

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 19, 2018

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Clem called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilmembers Diaz, Martin, Phillips, Wallace, and Yarbrough. Also present was Chief Casey, Clerk Stowe and Public Works Director Light.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Clem reminded those present that there were two separate signup sheets for citizen comments. One was for the general comment period and one was for the public hearing.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Casey touched on recent burglaries, arrests, drownings, and the danger of the rivers right now.

Clerk Stowe reminded the audience to keep conversations to the comment periods in order to allow staff, councilmembers, and the audience to hear what was being said.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Diaz complimented Mayor Clem and Councilmember Yarbrough on the work they have been doing.

Councilmember Yarbrough thanked Clerk Stowe and Office Manager Beaston for never hesitating in answering his questions and for doing a great job.

Councilmember Martin talked about meetings on tourism and Smart 911 cards.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Curnutt talked about her request for changes to the noise ordinance.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance #714 Amending the 2018 Budget. This amendment is for the repair of sidewalks. Councilmember Yarbrough moved to accept Ordinance #714 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #715 Amending Title 13. This ordinance amends the title relating to low income discounts for senior citizens. Councilmember Yarbrough recommended changing this draft to add wording that the standard for federal poverty guidelines will be followed. Clerk Stowe will make that change in the draft for the next meeting. Councilmember Diaz moved to accept Ordinance #715 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmembers Martin and Wallace, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called to order the public hearing to discuss water rates at 7:16 p.m. She reviewed the rules of public hearings and asked Councilmembers to disclose any reasons that they might not be impartial, any appearance of fairness issues, or any ex parte contact. There were none. She reminded the public about signing up in order to speak during the public hearing.

Mayor Clem introduced Resolution #18-03 relating to raising water rates and assessments. He asked Councilmember Yarbrough to review his suggested changes to the resolution.

Councilmember Yarbrough explained the history behind the usage thresholds for commercial properties and reviewed his amendment that raises the usage threshold for those businesses back to the level they were at previously.

Councilmember Diaz said he had the same concerns. He talked about residential thresholds and how no current residences have three or four inch meters. He felt the same thresholds could be used for larger meters with residences as with businesses. There was discussion around this.

Tracy Cotterill talked about cloudy water, hydrants, and asked for clarification on households with larger meters getting more water. Mayor Clem said currently all residences have the same size meter but if someone did end up with a larger meter, they pay more.

Mayor Clem also explained that the assessment rate is specifically for capital projects relating to exactly those issues Ms. Cotterill listed.

Pat Mabry understands people have a duty to help pay for improvements but she would like to be charged just for the water she uses, especially since meters are read anyway.

Chuck Lie applauded the Council for taking action. He said this was ten years overdue.

Carrie Paul said water is horrible, wanted to know why she should pay more so the city could buy more new trucks, and what's been done to improve the system since the last increase. Mayor Clem clarified that the assessment fee can only be used for capital projects. He said there is a list of critical projects that are needed and to do those, assessment rates have to go up. Director Light talked about the recent 10th Street Project that cost over \$400,000 and how that money came directly from assessment rates. Clerk Stowe said the City has had two recent water main breaks and the assessment rates paid for those repairs. Councilmember Yarbrough pointed out that all revenue received from assessment rates has to be dedicated to those capital projects.

Douglas Paul also complained about the quality of water and said poison is being pumped through the pipes.

Mayor Clem reminded those present that during the public hearing comments must be related to the assessment rates. Clerk Stowe suggested those with complaints on water quality put their comments in writing and direct them to Director Light.

Daniel Thompson talked about his property taxes, that Gold Bar is a bedroom community, gas taxes, water leaks at his home, that the City has helped him with those leaks, that he doesn't get credit for water not used, drivers without insurance, and that everything is going up except income.

Mayor Clem responded that the gas tax revenue cannot be used for water projects.

Barbara Olson asked what residents can expect and how soon. Mayor Clem suggested that those wanting the results of the public hearing put a mark by their names on the sign-up sheet and information will be sent to them.

Jack Williams talked about fixed incomes and how people on social security have to pay the same as everyone else. Mayor Clem clarified that the City has a senior low income subsidy. Mr. Williams then talked about meter sizes, the trailer parks, and how he knows the system is old and work needs to be done.

Jerry Denlocker wanted more discussion on usage vs. rates. He talked about the difficulty of being able to afford living in the area. Mayor Clem talked about the two sides of the discussion, with some wanting smaller limits of water and others wanting more.

