

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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 Lie, Martin, Sears, Phillips, and Russell. Also present was Office Manager Beaston, Director Norris, Chief Hess, and Clerk Stowe.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT - none

STAFF REPORT

Chief Hess talked about parking issues at Wallace Falls State Park, the number of tickets being issued, an upcoming race on Saturday that will increase parking issues and bringing in another deputy, continuation of traffic enforcement, an upcoming eviction, and upcoming trainings.

Director Norris talked about well four and the ongoing issues with the company doing the repairs. They are not returning messages. Because of the heat the last few days people are using a lot of water so water had to be purchased from the PUD. There was discussion around the quality of water, which is fine, PUD water, and the difficulty getting results from the repair company.

Clerk Stowe reminded the Council that it was candidate filing week.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears updated the Council on Senate Bill 5536, known as the 'Blake fix' bill. He felt this was a step in the right direction.

Councilmember wanted to salute Snohomish County Executive Somers for a recent article. He hopes the City is ready to police SR2 for campaign signs during the upcoming election cycle. He said it was good that the city had prominently posted information about ATVs as he has been seeing a lot of them on the streets. He said that the police have done well in keeping kids on quads off the streets.

Councilmember Martin is enjoying seeing the Block Watch group getting going and they are doing some projects outside of city limits. She let people know when the upcoming fire department pancake breakfast would be held. She also talked about the date for the upcoming memorial for Betty Hodo.

Councilmember Russell also talked about ATVs. Additionally, he talked about mini bikes with no mufflers, and that he had cleaned trash under the County Wallace Falls bridge.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers talked about history of well three, the crime watch group, and foliage trimming around signs.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #23-02, Old Cascade Highway. At the last meeting the Council was in favor of creating a resolution in support of reopening the Old Cascade Highway. Councilmember Sears moved to approve Resolution #23-02 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

Resolution #23-03, Housing Action Plan. Director Norris asked for no action on the resolution until the next meeting in order to give Councilmembers time to read the plan. Andy McAndrews and Sharon Snook from BlueLine then presented the draft Housing Action Plan. Mr. McAndrews reviewed the plan and then took questions from the Council. There was a great deal of discussion, including Councilmember Lie’s point that housing issues in larger entities is causing Gold Bar to be burdened with their failures. Discussion included how infrastructure doesn’t include healthcare; the number of proposed new housing and where those could go; if sewer systems solve affordable housing issues; options for different kinds of septic systems; that the housing plan will be the guiding document for the comprehensive plan update; if there are consequences if the proposed number of homes aren’t built; that there is no expectation that that number of homes will be built because of things out of the city’s control such as the economy; the requirement to have a plan in place; what low-income housing actually is; and whether residents want growth or not.

After discussion, Director Norris reminded the Council that there will be further discussion and action on the resolution at the next meeting.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Director Norris forgot to mention during his staff report that building regulations are changing July 1st as a result of legislation around the Wildland Urban Interface. He talked about the more stringent permitting process and that staff will be tasked with enforcing these so the Council may receive calls from unhappy residents. If so, they can be referred to Director Norris. There was brief discussion around the changes.

Mayor Yarbrough thanked Councilmember Sears for his update on the Blake legislation, and thanked Councilmembers Lie and Russell for their comments on ATVs.

Councilmember Sears thanked the BlueLine staff for their presentation.

Councilmember Lie encouraged people to do their civic duty and donate blood.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the May 2nd, 2023 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 36818 through 36846 with \$33,572.63 for claims and \$1,200.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$34,772.63 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer