

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 5, 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 Sears. Staff members present in person included Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom as did Councilmember Russell.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

There was a meeting for Gold Dust Day and Mayor Yarbrough said the event needs sponsorship, parade entries, and volunteers. He also talked about the recent Arbor Day celebration, the trees that were planted along 5th Street, and the trees that went home with students. He thanked Councilmembers Lie and Russell for attending.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen listed the daily average of calls, including traffic stops that included one with a driver going between sixty and eighty miles an hour in the school zone. That driver has been booked for several violations. There was brief discussion about the technology used to determine speeds and the use of that technology in court cases.

Director Norris talked about regular summertime maintenance tasks, installation of playground equipment, and the installation of vaults for sensors that were approved as part of the budget. There was discussion around those sensors, quality levels, the quality of water from PUD when an intertie is needed, and monitoring. Councilmember Lie asked for an update on the marijuana businesses and there was brief discussion on that. The City can do nothing until the Puget Sound Clean Air agency cites the businesses.

Clerk Stowe reminded the council to go through their emails for responses to a public records request. She said the ordinance for short-term rentals should be on the next agenda. The review of the city's financial report was completed and the process under the new agreement was well worth the cost, which was under \$600. She then asked council members to let her know if they would like to be set up for direct deposit.

Office Manager Beaston received messages during the meeting regarding a water leak and Director Norris left at that time to deal with the leak.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie talked about Snohomish County Tomorrow's recent meeting that included comprehensive plans, action plans, a preliminary budget with no changes for Gold Bar, their housing presentation, costs for building

subsidized housing, impacts to housing, and the cost of underground utilities. He then spoke about tracking how other cities are handling legislation for e-bikes and the potential to require helmets.

Councilmember Martin had nothing to report but wished everyone a happy May Day.

Councilmember Russell also talked about the importance of safety gear on e-bikes.

Councilmember Craig said there is a rebate program through the Department of Transportation that can fund part of the cost of e-bikes. She attended the legislative meeting with AWC and briefed the Council on that, which included legislative sessions, federal actions and federal overreach, housing affordability, homelessness, the need for local discussions on transportation, the cost of indigent defense, e-bike legislation, and that the number one goal of AWC currently is not to work on fixing things from the past but to find ways to move forward.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Danielle Paliga spoke about short-term rentals, being in support of banning them, the importance of community, the reassurance in knowing who neighbors are, the drawbacks of not having long-term residents, affordable housing, the risk of short-term rental owners who are not responsible, and the possibility of tracking complaints to hold owners accountable.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 26-06 Amending the Personnel Manual. Councilmember Sears moved to approve resolution 26-06 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears reminded people that while the weather has warmed up the water is still freezing and to stay out of the rivers.

Councilmember Lie thanked Councilmember Craig for her legislative work and keeping the council updated. He also thanked Ms. Paliga for attending the meeting.

Councilmember Martin also thanked Councilmember Craig for her report, and echoed Councilmember Sears' comments about river safety.

Councilmember Russell also thanked Councilmember Craig and Ms. Paliga. He then reiterated the need for safety equipment on e-bikes.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the April 21st, 2026 minutes as presented and Councilmember Russell seconded the motion. Clerk Stowe said that Councilmember Martin wished to amend the minutes. The motion died for lack of vote. Councilmember Martin then moved to amend the minutes relating to a typographical error and with a second by Councilmember Sears the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39158 through 39186 with \$8,774.79 for claims and \$62,939.62 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$71,714.41 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Yarbrough thanked all those who attended in person and via zoom.

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer