

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 5, 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 in person were Councilmembers Lie, Martin, and Russell. Staff members present in person were Director Norris, Chief Whalen, Office Manager Beaston, and Clerk Stowe. Councilmember Phillips attended by Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough introduced and welcomed the new Chief, Carl Whalen. Mayor Yarbrough said staff continued researching options for debit card usage, and thanked Skykomish for being willing to meet with staff.

He presented a requalification letter from Snohomish County Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that HUD would like signed and returned prior to September 15th. There was a great deal of discussion around how long grants are taking to be processed, how the City lost a grant for over \$100,000 for Linda Avenue due to HUD's long delays, changes around affirmative action that happened in 2021 and the lack of guidance on how those changes impact this requalification letter and the ability to manage grants, the errors in the requalification letter including an apparent gap of one year with no contract, typographical errors in the letter including labeling Gold Bar as a town and having a date of 2076, other communities also dissatisfied, the benefit of being signing and finally discussion around whether the City should renew this agreement with all of the issues. After discussion, Councilmember Lie moved to approve the mayor entering into this agreement and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen introduced himself and gave a brief review of his background and qualifications. He then reviewed key points of the Chief's report that former Chief Hess created. There was discussion about things outside of Gold Bar city limits, including Index-Galena Road, what it might take to get more deputies, difficulties in staffing, and Chief Whalen's work with counterparts in other agencies.

Director Norris updated the Council on Linda Avenue progress and on how Well 4 is running. He thanked the PUD for their assistance. There was discussion around the new red paint, ordinances spelling out no parking areas, parking issues in the city limits, and the possibility of Rico's Pizza pursuing a RV park. Director Norris said that Rico's is doing dirt work but are not currently operating a RV park.

Clerk Stowe brought up numbering issues around recently passed ordinances that also impacts the ordinances before the Council in this meeting. Councilmember Russell moved to renumber the relevant ordinances and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Office Manager Beaston welcomed Chief Whalen.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie talked about Snohomish County Tomorrow, abandoned buildings, complaints about people living full time in RVs, accessory dwelling units, septic systems and the need for the Department of Health to rein in non-compliance, ATVs, e-bikes, and the crime watch group and shadow governments.

Councilmember Martin welcomed Chief Whalen and talked about the continuing risk of fire.

Councilmember Russell asked to be excused from the previous meeting. Councilmember Lie moved to excuse Councilmember Russell from the August 15th meeting and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried. Councilmember Russell then talked about people running stop signs and kids street racing.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance #765 (now Ordinance #766) amending the 2023 budget. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #766 for a second reading and adoption as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #766 (now Ordinance #767) amending sign regulations. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #767 for a second reading and adoption as amended to correct the Title number in the ‘Therefore’ section, and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #767 (now Ordinance #768) amending parking regulations. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #768 for a second reading and adoption as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

Ordinance #768 (now Ordinance #769) amending Title 15 relating to mobile homes and house trailers. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #769 for a second reading and adoption as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Snohomish County Sheriff Interlocal. Clerk Stowe presented the new interlocal. There was discussion around the rate increase and budgeting, the option of additional hours, the cost for more deputies, the difficulty the County is facing in hiring shortages, and the level of service between in the city and in unincorporated Snohomish County. After discussion, Councilmember Martin moved to accept the interlocal as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Letter of Support. Clerk Stowe presented a draft letter from DEM in support of a community wildfire defense grant. Councilmember Russell moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element Review. This draft is for discussion only with no action at this time. Each element will be reviewed and then action will be taken on the Plan as a whole. There was discussion around figures in tables, typographical errors, new wording vs. original wording, septic systems from the Housing Action Plan, wording in the section on goals, policies vs. procedures, community involvement, how often the Plan can be amended, and alternative affordable technologies that might replace septic systems. Discussion then moved away from the Element review and continued around broader topics.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Yarbrough will miss the October 17th Council meeting.

Councilmember Lie talked about a poster presented to the City.

Councilmember Russell talked about a veteran's outreach project in Everett on October 5th.

Councilmember Phillips will miss the next meeting. Councilmember Lie moved to excuse Councilmember Phillip's absence and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried with Councilmember Phillips abstaining.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve the August 15th, 2023 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 37052 through 37092 with \$31,391.02 for claims and \$45,144.70 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$76,535.72 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Martin moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Phillips the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Chuck Lie, Mayor Pro Tem

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer