

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 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. Councilmember Sears attended via Zoom. Staff members present in person included Public Works Director Norris and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to amend the agenda to remove Ordinance #793 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

EVERGREEN HEALTH PRESENTATION

Members of the Evergreen Health Hospital gave a presentation on the state of the hospital. Discussion included a video with a brief history of the hospital, local control, governance, funding, the size of the district, demand for care, regional inpatient care, hospital capacity, a master facility plan, and that funding will be on the upcoming ballot.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough attended a Wildlife Protection workshop and the policy group looked at wildfire plans. He met with Representative Schrier and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Cannery Levee to talk about damage and repairs after the last flood event. Councilmember Lie asked for updates on the bridge services contract but there is no change. He then asked for an update on the SR2 crosswalk, but Mayor Yarbrough has received no new updates about that, either.

STAFF REPORT

Director Norris said the Department of Commerce should have comments back regarding the Comprehensive Plan by the end of July.

Clerk Stowe said the purchase and procurement policy was pushed back to the next meeting in order to review proposed changes in thresholds.

Office Manager Beaston said utility bills went out. Councilmember Lie asked about the recent killing of chickens by two dogs and this led to discussion around the dogs. He then asked about reports she used to present which led to discussion around the time it takes to do them, the verbal reports she gives, people using social media and gossip rather than attending meetings, and how people assume work isn't being done if they don't see it.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie had a handout of a presentation from a recent Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting and encouraged people to look at the budget cuts being proposed by Snohomish County Council.

Councilmember Russell said the Bigfoot visitor remains unmolested, that he attended the same meeting with Representative Schrier, and that he talked to her about the lack of support from Washington D.C..

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Yamasaki thanked the council, staff, and volunteers for all the hard work making the city better. She sees a lot that can still be done and encouraged citizens to support the city, school, and local businesses. She also talked about the need for activities to involve young people.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

E-Bike Regulation. Councilmembers reviewed sample ordinances. Discussion included legislating all electric micro-mobility vehicles, age limits for requiring helmets, the need for the council to decide on guidance for regulations, law enforcement focus on ‘frequent flyers’, banning use of sidewalks, setting speed limits, and the need to move forward with an ordinance.

Banning Kratom. Councilmembers were given information on kratom. Chief Whalen visited gas stations in the city that sell kratom. Owners said there have been no issues with the use of it. Discussion included being proactive vs. reactive, moratoriums and ordinances, potential upcoming state legislation, and signs and symptoms of use. Councilmember Sears questioned the need to ban it when other substances like alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana are not banned. The consensus was that more discussion and more information is needed.

National Night Out. Councilmember Lie moved to cancel the August 4th council meeting so that councilmembers could attend National Night Out and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #794 Amending Title 5. There was brief discussion around this ordinance that adds wording regarding revocation of business licenses, and adding the ability to fine for non-payment of fees. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #794 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #795 Setting Council Salaries. Mayor Yarbrough drafted this ordinance in response to Councilmember Lie’s request. Clerk Stowe added the mayor’s salary to the ordinance because of the amount of time Mayor Yarbrough spends working for the city. There was discussion around amounts of the increases, when increases take effect, and the option to create a salary commission. Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #795 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie again encouraged people to look at what the Snohomish County Council is proposing to cut in their budget.

Councilmember Russell talked about a previous litter cleanup at Reiter and told people to make sure they know where debris is going.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the June 16th, 2026 minutes as presented and Councilmember Martin seconded the motion. Clerk Stowe reminded them that the minutes needed amending like the agenda did, to remove wording regarding Ordinance #793. Mayor Yarbrough called for a vote and the motion failed for lack of votes. Councilmember Sears then moved to approve the June 16th, 2026 minutes as amended and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39268 through 39298 with EFTs, with \$23,486.38 for claims and \$58,094.50 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$81,580.88 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 8:31 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer