

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 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, and Clerk Stowe. Councilmembers Sears and Phillips attended via Zoom. Office Manager Beaston attended via 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 has had daily meetings with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) regarding the weather and flooding. He shared a drone photo of Wallace River. On the 29th he attended an exercise with DEM and other agencies regarding bridges in the state and the effect an earthquake would have on them. The takeaway was to be prepared as there would be slow responses in this area. He also talked about low voter turnout, especially in odd-numbered years, and recent legislation regarding elections in even-numbered years. He suggested that the Council consider an advisory group next year as a way to better engage the public's thoughts on this.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen briefly reviewed the Sheriff report and statistics. The annual Shop with a Cop was held and eighteen students from the Gold Bar/Sultan region attended.

Councilmember Lie asked about bills the city pays for those in jail. Chief Whalen said if someone is arrested in city limits, the city gets billed, and those bills are reviewed prior to payment.

Director Norris received approval for two grants from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). One is for an overlay project for 9th Street, from Linda Avenue to the highway. The second is for a seal coat for Smeltzer, Prospector, and Verlinde. These will take place next summer. The city cost for both will be \$17,000, which is already part of the 2024 budget. Councilmember Phillips moved to authorize Mayor Yarbrough to sign the TIB grant documents and with a second by Councilmember Sears the motion carried.

Director Norris talked about the work done on well 4, which isn't complete as the company is waiting on a flush pump. Because of this the company has not yet billed the city for the work and that money will end up coming out of the 2024 budget. There was brief discussion.

Councilmember Lie asked about street striping in the budget BARS codes and there was brief discussion.

Office Manager Beaston has a dog in impound, and also said that bills regarding jail services are reviewed by both Clerk Stowe and Chief Whalen prior to being paid.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears cautioned people to be safe because of flooding. He also reminded those attending the meeting via Zoom how to be recognized if they wish to speak during the citizen comment section.

Councilmember Lie talked about a newspaper article on highway 2 traffic, and a past issue with chlorinating water in a Home Owners Association where he used to live.

Councilmember Martin talked about a recreation meeting she attended and an outdoor access plan created by the Department of Natural Resources. She also talked about water and flooding issues and the dangers of driving through high water.

Councilmember Russell said he echoed Councilmember Martin's comments about safety during flood events. He also said he has signed up for an upcoming elected officials training.

Councilmember Phillips will miss the next meeting. Councilmember Sears moved to excuse Councilmember Phillips from the December 19th meeting and with a second by Councilmember Lie the motion carried, with Councilmember Phillips abstaining.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers talked about the costs of sewer upgrades, the sewer process, and requirements for installation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing to order at 7:26 pm and briefly reviewed the procedures for the hearing. The applicable agenda was the 2024 budget. No councilmember had any reason to recuse themselves from the hearing.

Clerk Stowe reviewed the final budget attachment. There was brief discussion about the bill for well 4 work and revenue.

With no further business, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:32 pm and the council returned to the regular agenda.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Housing Element. There was a great deal of discussion around the Housing Element. After discussion there was a consensus by the Council that this draft was ready to be compiled into a final comprehensive plan draft that will be reviewed by the public prior to finalizing.

Ordinance #773 Amending the 2023 Budget. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #773 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #774 Adopting the 2024 Budget. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #774 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Emergency Management Interlocal. The annual interlocal was presented with inserted comments showing changes from the previous interlocal. Councilmember Sears moved to authorize the mayor to sign the DEM interlocal and with a second by Councilmember Phillips, the motion carried.

Ordinance #775 Amending Title 1. This ordinance creates a new chapter relating to code enforcement and revises a current chapter relating to general penalties. There was discussion around the history of code enforcement, staff responsibilities, if legal review would be needed, and that staff currently already do most of this work. After discussion the council consensus was that no legal review was needed. Councilmember Phillips moved to accept Ordinance #775 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Lie the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie talked about the upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting and the number of overdoses per day county-wide.

Councilmember Martin reminded people to not drive in floodwaters.

Councilmember Russell also reminded people to be careful and also talked about overdoses.

Councilmember Phillips apologized for being late and thanked those citizens that came to the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

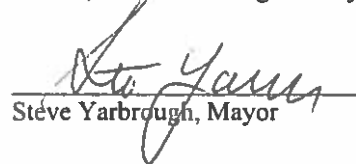
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the November 21st, 2023, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 37253 through 37279 with \$8,104.13 for claims and \$44,027.61 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$52,131.74 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.


Steve Yarbrough, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer