph Wood asked if he would be charged for water he didn't use. Mr. Wood repeated that there was a flat minimum rate with a usage rate on top of that. The minimum rate is charged even if no water is used. A resident would also have to pay the surcharge fee.

Tracy Cotterill asked when the last time the PUD was turned down for a grant to cover the feasibility study. Mr. Wood said the PUD has been very successful in obtaining grants but can't say for certain that it would happen.

Chuck Lie talked about the aging system. He wanted to know if the Council became paralyzed would the PUD work independently. Mr. Wood said he was not sure what Mr. Lie was asking and said if the PUD took over the system the city would be out but that the PUD did not engage in hostile takeovers.

Vicki McDaniel asked about emergency response time. Mr. Wood said that in the event of an emergency the on-call staff would come out of Lake Stevens. Ms. McDaniel then asked if the PUD read meters. Mr. Wood said the PUD reads meters monthly at the same time they read electric meters. Ms. McDaniel asked if there was an unusual spike in water usage, as in when someone had a leak, would the homeowner be notified. Mr. Wood said the account would be flagged but there could be a delay in notifying the resident because the notification would come out with the bill.

At this point the time limit for the Open Forum was reached. Councilmember Diaz moved to allow an additional fifteen minutes and with a second by Councilmember Wallace the motion carried.

Joe Beavers asked if wells would be shut down and only May Creek system water used. Mr. Wood said this would be looked at during the feasibility study.

Chuck Lie asked if the system would automatically be fluoridated. Mr. Wood said that would happen only if water came from the Everett system.

Mayor Hodo asked how long it would take if this change were to happen. Mr. Wood talked about all the steps involved and said it could take between three and five years depending on whether the city funded the feasibility study instead of going through the grant process.

Councilmember Ware asked where the grant for the study came from and Mr. Wood said the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which meant it was a federal grant administered by the state. Councilmember Ware then asked if the city paid the \$30,000, would the city get that money back later. Mr. Wood said it would be added to the surcharge fee citizens paid.

Mayor Hodo then thanked Mr. Wood for attending, and thanked everyone present for their patience and their questions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilmember Diaz moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Councilmember Ware, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

 , Lee Hodo, Mayor

 , Lisa Stowe, Clerk