Benton Wyer complained about never having been told that the City had a senior discount, and about having to pay for a full month of water when he didn't live in the home for a full month. He said the City had mismanaged funds and compared the City's rate to Tucson, Arizona. He also asked what the assessment fee was used for.

Councilmember Wallace said they all drink the same water and all pay the same rates. He said the assessment issue has been kicked down the road for too long and it can't be done anymore. He said if the PUD took over the water system there would be a guaranteed doubling of the rates. He understands the frustration as it seems every time he gets a raise there's another hand in his pocket. But the system has to be replaced. He pointed out that the proposed increase is half what the City was told they had to do.

Councilmember Martin said she was on the Council when rates were analyzed by an outside company. She was appalled by the amount that company recommended for rates, which is why the City has scaled down on that rate increase. She said she hates having to pay those rates as much as the public but it has to be done. She said the Council struggled with this and the proposed rate increase is a compromise. She pointed out that the 10th Street project was paid for by assessment rates which allowed the City to save on interest so the way this was handled was very cost effective. She also said she was impressed with the work Director Light does.

Councilmember Yarbrough said the City is federally mandated to conserve water so they have to pick a threshold number. He said if someone uses 7,500 gallons of water instead of the threshold of 6,000, it's an additional \$5 on their bill, which he thinks is fair.

Mayor Clem compared that threshold to other cities such as Monroe and Sultan, which have thresholds between 2,244 and 2,992 gallons. He said the system has to be repaired, and called for action on the resolution.

There was further brief discussion with Councilmembers Diaz and Martin considering further threshold review.

Councilmember Wallace moved to accept Resolution #18-03 increasing water rates as amended to include Councilmember Yarbrough and Councilmember Diaz's changes relating to thresholds, and with the understanding that discussion will continue on quantities. With a second by Councilmember Diaz, the motion carried.

Councilmember Diaz then moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Martin the motion carried.

The regular scheduled Council meeting was returned to at 8:01 pm.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Clem reminded those present that he has a coffee hour the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 10:00 am for discussion that doesn't have to conform to Council meeting rules. While no action takes place, he can take issues to the Council.

Councilmember Phillips asked about clarifying the new water rates. Mayor Clem said it is broken down in the resolution and reminded people to sign up if they want to receive the results of the public hearing.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve the June 5, 2018 minutes as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Diaz moved to approve checks numbered 32951 through 32977 with \$311,119.95 for claims and \$2,200.00 for payroll and payroll taxes, for a total of \$313,319.95 and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilmember Yarbrough moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.


William Clem, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk


Denise Beasto
Office Manager

June 15, 2018

To: Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Clerk Stowe and Councilmember Yarbrough
Re: Resolution 18-03

Councilmember Yarbrough proposes two amendments to the draft resolution that will be before you for action at the public hearing. The resolution is attached and his two changes are highlighted in yellow for ease in identifying.

1. The change to usage thresholds for commercial businesses is suggested after discussion with business owners and after reviewing the history of rates. Prior to the last assessment increase, commercial properties with 1 ½ - 2 inch meters paid over \$100 and were allowed up to 30,000 gallons, which is typically what some of the businesses use. When the last rate change happened, their monthly rate was dropped to \$33, and their threshold usage was dropped to the residential amount of 6,000.

Basically the commercial businesses ended up still paying the same because on top of the \$33 rate they then had to pay overage fees.

Now that their rate is proposed to go back up to over \$100 for 1 ½ - 2 inch meters, it makes sense to also increase their usage threshold. Otherwise they will be paying significantly more per month, on top of overage fees which can be over \$1,000 a month. Again, they will basically be paying the same as they will pay more per month but less in overage fees, so it averages out. However, it appears more equitable for commercial businesses.

2. The change to commercial overage rates simplifies the rates to one rate for anything over their base rate, rather than breaking the fees out dependent on how many gallons they go over, especially since most commercial accounts consistently use over 12,000 gallons. This allows the City to still comply with the federal mandate to conserve water by charging overage fees, but makes that charge more equitable for commercial businesses.

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 18-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE
CITY'S FEE SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, Water rates and assessment rates have not been increased to comply with the City's Water Rate Assessment Study; and

WHEREAS, the City's Water Comprehensive Plan details the needs of the water system relating to upgrades and replacements, and details the costs of those improvements; and

WHEREAS, water assessment fees fund system improvements; and

WHEREAS, water rates for residential and commercial use fund a required level of service for all residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Gold Bar that Section VII, Water System Fees, of the Fee Schedule for the City be amended as follows.

I. Section VII (E), Standard Monthly Water Rates

II. Section VII (F), Water Assessment Rates

III. Severability

IV. Effective Date

I. Section VII (E) Standard monthly water rates

~~1. Residential rates~~

Base Quantity, gallons	Inside city	Outside city
6,000	-\$30.90	-\$38.27

~~2. Multifamily >2~~

Base Quantity, gallons	Inside city	Outside city
6,000	-\$33.35	-\$40.73

1. Residential Water Base Rates

Base Rate: 6,000 Gallons

a. Single Family Residences

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Inside City Limits</u>	<u>Outside City Limits</u>
<u>3/4" meter</u>	<u>\$31.90</u>	<u>\$39.27</u>

1" Meter	\$53.20	\$60.57
1-1/2" and 2" Meters	\$115.80	\$123.17
2" Meter	\$170.10	\$177.47
3" Meter	\$376.40	\$383.77
4" Meter	\$935.30	\$942.67

b. Multi-Family Residences

Base Rate: 6,000 Gallons

Meter Size	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
3/4" meter	\$34.35	\$41.73
1" Meter	\$55.65	\$63.03
1-1/2" and 2" Meters	\$118.25	\$125.63
2" Meter	\$172.55	\$179.93
3" Meter	\$378.85	\$386.23
4" Meter	\$937.75	\$945.13

3. 2. Residential and multi-family Overage Rates

Gallons over base quantity	Inside City \$/per gallon	Outside city \$/per gallon
6,001-7,500	0.003698	0.004707
7,501-9,000	0.004069	0.005178
9,001-12,000	0.004474	0.005695
12,001 and above	0.004922	0.006264

4. 3. Commercial and Industrial Water Base Rates

Base Quantity, gallons	Inside city	Outside city
6,000	\$33.35	\$40.73

Meter Size	Base Quantity, Gallons	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
3/4" meter	7500	\$36.80	\$44.19
1" Meter	10,000	\$58.10	\$65.49
1-1/2" and 2" Meters	30,000	\$120.70	\$128.09
2" Meter		\$175.00	\$182.39
3" Meter	100,000	\$381.30	\$388.69
4" Meter	200,000	\$940.02	\$947.59

5. 4. Commercial and industrial overage rates

Gallons over base quantity	Inside City \$/per gallon	Outside city \$/per gallon
6,001 7,500	0.004034	0.005043

7,501	9,000	0.004437	0.005548
9,001	12,000	0.004882	0.006102
Above Meter Size Base Quantity		0.005370	0.006712

II. Section VII (F) Water system Assessment charge, monthly Rates

- ~~1. Individual residential or commercial: \$32.41 per connection~~
- ~~2. Multi-family: \$18.70 per unit~~

1. Single Family Residences and Commercial Businesses, Inside Or Outside City Limits

2018	2019	2020
\$56.40	\$65.40	\$74.40

2. Multi-Family Residences, Per Unit

2018	2019	2020
\$42.69	\$51.69	\$60.69

III. Severability

This resolution is severable and if any portion of it shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion shall remain valid and enforceable.

IV. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect from the date of its adoption.

Resolved this ____ day of _____, 2018.

APPROVED:

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

William Clem, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

City of Gold Bay,

Y. Her is in response to your proposal for a hike in water prices. I can't be at this "meeting" so here is my input.

1.) I am on a fixed income

2.) Social Security got a 6 raise, Medicare took 73, what the garbage took 2. The dollar that I have left is less than half of the raise in my area.

3.) TV went up
insurance went up
gas went up.

Where would you like me to pull the rate hike from?

4.) The bleach that you put in leaves it undrinkable.

5.) You will do what you want anyway so why the "public meeting"?

Mrs. Burch

Tricia A Foster-Torkelson
204 May Lane
Gold Bar WA 98251

City of Gold Bar
107 5th St
Gold bar WA 98251

Dear Mayor, city council and staff,

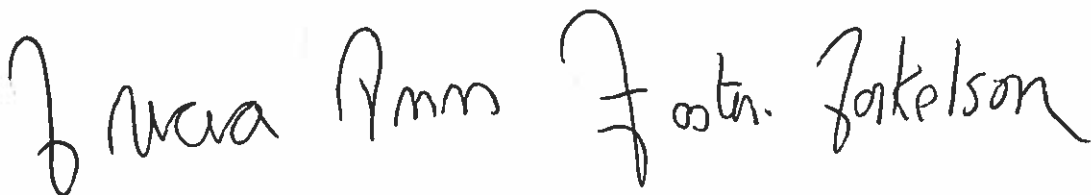
There is a big concern over your overcharging Gold Bar residents for water when you have already raised the water bill at least twice, so three times is excessive. Even during hot summers our wells have been plentiful. You stated the last water bill hike was to pay for replacing the cities water pipes.

Most Gold Bar residents are not wealthy, and many are seniors. Before you dig again in the pockets of the poor, why don't you reconsider discussing our water needs to former Senator Kirk Pearson. His new job includes helping small towns under 10,000 people with their drinking water (issues). I understand the need for new pipes, and cleaner water. You could at least add filters if your going to charge more, then the water would be cleaner. All that matters is that the project is done safe, and effectively so clean water gets to all the towns residence.

Every summer you receive extra money when we have to water our veggie gardens and plants..... Your suggesting you don't have enough money but please find other sources. Our garbage bill went up significantly already also.

We are grateful for water but we are already paying our fair share,

Tricia A Foster-Torkelson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tricia Ann Foster-Torkelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'F'.

Gold Bar Council Meeting
Public Hearing Comment Sign-in Sheet
 June 19, 2018

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone (optional)
KATHY CURTNEY	<i>Kathy Curtney</i>	201 Croft	360-799-2461
Troy Cottrell	<i>Troy Cottrell</i>	301 Grand	
Jocanna Price	<i>Jocanna Price</i>	307 Grand	
PAT MAREY	<i>Pat Marey</i>	155 5th St	
STACEY CIE	<i>Stacey Cie</i>	on file	
CHARGE PAID	<i>Charge Paid</i>	922 Tamber Ln #975	
Douglas P. L	<i>Douglas P. L</i>	922 Timber Ln #975	
Daniel Thompson	<i>Daniel Thompson</i>	107 Powell Ln	
Barbara Olson	<i>Barbara Olson</i>	201-3rd St.	
JACK WILLIAMS	<i>Jack Williams</i>	255 10th St	
JERRI DENLOCKER	<i>Jerry Denlocker</i>	413 Anderson Ln.	
BENJON WYER	<i>Benjon Wyer</i>	14814 Mainlight Dr	520-561-7977
Ralph Wood	<i>Ralph Wood</i>	309 1st Ave West	360-799-2425
Teresa Catron	<i>Teresa</i>	P.O. Box 932	425-355-8823
DAN ALLEN	<i>Dan Allen</i>	822 Grand Ave W	425 327-0009
Rhonda Pello	<i>Rhonda Pello</i>	719 Orchard Ave	
Joe Beaver	<i>Joe Beaver</i>	431 Linda Gb	

every please

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Chuck Lie
PO Box 885
Sultan, WA 98294

Dear Mr. Lie:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

Please feel free to contact myself, the mayor, any councilmember, our public works director John Light, or our office manager Denise Beaston, with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Stowe', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Tracy Cotterill
301 Grand
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Cotterill:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Joanne Price
307 Grand
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Price:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Sincerely,

Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Pat Mabry
155 5th St.
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Mabry:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

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Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Carrie and Douglas Paul
PO Box 975
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. and Ms. Paul:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Daniel Thompson
107 Powell Lane
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Barbara Olson
201 3rd St.
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Olson:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Jack Williams
255 10th St.
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Jerry Denlocker
413 Anderson Lane
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Denlocker:

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Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Benton Wyer
14814 Moonlight Dr.
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Wyer:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Ralph Wood
309 1st Ave. West
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Teresa Catron
PO Box 932
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Catron:

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Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

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107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Dan Allen
222 Grand Ave. W
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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Clerk/Treasurer
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107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Rhonda Pallo
719 Orchard Ave.
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Ms. Pallo:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lisa Stowe".

Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 - 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

June 26, 2018

Joe Beavers
431 Linda
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Dear Mr. Beavers:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the recent public hearing regarding water rate changes.

Please find attached the resolution that was adopted at that public hearing showing what the new rates will be.

The Council did not make this decision lightly. It was difficult balancing the financial impact to residents against the impact to residents with an aging water system that will not be able to meet demands if improvements and maintenance do not happen.

Please feel free to contact myself, the mayor, any councilmember, our public works director John Light, or our office manager Denise Beaston, with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Stowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Stowe
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Gold Bar