

# City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

## City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 18, 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 Sears. 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 Pro-Tem Russell talked about the larger police presence watching for those running stop signs. He also commented on the number of kids out on bikes, and the need for helmets.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Chief Whalen attended the recent fire commissioners' meeting. He said Deputy Grasseeth would be receiving a public safety award from VFW. The annual Shop with a Cop will be held December 9<sup>th</sup>. Chief Whalen then spoke briefly about a burglary the night before from the city's maintenance shop.

Mayor Pro-Tem Russell said he had been reviewing information on the opioid treatment van and wondered if there had been any calls or complaints relating to that. Chief Whalen said there had been two calls for service in the park and ride but they weren't specifically related to the treatment van. He has not received any complaints.

Councilmember Lie read the police blotters Chief Whalen submits, noticed more parking violations, and asked for details. Chief Whalen said they were related to people coming from out of town and parking illegally at the park.

Director Norris gave more information about the recent burglary that Chief Whalen and the deputies are working on. He also said staff have been working on improvements to the dog kennel.

Councilmember Lie noticed from previous minutes that the topic of the marijuana shops came up again and asked for information. Director Norris worked with Puget Sound Clean Air (PSCA) agency and came up with a process to determine which businesses are licensed and legal. He had Clerk Stowe did a public records request to the Liquor Control Board for the business information, and with that, PSCA and the

Liquor Control Board will be able to determine which businesses are out of compliance with licensing. Any businesses found to be out of compliance can have regulations enforced through the business license process with the city. There was brief discussion.

Director Norris then mentioned standing water at the Fall View development, and that the developers had repaired this.

Clerk Stowe said the audit process is continuing.

Office Manager Beaston reminded people to keep their dogs contained, and Councilmember Lie thanked her for her report.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Sears will miss the next council meeting and asked to be excused. Councilmember Lie moved to excuse Councilmember Sears and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

Councilmember Lie said he was unable to make the last meeting as he was working on ballot collections for the recent election. Councilmember Sears moved to excuse Councilmember Lie's absence and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

Councilmember Lie then talked about the recent Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting and their discussions around emergency management mitigation and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on employment in the county.

Councilmember Craig talked about the public assistance damage report for the Department of Emergency Management and the process to support a student for community leadership. Some residents have come to her with good ideas around community involvement and she offered to take on compiling ways people can help those who need help. She has also registered for a training for newly elected officials.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Kirsten Weinmeister spoke about how Gold Bar will be isolated in a disaster and that it would be beneficial to talk more about what Gold Bar can do in that kind of situation. She felt the draft Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was insufficient in detail.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing to order at 7:24 pm to discuss the 2026 budget. No councilmembers had any reason to recuse themselves from the hearing.

The draft budget includes the rate increase for stormwater but not a rate increase for water. The water fund will need a rate increase in 2027. There was a great deal of discussion around stormwater rates in other cities, level of service needs, the need to have staff comfortable with the projected budget, the work staff do to maintain systems, revenue from water contracts, the impact of Well 4, engineering for Well 4, a suggestion by Councilmember Lie to have an engineer do an audit of the stormwater system, and that big projects are on track.

Phil Peksanli understood why people have to pay for stormwater but felt averaging rates with other cities with more employees was foolish.

Kirsten Weinmeister also talked about the need to have stormwater, comparing Gold Bar to other cities, and stormwater capital improvements.

Lance Hunt, resident and staff member, talked about issues for stormwater and water dispersion, retention ponds, the aging system, and that he felt the rate increase was miniscule for what will be done for stormwater.

Councilmember Lie asked about a typo in the budget ordinance attachment, which will be fixed.

After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:56 and the regular agenda returned to.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

*Ordinance #789, Amending Personnel Manual.* This amendment addresses discrimination and harassment. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #789 for a second reading and adoption as presented, and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

*DEM Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).* Director Norris reviewed minor changes to the county draft and there was brief discussion. Councilmember Lie moved to adopt Resolution #25-09 adopting the CEMP and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried, with Councilmember Craig abstaining.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Ordinance #787 Amending 2025 Budget.* Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #787 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

*Ordinance #788 Adopting the 2026 Budget.* Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #788 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

*Ordinance #790 Amending the Personnel Manual.* This second amendment is a result of the current audit and the need to update language around credit card use. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #790 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried. Councilmember Lie wanted to make sure that staff supported local businesses with purchases, which Director Norris confirmed that they do.

## **FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Sears thanked those who came to the meeting in person and by Zoom and said it was good to have the turnout.

Councilmember Lie felt it would be a good idea to have an agenda item dealing with community training and involvement in emergencies. He also thanked Phil Peksanli for standing up and commenting on city comparisons.

Councilmember Craig wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Russell said the same and asked people to remember those folks who aren't getting the help they anticipated.

Councilmember Martin said the fire department sponsors families and while it is too late to get names in for Thanksgiving, there is still time for Christmas.

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried, with Councilmember Lie abstaining.

#### **VOUCHER APPROVAL**

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 38782 through 38810 with \$65,456.29 for claims and \$1,000.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$66,456.29 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Lie the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

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Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

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Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer