

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 17, 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. Councilmember Martin attended via Zoom. 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 that the audit exit conference has been rescheduled to the next meeting. He attended conferences through the Association of Washington Cities and reviewed those. He passed on a comment from a resident who would like speed bumps removed. The third-party vendor, AllPaid, that handles debit and credit payments for utilities, will be raising their fee to 2.95%.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed staffing changes, flock cameras in Sultan, the recent fatality on the highway, and the enforcement of ATV violations. Councilmember Russell asked if the fuel issue had been resolved or if deputies still had to go to Monroe for fuel. Chief Whalen is working on options for fuel locally and there was brief discussion around the need to access fuel in emergency situations.

Director Norris was asked by Councilmember Lie about the marijuana businesses. Two are going through the process with Puget Sound Clean Air agency and the city has no control over licensing yet. If the businesses are not in compliance then the city can revoke business licenses. Councilmember Russell asked about the number of businesses in compliance and Director Norris said more are in compliance than not. Councilmember Lie then asked about surplus equipment which has had no interest. There was brief discussion around posting the equipment again.

Office Manager Beaston said utility bills will go out on the 4th, and there are still issues with loose dogs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears said he may have to miss the next meeting.

Councilmember Lie talked about the recent election and work at ballot boxes, and the age statistics of those who vote by mail vs. ballot boxes. He then reviewed bills he follows that are going through legislation and an agenda for an upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting.

Councilmember Russell also talked about legislation, the risks of walking on railroad tracks, and the ability of deputies to cover large territories.

Councilmember Craig thanked EMS for all they do and the difficulties they faced with the recent fatality call. She talked about traffic and safety projects on SR2, and legislative bills relating to public safety.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers reviewed the response he received from WSDOT regarding the SR2 crosswalk.

Kathy Miller asked if there was a timeline on the crosswalk installation. Mayor Yarbrough said the project has gone out to bid but he has no further information on a schedule.

Rosie (no last name given) spoke via Zoom about short-term rentals and speed bumps.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Short Term Rental (STR) Regulation. Director Norris gave a history of existing regulations which was started in 2022 because there were no regulations and STRs would have been allowed anywhere within city limits. Work was done by an ad hoc group that then gave recommendations to the council and regulations were adopted. In 2024 the council elected to make those regulations more restrictive after review of housing stock. In 2024 there was one application and two people testified in opposition. In 2025 there were two applications, on Birch and Alder in the Fall View development. There are twelve property owners on Birch and a petition in opposition was signed by five or six of those. During the hearing for the application on Alder, two people testified in opposition and neither lived on Alder.

This background then opened up a great deal of discussion with councilmembers. Discussion included stricter regulation, outright bans, impacts on communities, affordable housing, changing zoning, the need to respect people's property rights, potential legal ramifications of outright bans, moratoriums, terminology definitions between 'short-term rentals' and 'bed and breakfasts', owner-occupied businesses vs. no owner onsite, regulations limiting corporations from ownership, requiring owners to live in the city, and regulating the types of activities that can be held in a STR.

After discussion a consensus was reached to research regulations in other cities, moratoriums, and potential legal impacts to the city.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie talked about risks with photographing trains and walking tracks.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

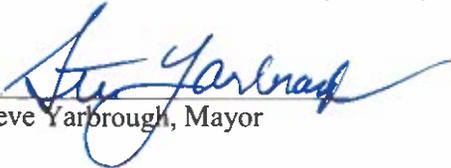
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the February 2nd, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 38989 through 39020 with \$72,056.68 for claims and \$1,000.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$73,056.68 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.



Steve Yarbrough, Mayor



Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

