

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 16, 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, Russell, and Sears. 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 amend the agenda to change the order of the public hearing and citizen comments and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough said the city received an AWC Loss Control grant for software improvements. He spoke about Juneteenth and the 250th anniversary of independence, saying that there will be plenty to celebrate as a community, despite the current political climate and economic strain, and that people can try to build a better community.

Councilmember Lie asked about the contract for Bridge services. There is currently no agreement as more costs have been added and discussion needs to happen around responsibility for equipment. Councilmember Lie then asked for an update on the Tree city status. Mayor Yarbrough has contacted the State for an application and is working on the tree budget.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen said there was great turnout for the Touch a Truck event. He also spoke about traffic enforcement focus, reviewed recent calls, and said people may receive a survey from Snohomish County 911. He also talked about illegal camping in the park and said Sultan was also looking into the Bridge Services. He hopes to have an update at the next meeting. Councilmember Craig asked if the town of Index would be part of those services, but they will not. Clerk Stowe asked how the costs for the bridge services would impact the deputy budget and their ability to provide their level of service, including the potential purchase of drones. Councilmember Russell asked the Chief if a person injured in a recent bike incident was wearing protective gear but that was unclear.

Director Norris said staff attended the Touch a Truck event. He also said the installation of sensors at the wells was completed and real-time data should be coming in by next week. Councilmember Lie asked if accessory dwelling units (ADUs) required a permit from the city, which they do, and then said there were real estate listings for houses for sale advertising ADUs and Director Norris said those had not been permitted through the city. Councilmember Russell asked for an update on playground equipment for the Sid Mooring Park and Director Norris said work was progressing and reviewed that.

Office Manager Beaston said utility bills will go out July 7th and reminded everyone about pet safety relating to the heat. She also said National Night Out would be August 4th and the council typically chose to cancel the meeting that night.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears said school was now out and reminded people to be aware of kids on roads. He also reminded people to be careful around the rivers.

Councilmember Lie talked about the history of Sid Mooring Park, the Snohomish County Tomorrow upcoming agenda, and information he sent to Mayor Yarbrough regarding regulating e-bikes and hover boards. He wants this on an agenda. There was brief discussion around requiring safety gear. He then talked about businesses at the Fall View development, Creekside, and the RV park, and feels it is time to repeal the recreational overlay as it is not compatible with development.

Councilmember Martin echoed Councilmember Sears comments about caution around rivers. She also said the next recreational meeting would be on August 7th and spoke briefly about the new parking spots going in at Wallace Falls State Park.

Councilmember Russell attended the Touch a Truck event and said it was a nice turnout. He talked about e-bikes, the importance of helmets, the dangers of riding on sidewalks, riding on the sidewalk along highway 2, and real estate costs in Gold Bar.

Councilmember Craig said she would like to help with getting helmets for kids. She would also like to see Kratom on an agenda and would like to see it possibly banned like other cities have done.

Councilmember Sears moved to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Craig and Russell, and with a second by Councilmember Lie, the motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Colden Brown spoke about the Small Business Association and the services it still can offer to businesses recovering from the impacts of the last flood event. He reviewed deadlines and what services and funds are available.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing to order at 7:46 pm for the purpose of discussing Ordinance #793 restricting short-term rentals (STRs) and Resolution 26-07 amending the fee schedule. She reviewed the public hearing process and no councilmembers disclosed any reason to be recused from the hearing.

Director Norris reviewed the change to the percentage cap from 6% to .5% which will allow one new short-term rental. Councilmember Russell felt this was the best thing that could be done and talked about past decisions. Councilmember Sears moved to pass Ordinance #793 and Councilmember Russell seconded the motion. Clerk Stowe reminded them that they had not given the public a chance to comment and Councilmember Sears withdrew his motion. Mayor Yarbrough then called for comments from those in council chambers and those attending via Zoom. There were no comments. Councilmember Sears then moved to accept Ordinance #793 for a second reading and adoption and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

After brief discussion around the fee schedule, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Resolution 26-07 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

With no further discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried, the hearing was adjourned, and the regular agenda returned to at 7:46 pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Resolution 26-05, Purchase and Procurement Policy. There was a great deal of discussion around this resolution, and digressions into topics related to the resolution. Councilmember Lie had several issues with the policy and reviewed those page by page. Discussion included what information is brought to the council, the budget process,

thresholds, reviews of the resolution completed by outside agencies and the city attorney, whether councilmembers trusted the city attorney or staff, the risk of micromanaging purchasing, that thresholds relate only to those things not already approved in the budget, and that some councilmembers are happy with the policy as they are familiar with these from other agencies. Councilmember Sears recommended tabling the resolution until they can be provided with amendments that Councilmember Lie would like to see. Councilmember Lie then talked about past issues with arsenic, that he would like to see a water-treatment plan in the budget, raises for council pay, and that he would put together a draft with the thresholds he wants.

NEW BUSINESS - none

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears said there is more traffic on the roads and cautioned people.

Councilmember Lie said he did some snooping in old newspapers over complaints about highway 2 and how nothing has changed.

Councilmember Martin congratulated Councilmember Craig on obtaining her master's degree in disaster management. She thought the fire department might be able to assist with helmets for kids and agreed with Councilmember Craig regarding banning kratom.

Councilmember Russell talked about the number of people who don't know how to navigate roundabouts or passing zones.

Councilmember Craig would like to help with helmets and is willing to donate part of her salary to this.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

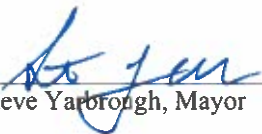
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the June 2nd, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39244 through 39267 with \$68,661.10 for claims and \$1,000.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$69,661.10 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 8:24 pm.


Steve Yarbrough, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

July 7, 2026

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