

# City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



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

## City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 20, 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, Russell, and Sears. Staff members present in person included Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

Councilmember Sears moved to excuse Councilmember Martin's absence and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

### **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 gave the State of the City address, met with mayors and a representative from Senator Maria Cantwell's office regarding the impacts on businesses from the recent highway closure, and that recent legislation regarding funding means that most interlocals will not need to increase rates to make up federal shortfalls. He then said that after the recent hearing on short-term rentals, there were several people against short-term rentals in general. He encouraged those people to come to council meetings and share their views.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Chief Whalen highlighted calls, including the recent work done saving puppies from fentanyl exposure. He said Deputies Drake and Winningham will be leaving and reviewed the experience of two lateral deputies that will be taking their positions. He said there were 3,300 calls in the Gold Bar city limits in 2025.

Director Norris said solar batteries on the traffic signs can't keep up and staff are working on solutions. He also said staff are working on maintenance around the shop, building playground equipment for Gateway park, and that there would be another hearing for a second short-term rental. Due to city regulations there can be no more short-term rentals on Birch Court but the second one would be on Alder. Councilmember Russell said he spoke to kids excited about getting a skate park and one that would like a slide at Gateway.

Clerk Stowe said the audit was in its final review stage and an exit conference was scheduled for the next council meeting.

Office Manager Beaston said the post office had located lost utility bills and those were just sent out. She appreciated Sierra at the post office for following up and finding the lost bills. Delinquency notices still hold as the monthly bill is a regular bill and if someone doesn't see the postcard they can always call the city hall. She also said dog tags were available and dogs must be licensed and leashed in city limits when off their own property.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Sears thanked those who came to the town hall meeting, and those who stayed for the council meeting. He also said he was in support of the park.

Councilmember Lie said ballots were going out soon and encouraged people to use ballot drop boxes rather than risking putting them in the post office. He attended a recent Community Transit meeting and is now an alternate on their Board. Snohomish County Tomorrow will soon be discussing affordable housing. He encouraged people to attend the hearing for the proposed short-term rental. He spoke about House Bill 6237 requiring landlords to notify tenants of flood risks and another House Bill relating to electronic bikes.

Councilmember Russell attended the State of the City Address and said Mayor Yarbrough gave an excellent presentation. He also attended the meeting regarding impacts to businesses because of the highway closure and felt there should be financial aid. He then talked about a ride-along with deputies.

Councilmember Craig also attended the State of the City Address, thanked Chief Whalen and the fire department for saving the pups, encouraged the city to keep disabilities at the forefront of park plans, and will be attending the AWC legislative meeting.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Matthew Rhodes talked about short-term rentals and legislation regarding them, and encouraged people to voice their opinions. He felt comments by Hearing Examiner Galt were invalid, referred to a congressional report, disagreed with the dismissal, and said people can't say they want to be a community for families if they price out homes.

Brian Nelson spoke about the Wild Sky Trails Association and handed out a brochure. He covered volunteer work and opportunities.

Margaret Morgan had questions about the recent short-term rental hearing that she felt were not answered. She had a petition as well. Mayor Yarbrough said that the comment period was part of the hearing process and that a petition is not a legal fact to stop the process. He encouraged people again to bring concerns to the council for future short-term rental regulations, but for the current one there needs to be a legal reason or fact to not allow the rental. He apologized that the discussion did not go the way people wanted but that people needed to speak up to the council if they wanted legislation changed.

Warren (no last name given) invited people to attend the Sky Valley Fire commissioner meetings.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The public hearing regarding the fee schedule and zoning was called to order at 7:36. Clerk Stowe reviewed the hearing process and related rules, including making sure those who wished to speak signed up and understood comments had to be related to the applicable hearing agenda. No councilmember had any reason to be recused from the hearing.

Resolution #26-02 relating to stormwater rates and construction fees was discussed. Resident Phil Pekslani asked for clarification and there was brief discussion around the need for the rate increase. After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Resolution #26-02 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #792 relating to zoning was discussed. This is a housekeeping ordinance removing wording relating to the long-defunct planning commission. Resident Matthew Rhodes wanted to go on record regarding issues caused by the recent hearing examiner decision, but Clerk Stowe reminded him that during a public hearing, comments had to be germane to the hearing agenda. After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #792 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Councilmember Sears then moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the hearing was adjourned at 7:50 pm and the regular agenda returned to.

#### **CONTINUED BUSINESS - none**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Resolution #26-01, Non-Motorized Trails.* Discussion included encouraging agencies to proceed along the process, supporting the trail association, and parking issues. After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Resolution #26-01 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

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

Councilmember Sears thanked people again for coming to the meetings and for making their opinions known.

