

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in hybrid format. Present in person were Councilmembers Craig, Lie, Martin, and Russell. Councilmember Sears was absent. Staff members present in person were Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to adopt the agenda as amended to add a presentation about the Tree Board and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough was attending the AWC annual meeting but submitted a written report. He has been in contact with the Department of Natural Resources regarding the Tree City designation. He will be submitting a grant for an electric vehicle charging station. There will be the annual Trunk or Treat event at Gateway Park and the city is accepting candy donations. He asked Office Manager Beaston to research costs for porta-potties if there is interest in having that as part of a budget discussion.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls, including assisting Sultan regarding shooting incidents. Councilmember Lie asked for clarification around a specific bill, which was for jail services.

Director Norris said Well 4 is running with no issues, speed tables are complete as is the Orchard overlay. Councilmember Lie asked about planting vegetation around stormwater swales in the Fall View development and there was brief discussion. Councilmember Russell said accolades were received from residents regarding the Orchard project.

Clerk Stowe gave an update on potential changes to health insurance coverage. She also said the audit process was starting and there was discussion around the entrance conference. The consensus was that the council did not require an in-person entrance conference. Councilmember Lie volunteered to meet with audit staff for that conference.

Office Manager Beaston reminded people not to blow leaves or vegetation out into sidewalks, storm drains, or streets. Residents who do so will receive warnings and potential fines. She also spoke briefly about animal control issues.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie talked about the recent Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting, which included discussion around community transit, emergency management, economic development related to the upcoming soccer tournament, local traffic issues, potential code violations, and bicycle safety education for school kids.

Councilmember Martin attended the Heidelberg open house, said the burn permit process is now done online, and talked about fire risks.

Councilmember Russell talked about salmon returning, the need for bike safety, and seeing kids on dirt bikes on streets.

Councilmember Craig also talked about Heidelberg, the increase in trucks and traffic their project may bring to highway 2, damage to windshields from trucks, discussions with Creekside residents regarding the park, and attending an emergency management forum with Mayor Yarbrough.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jason Lavinsky spoke about a law enforcement issue with public safety concerns.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing to order at 7:34 and reviewed the hearing process. The applicable agenda included the Critical Areas update and the 2026 budget.

Director Norris and consultant Eric Jensen reviewed updates to the critical areas ordinance. There was discussion around definitions in the draft plan, licensing requirements for professional services, and making sure wording regarding floodplains was included. After discussion, Councilmember Russell moved to accept Ordinance #784 relating to the Critical Areas Update for an introduction and first reading, and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Clerk Stowe presented the preliminary budget figures and there was discussion about funds, increases in costs, park and street impact fees, plans for a skate park, benches for parks, playground equipment, capital projects, the strong possibility for rate increases, traffic on highway 2, which is a Department of Transportation issue, costs for Sheriff services, and the wish to increase the level of deputy services.

After discussion, Councilmember Lie moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried. The hearing was adjourned at 8:21 and the regular agenda resumed.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #786, Amending Title 12. This ordinance adds a new chapter relating to the Tree Board. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #786 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

Tree Board. Leigh Anne Barr gave an update on progress the Tree Board has made in meeting steps required to become a Tree City through the Arbor Foundation. She also updated the council on projects the Tree Board has done.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie thanked Ms. Barr for the Tree Board information.

Councilmember Martin also thanked Ms. Barr. She also said that she would like to have planters with flowers in the city.

Councilmember Craig asked about the closure of a local food bank. Director Norris told her the food bank had been run by the Miracle Food Network, which lost funding. Councilmember Craig then talked about having a community garden.

Councilmember Russell also spoke about the closure of the food bank and the need for such resources.

MINUTES APPROVAL

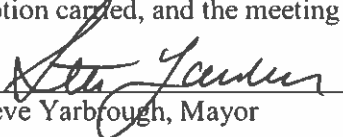
Councilmember Lie moved to approve the September 16th, 2025, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 38679 through 38722 with \$96,440.29 for claims and \$51,662.84 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$148,103.13 and with a second by Councilmember Lie, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Martin moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.


Steve Yarbrough, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

October 7, 2025

[illegible]

Mayor's Report 10-7-25

Tonight, I am attending the AWC RMSA annual meeting in Chelan. Last week I attended two AWC events in Wenatchee, the Emergency Management Forum on Thursday, and the Mayor's Exchange on Friday.

I have been in contact with the WA State DNR coordinator for the Tree City designation. They are willing to keep the application portal open for us through January if we can meet the criteria needed to complete the application for 2025. The final two items we are working on are the Tree Care Ordinance, and per capita costs documentation.

Round 2 has just opened to apply for an Electrical Vehicle Charging grant from the WA State Dept of Commerce. I am going to try for this grant again; the deadline is Dec 18th.

The "Ladies of the Sky Valley" chapter of the Red Hatters are partnering again with the city and Gold Bar Police Dept to host Trunk or Treat at Gateway Park. City Hall is accepting candy donations.

An FYI for council, I had Denise reach out for porta potty costs a few months ago. A standard porta potty is about \$3000/yr, and ADA rated potty is \$4000/yr. This is for weekly service; the price drops a little for monthly only service. If council desires to consider adding to next year's budget, now is the time for discussion during the budget hearing process. Gateway and Railroad Parks are possible locations, especially if we are successful with an EV charging grant at Gateway Park. For current travelers, a reminder that we do have a grocery store, two gas stations, and four restaurants and a food truck that all have public restrooms. Steve