

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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, Lie, Martin, Russell, and Sears. Staff members present in person included 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 Russell, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough said the levee repairs were finished, and then reviewed meetings he attended, including a Menorah lighting, a meeting related to repairs on Highway 2, and one at the Sky Valley Chamber. He will be presenting a State of the City address in Sultan on the 7th. Councilmember Lie asked about attending Community Transit meetings as a city representative. Currently Councilmember Martin does this, but she was happy to pass it on. Councilmember Lie would like to eventually be on the Transit Board.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls, both in the city and in the Gold Bar region. He talked about calls on New Year's Eve relating to fireworks and injuries from fireworks. One injured person thanked deputies for their assistance. Chief Whalen also commended Deputy Grasseth for his fast medical response.

Director Norris talked about installation of crosswalk beacons and the recent Hearing Examiner approval of a short-term rental. A second hearing about another short-term rental will be held January 23rd. Councilmember Lie asked about the status on marijuana businesses, which are working on getting licenses and equipment. Councilmember Lie then asked about business use of street rights-of-way for signage. There was brief discussion around the use of rights-of-ways, enforcement vs. selective enforcement, complying with permits, if the use qualifies as gifting of public funds, and the city's municipal code.

Office Manager Beaston talked about dogs at large.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie summarized meetings he attended, including the short-term rental hearing, and encouraged councilmembers to attend one. He said while there was no control over current applications before the Hearing Examiner, he encouraged people to voice opinions for future applications. He would like to see a live version of the Emergency Management Manual.

Councilmember Martin repeated the information about the State of the City address at the Sultan Chambers at noon. She also thanked staff for keeping the city going during the recent bad weather.

Councilmember Russell commended those who put together a plan for the levee before it was needed. He also talked about the police presence in the city and was amazed that the city got that level of service. He mentioned walking Index-Galena Road, and wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilmember Craig talked about an upcoming meeting at the Sky Valley Center with multiple government agencies and volunteer resources. She also talked about a scholarship from the Association of Washington Cities for local high school students and would like to apply for this. Mayor Yarbrough asked her to send him information.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phil Pakslani has concerns about the location of the proposed skate park, is not in favor of it, and doesn't see the benefit. He also is not in favor of hindering struggling businesses by limiting signage and would like to get rid of the opioid treatment van.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance #791 Amending Title 5. This ordinance relates to changes in licensing thresholds for businesses that do not have a bricks-and-mortar presence in the city but do business within city limits. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #791 for a second reading and adoption as presented, and with a second by both Councilmembers Craig and Russell, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill 2015 Relating to Sales Tax. The council received a presentation on this bill at the last meeting and Councilmember Lie asked to have it put on the agenda for discussion. The discussion included the tight turnaround time for the current submissions, the need for the community to be aware of it, the need for more information, when the next opportunity is scheduled, what other cities are doing, the lack of information on what criteria is required to apply, and that the sheriff's department is researching this. Once there is more concrete information, this will be placed on another agenda.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears reminded those present of the upcoming town hall meeting to be held prior to the next council meeting.

Councilmember Lie also talked about the police presence in the city and State Patrol presence in Startup. He questioned bills for two councilmembers and Clerk Stowe explained these weren't bills, but replacement of lost payroll checks.

Councilmember Martin said she saw deputy cars without headlights on and said she may miss the next meeting.

Councilmember Russell talked about fireworks and the recent injuries.

Councilmember Craig asked if the recent highway closure impacted the opioid treatment van, which it did not. She also asked about their contract, which is for a year and began in June.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the December 16th, 2025, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 38868 through 38912 with \$32,417.46 for claims and \$59,791.47 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$92,208.93 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer