

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 3, 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 Lie, Martin, and Russell. Councilmember Sears attended via Zoom. Staff members present in person included Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaton attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to adopt the agenda as amended to add the audit exit conference and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

AUDIT EXIT CONFERENCE

Auditors Cammie Edwards and Courtney Amonsens presented the results of their accountability and financial audits for 2023 and 2024. They reviewed audit goals, compliance, the alignment of policies with state regulations, best practice guidelines, and results of the city's audit. All information is available in their exit packet.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough took part in the recent community awards, where Malcolm Cunningham and Kathy Curnutt received awards. He talked about a grant application that is being prepared for community funding for 2027. The application will be for booster pump stations and replacing the wooden water tank. There was brief discussion around the grant process. He then said the Tree Board meets next week, the Red Hat group will have an egg hunt April 4th and needs candy donations, Gold Dust Day planning is starting, and June 5th will be a community day and Touch a Truck at the Gold Bar elementary school.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen and deputies worked on a recent uptick in thefts. Traffic enforcement, including ATVs and e-bikes is ongoing. Fuel pumps in Sultan are back working. There was brief discussion about education and safety guidelines posted on the Sheriff website regarding e-bikes and ATVs.

Director Norris also spoke about the grant application which will improve fire flow. There was brief discussion around sprinkler systems for businesses, that there are no updates on cannabis businesses, and upcoming work on the housing element of the comprehensive plan. The housing element led to discussion on affordable housing and that the city is waiting for review by the Department of Commerce.

Clerk Stowe reported back to the council regarding moratoriums, the requirements for creating them, and the need for legal review. She also recommended soliciting comments from all residents regarding short-term rentals and that planning and city codes should ideally be influenced by a majority. There was brief discussion around ways to solicit public opinion. She also talked about whether the city should stay with annual financial audits or move to every other year.

Office Manager Beaston said two dogs that have been recurring issues have been taken to the animal shelter.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears thanked staff for their work on the recent audit and would like to see audits continue annually. He then moved to excuse Councilmember Craig’s absence and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Councilmember Lie let everyone know that long-time resident Glenrose Williams had passed away. She was a quiet, unassuming, and very interesting person with many contributions to the community and will be sorely missed.

Councilmember Lie talked about state legislation he is following, including a study on e-bikes, and allowing private burials on private property, which he feels is not appropriate in the city. He also said he does not want a moratorium but wants action relating to short-term rentals, talked about the importance of affordable housing, thanked staff for assistance on a recent dog issue, and said Snohomish County Tomorrow will be voting on urban growth zones.

Councilmember Martin asked if there were contributions from timber sales for fire protection, but Director Norris said there was none. She asked if the Red Hats group needed eggs. They do not but could use donations of candy and baskets. She talked about costs related to annual audits and then said she felt it wasn’t fair for a small number of citizens to voice a strong opinion on short term rentals and not allow any other residents to do so.

Councilmember Russell thanked staff for the recent audit and talked about police coverage and visibility and the need for safety and education relating to e-bikes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS -none

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie feels a mistake was made in adopting short-term regulations and that if the regulations were enacted without citizen input they can be undone without.

Councilmember Martin disagreed and said seven comments should not direct council on something that impacts all citizens.

Councilmember Russell said when the ad hoc committee discussed short-term rentals no one in the room was pro short-term rentals and that the regulations were a case of trying to be fair.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

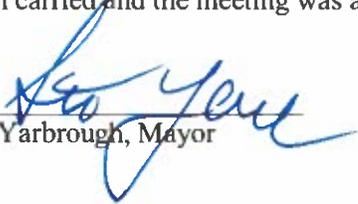
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the February 17th, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39021 through 39056 with \$19,229.45 for claims and \$53,102.87 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$72,332.32 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, 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 8:01 pm.



Steve Yarbrough, Mayor



Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer