

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 7, 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, and Russell. Staff members present in person included Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom. Councilmember Sears attended via Zoom but was unable to interact during the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Russell moved to adopt the agenda as presented and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough has issued a proclamation for Arbor Day on April 24th. There will be a gathering at the Gold Bar elementary school at 12:45 that will include planting trees along 5th Street. Office Manager Beaston, Chief Whalen, and Mayor Yarbrough attended an emergency response training related to trains. Representative Schrier let Mayor Yarbrough know the city's grant application made it through the first round and is rated fifteen out of eighty applicants. The application is for a federal grant for \$900,000 to fund a new water tank and booster pumps. Letters of support helped in the process, and Mayor Yarbrough thanked Director Norris for help getting the application in on short notice.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen talked about recent calls, evictions, and burglaries. There have been thefts of fuel, and he cautioned people to be mindful. He also spoke about a recent fatality that Deputy Graseth responded to.

Director Norris said staff have been working on regular duties as well as starting the installation of playground equipment at Gateway Park. Councilmember Lie asked what the Department of Corrections (DOC) work crew do, and Director Norris gave a brief overview of their typical tasks.

Clerk Stowe reminded the Council that the DOC tasks are detailed on the monthly invoice. She also reminded the Council of the need for them to read and respond to emails, to organize them to make searches easier, and to follow retention laws. There was brief discussion around retention.

Office Manager Beaston continues to have recurring issues with specific dogs on Reiner Road and detailed recent interactions as well as upcoming bills related to animal control.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie talked about deputies having to transport dogs and that he was disgusted by the amount of time and energy the city must spend on people not being responsible. He also talked about planning commissions, how many cities have them, and that he wanted to encourage the council and mayor to look into this. He has been

watching upcoming legislation on licensing e-bikes and allowing home burials on private property, which he felt should not be allowed in city limits. He talked about Snohomish County Tomorrow and their agenda for housing and the need for model ordinances related to food trucks. He then talked about the condition of sidewalks between businesses.

Councilmember Russell talked about police presence, the use of stop signs when on an e-bike and the recent mayor pro-tem workshop he attended through AWC. He said after that seminar, he is happy how the mayor allows the council to interact with staff and thinks Gold Bar has the right balance.

Councilmember Craig attended the AWC legislative meeting and asked for feedback on legislative issues. She hopes to receive feedback for the next meeting on May 1st. She will also attend the upcoming fire commissioners' meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Beavers spoke about planning commissions, that they are a quasi-judicial group, that members needed to be competent, that Sultan replaced their commission with the hearing examiner process, and Gold Bar did the same. He then commended deputies for their fast response for a recent call.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Short-Term Rental Discussion. Short-term rentals were discussed at length. Discussion points included options for banning outright or making regulations more restrictive, where they should be allowed, zoning definitions, affordable housing, bed-and-breakfasts, owner-occupied vs. not occupied, economic development, residential and community needs, the past ad-hoc committee that restricted rather than banned in an effort to be fair, the process for revising zoning regulations, the limited responses from the public, and consensus among councilmembers. After discussion it was agreed that Director Norris will create two versions of an ordinance amending zoning. One will center on an outright ban on short-term rentals and one will make the regulations more restrictive. Public hearings will be held and both versions discussed further.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #26-05, Amending Purchase and Procurement Policy. This resolution was submitted for discussion only as it needs legal review. There was discussion around the role of the council regarding budgets, thresholds for approvals, trust of staff, the role of auditors, and that the resolution will be back on an agenda once it returns from legal review.

Skatepark Agreement. The consultant agreement with Prizm for skatepark engineering and bid consultation was presented for action. The agreement must go to AWC for contract review and if they recommend changes, it will be returned to the council prior to signing. There was discussion around things not related to the agreement, such as how consultants are chosen, the request-for-qualifications process, and who Prizm is. After discussion, Councilmember Lie moved to accept the agreement and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Dunford Engagement Agreement. This agreement is for accounting services to review financial reports on the years when the city does not have an audit. There was a great deal of discussion, including the need for audits, enforcement powers of auditors, the need to trust staff, that the agreement is advice only, and costs. After discussion, Councilmember Russell moved to engage the CPA for off-audit years and with a second by Councilmember Craig the motion carried, with Councilmember Lie voting opposed.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie spoke again about planning commissions, that he wants public involvement, ordinances to be reviewed, and zoning to be looked at.

Councilmember Russell talked about the need to be prepared when out hiking.

Councilmember Craig thanked staff for the work they will do on the short-term rental drafts.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL


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

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39081 through 39128 with \$17,689.64 for claims and \$59,447.47 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$77,137.11 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Steve Yarbrough, Mayor



Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