Councilmember Lie talked about council pay and felt it should be considered.

Councilmember Russell encouraged people to go on ride-alongs with deputies and thanked people for showing up.

Councilmember Craig thanked everyone for coming and said she would be happy to look at an ordinance on short-term rentals.

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

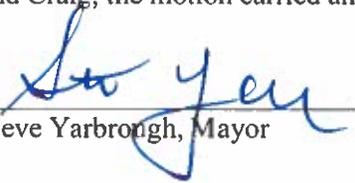
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

#### **VOUCHER APPROVAL**

Councilmember Sears moved to approve checks numbering 38913 through 38944 with \$206,281.13 for claims and \$2,544.79 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$208,825.92 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by both Councilmembers Russell and Craig, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

  
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Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

  
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Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer



# Gold Bar City Council

## Public Hearing

January 20, 2026

Printed Name	Signature	Resident Y/N (optional)
Matthew Rhodes	<del>Matthew Rhodes</del>	Y
Kas Horn Jamiski	<del>Kas Horn Jamiski</del>	
Ar Robinson	Ar Robinson	y
Phil Peterson	Phil Peterson	

# Gold Bar Town Hall Meeting

January 20, 2026

Printed Name	Signature	Resident Y/N (optional)
Matthew Rhodes	<i>Matthew Rhodes</i>	Y
Deloris Cramer	<i>Deloris Cramer</i>	Y
M. L. Cunningham	<i>M. L. Cunningham</i>	Y
Ar Roberson	<i>Ar Roberson</i>	Y
Phil Peterson	<i>Phil Peterson</i>	Y
Leigh Anne Bar	<i>Leigh Anne Bar</i>	Y

Kasandra Callaway  
Creekside Neighborhood  
Gold Bar, WA

January 18, 2026

Mayor and City Council Members  
City of Gold Bar  
Gold Bar, WA

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Kasandra Callaway, and I am a resident of the Creekside neighborhood. I have lived in this neighborhood for the past four years, and my family has lived at the front of town for over a decade. Gold Bar is not just where we live - it is our home. I care deeply about our small-town community, my neighbors, the safety of our children, and the future we are building together.

I am not someone who typically speaks out publicly, and I usually remain behind the scenes when it comes to online neighborhood discussions. However, this proposal directly affects the safety and character of our neighborhood, and I feel compelled to respectfully ask that the City Council take additional time and careful consideration before moving forward.

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed public park and parking lot planned for the public land located off Highway 2 and Amanda Avenue.

This location sits at the entrance of a small residential neighborhood - the Creekside neighborhood directly behind Rico's Pizza - and the proposal raises serious concerns related to safety, traffic, and long-term quality of life for the families who live here.

Placing a public park and parking lot immediately adjacent to a busy highway and at a tight neighborhood entrance presents significant risks. Traffic already backs up during weekends and peak travel seasons, making it difficult for residents to safely enter and exit the neighborhood. Introducing additional turning traffic and public parking at this location would only worsen these conditions and increase the likelihood of accidents, particularly involving children.

The proximity to Highway 2, combined with limited sight lines, makes this an unsafe location for a public gathering space. At present, the area lacks lighting and public restrooms, and even if those amenities were added, they would not address the core

issues of traffic flow, visibility, supervision, and enforcement. Unsupervised parking lots - even when well lit - often attract loitering, theft, dumping, and drug activity. Public restrooms in unmonitored areas can further increase after-hours activity.

Residents in this area have already experienced mailbox theft and suspicious activity near Amanda Avenue and 19th Street, with multiple incidents reported. This proposal would introduce tourist and transient traffic directly into a quiet residential neighborhood, permanently altering its character and creating ongoing safety concerns for those who live here year-round.

If the city's goal is to improve recreational opportunities and better serve both residents and visitors, there are safer and more appropriate alternatives. Existing city-owned land near the dog park already has parking infrastructure and could be adapted for recreational use. Additionally, Gateway Community Park near City Hall remains underutilized and in need of investment. Improving and enhancing these established public spaces - along with better signage - would support community needs without placing unnecessary risk on residential neighborhoods.

I want to be clear that this opposition is not against parks, recreation, or opportunities for children and families. I fully support strengthening our small-town community, improving shared spaces, and creating safe places for kids to play. However, this particular location is not appropriate for a public park and parking lot.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the City Council to reconsider this proposal and focus public park investments in areas already designed for public access, rather than at the entrances of small residential neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

  
Kasandra Callaway

Michael Powell

Residents of the Creekside Neighborhood