

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 7, 2021

MAYOR POSITION

Clerk Stowe said that Mayor Clem’s resignation was effective September 1st. The Council could choose to appoint an interim mayor or a mayor pro-tempore (tem) to fill out the remainder of the year until the election. She encouraged the Council to not appoint either one of the mayor candidates as it could give an appearance of favoritism during an election season. After discussion, Councilmember Yarbrough moved to appoint a Mayor pro-tem for the remainder of the year rather than appointing an interim mayor, and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried. Councilmember Phillips then moved to appoint Councilmember Lie as Mayor pro-tem for the remainder of the year, and with a second by Councilmember Yarbrough, the motion carried. Mayor pro-tem Lie then presided over the regular agenda.

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor pro-tem Lie called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm via Zoom. Present were Councilmembers Martin, Phillips, Sears, and Yarbrough. Also present was Director Norris and Clerk Stowe.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor pro-tem Lie saw comments on social media regarding the City’s comprehensive plan relating to traffic on SR2. He asked when the next update to the plan was and Director Norris told him in 2024. Mayor pro-tem Lie suggested a resolution stating that the City would work collaboratively with agencies to improve traffic.

STAFF REPORT

Director Norris presented the monthly activity report by Office Manager Beaton, which was also in Council packets.

Director Norris thanked the Council for approving the purchase of a new dump truck. The truck has been ordered but due to Covid-19 and the shortage of chips, the truck will not be available until May, 2022. Mayor pro-tem Lie asked about snow plowing this winter. Director Norris said the current dump truck

will work but just doesn't start. Once it's jumped, it will function for now if it isn't shut off. Director Norris doesn't want to pour any more money into trying to get it repaired.

Work is being done on the new dog park, including grading and levelling. Posts should be going in shortly.

Crews from the Department of Corrections will not be available for at least two weeks due to COVID exposure.

The street sweeper is beyond capabilities of staff to repair and the company that made it declined to work on it because of its age. Director Norris is trying to find someone who might be able to repair it.

Gold Bar and Sultan are going to work collaboratively to apply for a grant that will pay for engineering and consulting with Blue Line to update the housing action plan portion of their comprehensive plans. This update will address new legislation that requires comprehensive plans to address affordable housing and multi-family housing.

Wallace Falls Court is down to their punch lists. Director Norris anticipates having as-builts available for Council approval shortly.

Clerk Stowe asked the Council to check their emails at least once a week.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Yarbrough asked about the previous plan to assist Big Bend with the City's street sweeper. That didn't happen because of the issue with the sweeper not being resolved.

Mayor pro-tem Lie would like to see a discussion on emergency management.

Councilmember Phillips talked about the Index Arts Festival and National Night Out.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Snohomish County Councilmember Sam Low attended the meeting via Zoom to check in with the City.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called to order the Public Hearing to review the 2022 budget and Ordinance No. 752 at 7:18 pm. She reviewed the public hearing process and no Councilmember had reason to recuse themselves from the hearing.

Clerk Stowe reviewed the current budget. She talked about the higher than normal CPI increase for the coming year due to inflation and told the Council to not be surprised if the payroll increase was as high as seven percent. Director Norris also talked about this and said it is based on the high increase in the cost of goods that the City is already seeing. He reminded the Council that they had already approved a three percent increase in water rates for the coming year but asked them to keep in mind that the increase may need to up to seven percent. He said such an increase would result in roughly \$3.00 - \$4.00 increase per person, which would help keep the water fund on pace with supporting itself. There was discussion around the increasing price of commodities and the future of the Department of Corrections crews. No action was taken.

Ordinance No. 752 amending the zoning ordinance was presented. Because this ordinance amends zoning, it must be acted on at a public hearing. The ordinance revises wording around political signage, as required by new legislation. Councilmember Yarbrough moved to adopt Ordinance No. 752 and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Councilmember Martin then moved to adjourn the public hearing, and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the regular agenda was returned to at 7:28 pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Wallace Falls Court Parking. People visiting the State Park are now parking in the cul-de-sac where new homes are going to be built. This will also be a problem if a second development goes up in the same area. The plan is to put up signs designating these areas as permitted parking only. The residents will be able to get decals for their cars permitting them to park. Visitors will be able to purchase a permit to park in those specific areas. After discussion on this and parking for the State Park in general, the consensus was for Director Norris to come up with a proposal for the next meeting. This will take the form of an ordinance amending municipal code relating to traffic.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor pro-tem Lie reiterated his wish to have a discussion on emergency management.

Councilmember Martin talked about brush fires in Darrington and a recent drowning. She reminded the Council that there is still a burn ban in effect.

Councilmember Yarbrough thanked Mayor pro-tem Lie for stepping up.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve the August 17th, 2021 minutes as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Yarbrough, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 35458- 35502, with \$86,696.09 for claims and \$40,682.54 for payroll and payroll taxes, for a total of \$127,378.63 and with a second by Councilmember Yarbrough, the motion carried. *Note: check #35490 was voided and is not included in these totals.*

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmembers Martin moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Yarbrough the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

William Clem, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk