

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 20, 2022

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Yarbrough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, by Zoom and in person. Present were Councilmembers Martin, Phillips, and Sears. Councilmember Lie was able to attend for roughly ten minutes but then lost his connection. A quorum was still met during these issues. Councilmember Phillips arrived late and initially could not establish sound but eventually was able to connect. Also present was Public Works Director Norris, Office Manager Beaston, Chief Hess, and Clerk Stowe.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough talked about the Bolt Creek Fire, updating the Council and reviewing what was going on. The City Hall was open Saturday and Sunday for those in need of shelter and a handful of people and pets used the building. He has been attending daily meetings with the incident teams and said this is a good reminder for elected officials to review emergency plans.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Hess also gave updates on the Bolt Creek Fire as well as general incidents in the City and upcoming events.

Director Norris talked about projects, including crack sealing that was recently finished.

Clerk Stowe said she will not be at the next meeting. She asked those Councilmembers who had not picked up their checks for the month of August to do so. She said the City of Sultan has appointed Sultan Councilmember Joseph Hund as representative to the Snohomish Health District. The Health District also approached her asking if the Council would like someone to come to a meeting to update the City on what the Health District has been doing. Clerk Stowe asked the Council if they would like to also invite Councilmember Hund to come introduce himself and talk about the City's expectations regarding representing Gold Bar. Councilmembers Sears and Martin would like to have the Health District come to a meeting and to also have Councilmember Hund attend.

Office Manager Beaston said there were issues with sound for the Zoom portion of the meeting.

Chief Eric Andrews with the fire department spoke about the Bolt Creek Fire, reviewing the number of personnel fighting it, the difference between 'containment' and 'objectives', and the difficulty with people still deciding to have fires in spite of the full fire ban. Councilmember Sears thanked the firefighters for all their hard work. Chief Andrews said this fire is a classic example of why they work to mitigate fire damage. Councilmember Martin clarified that there is still red flag burn ban in effect. Chief Andrews said there was, and also said right now the fire is very visible from Skykomish. Office Manager Beaston also thanked Chief Andrews and the teams for all their work fighting the fire, and additionally complimented Chief Andrews on the new paint job for the station.

COUNCIL COMMENTS - none

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers talked about burn bans and how the City does not have an ordinance regarding fines for ignoring burn bans.

Marty Seagran talked about people burning trash, the need for fines of at least \$2,000, and the need to have a reward for people who report those violating burn bans.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe opened the public hearing at 7:25 pm to review Ordinance #759 relating to amending multiple municipal codes, and to begin discussion on the 2023 budget. She reviewed the process and procedure for the public hearing. No Councilmembers listed any reason to be recused from the hearing, or any appearance of fairness or ex-parte issues.

Clerk Stowe then presented Ordinance No. 759 for a second reading and approval. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance No. 759 and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Clerk Stowe updated the Council on the early stages of the 2023 budget, going over possible fee schedule amendments, the percentage rates of cost-of-living increases, and upcoming watermain projects. No action was needed.

With no further business, Councilmember Phillips moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried. The regular Council meeting was returned to at 7:33 pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 759. This ordinance amends Title 2 relating to public participation at Council meetings. Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance No. 759, and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Clerk Stowe reminded the Council that the motions should include wording about accepting the ordinance for a second reading and approval as written.

Ordinance No. 761. This ordinance amends the 2022 budget related to the dump truck purchase. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance No. 761 for a second reading and approval as written and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - none

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears would like more information on fines for burn bans.

Councilmember Phillips thanked the teams fighting the Bolt Creek Fire.

Office Manager Beaston said there are ordinances in place for infractions and the Sheriff's Department issues them, not the City. Complaints about illegal burning should be calls to 911 and not to the City or to social media. The fire department responds to those calls and has jurisdiction. Mayor Yarbrough said he will research this.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears to approve the September 6th, 2022 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 36289 – 36317 with \$100,104.13 for claims and \$1,200.00 for payroll and payroll taxes, for a total of \$101,304.13 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried. Councilmember Martin explained that the high amount of bills included the annual USDA payment.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk