

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Yarbrough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in hybrid format. Present in person were Councilmembers Craig and Martin. Councilmembers Russell and Sears attended via Zoom. Councilmember Lie 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 Sears moved to adopt the agenda as presented and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough attended numerous events, including the ribbon cutting for a new business, a winter weather summit, a meeting regarding grant applications, and one with Washington Wild, which he highly recommends councilmembers attend.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls in the region, including the number of traffic stops. Deputy Gallina was involved in a stop that led to confiscation of eight grams of methamphetamine. Chief Whalen also talked about the number of people in the region who have signed up for Snohomish County Alerts and encouraged people to do so if they have not.

Director Norris and staff are working on a path to address odors from marijuana operations.

Clerk Stowe said that insurance issues were resolved between Evergreen Health and Regence.

Office Manager Beaston asked for a moment of silence to remember Dave Kaseburg and Dakota Pickens. City staff grieve their loss and offer condolences to the family.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears reminded people to get their ballots in before polls close.

Councilmember Martin said cold-weather shelters are open in Monroe and community transit will give free rides there. She also thanked Chief Whalen for his outstanding service.

Councilmember Russell talked about the need to step up and help local food banks.

Councilmember Craig toured the city's water system with Director Norris in order to learn more about it. She also thanked staff for their work on the County Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Yarbrough called the public hearing to order at 7:11 pm to discuss the 2026 budget. Clerk Stowe reviewed the hearing process. Councilmember Craig asked about recusing herself because of her work with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), but Clerk Stowe said the discussion would be around the stormwater fund so there would be no conflict of interest. No other councilmembers had any reason to recuse themselves from the hearing.

The storm water fund is not supporting itself, as it is legally required to do. The options before the council include raising rates or cutting the level of service. There was a great deal of discussion, including the amount of increase needed, that level of service cuts would be aesthetic such as mowing and weed-whacking retention ponds and not functionality, the need to maintain defensible spaces, the impact of Department of Correction crews, environmental impacts, senior discounts, the work done over the years to improve stormwater and reduce cost, and what a hybrid of actions might look like. The draft budget ordinance should be available at the next meeting for further discussion.

After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmembers Martin and Russell, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:33 and the regular agenda returned to.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Snohomish County Animal Services Interlocal. The County made the requested revisions removing the wording 'cats and small animals'. Councilmember Sears moved to authorize Mayor Yarbrough to sign the interlocal and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

DEM Funding and Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan. DEM staff Lucia Schmit and Dara Salmon were available to answer questions. DEM faces loss of funding due to federal changes to grants. There was discussion around operating costs, active litigation with the federal government contesting cuts, the impact of the federal shutdown, loss of staff, the increase in costs to the city if funding is lost, and the need to raise funding or lower services, and what services DEM provides.

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, DEM staff described what the plan is, what it does, and the need to have a standard document that includes all entities. After discussion the consensus of the council was to move forward with sending the draft to DEM for review. A final draft will then come to the council for action.

Resolution #25-08, 2026 Property Taxes and Levy Certification. This resolution raises property taxes the annual 1%. After brief discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to approve Resolution #25-08 as presented and to authorize Clerk Stowe to sign the Levy Certification document and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Town Hall Meeting Date. After brief discussion, the town hall meeting regarding Moring Park will be held January 20th, half an hour prior to the council meeting.

Ordinance #789, Amending Personnel Manual. This amendment addresses discrimination and harassment. After brief discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #789 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears said there was one minute left to submit ballots.

Councilmember Martin spoke with Chief Whalen about Flock Cameras. She felt they were good tools if used properly but agreed with Chief Whalen to wait and see how they work out for other entities.

Councilmember Russell talked about the use of license plates and that flags should not be flying if in bad condition. He also felt people needed to know how to hang flags. Councilmember Martin agreed and added that they should be illuminated.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the October 21st, 2025, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 38749 through 38781 with \$27,140.35 for claims and \$53,484.65 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$80,625.00 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmembers Martin and Russell both moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer