

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 21, 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 Public Works Director Norris, Chief Whalen, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough said the opioid van contract has been renewed. He spoke briefly about the upcoming Gold Dust celebration and that volunteers were still needed. The Department of Corrections no longer has the program for refurbishing bicycles so he asked for suggestions for National Night Out. Councilmember Lie asked about the wildfire protection plan and meeting that Mayor Yarbrough attended last month. Mayor Yarbrough clarified that it was a kick-off meeting for wildfire protection and not wildlife protection. Councilmember Lie asked for an update on the crosswalk. Director Norris said that the contractor building the Sultan roundabout will be starting work in 2027 and since it is the same contractor that will be doing the sidewalk he assumes the same timeline applies. Councilmember Lie then asked about Bridge Services but there were no updates.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls, traffic enforcement, and fireworks calls. He also said the new Forest Ranger started work on the first of the month.

Director Norris hopes to have a new bike rack in place at the front of city hall by the next meeting. Councilmember Craig asked about park equipment and work will start on that soon. It is dependent on staff availability.

Clerk Stowe is doing a review of all municipal codes and hopes to have an ordinance before the council soon.

Office Manager Beaston responded to Councilmember Lie's question regarding social media complaints about barking dogs. She reviewed her process and what penalties are involved. Mayor Yarbrough said as soon as a complaint comes to city hall it is acted on. Office Manager Beaston voiced her frustration about how many people complain about animal control and law enforcement issues on social media, but don't report it so it can be acted on.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie said people should not mail in ballots but use drop boxes instead. He spoke briefly about the upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow agenda and that their rates are going up next year. He feels their meetings are worth the increased rates.

Councilmember Martin talked about the many fires that local units are being sent to fight and asked people to not burn anything.

Councilmember Russell thanked Clerk Stowe for her assistance with a dog issue then spoke briefly about cleaning up broken glass at the school, the speed of electric motorcycles, and how kids he's spoken to have been polite.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Buscher thanked the council and staff for the work they do.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

E-Bike Regulation. Mayor Yarbrough is currently drafting an ordinance and there was discussion that included samples from other cities, micro-mobility units in general, age guidelines for helmet requirements, the need for definitions, the potential addition of golf carts to ATV code and those ramifications, joint-use trails, speeds, state laws, and stopping at stop signs. There was also discussion around penalties and if those could include community service and safety trainings.

Banning Kratom. Councilmember Craig sent out information prior to the meeting. After brief discussion, the consensus by the council was to draft an ordinance banning the sale of kratom in city limits.

Ordinance #794 Amending Title 5. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #794 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #795 Setting Council Salaries. Councilmember Lie was unhappy with the way the ordinance was written and moved to table action for a future meeting and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried. Councilmember Sears asked for research on what would be involved in creating a salary commission, which staff will research.

Resolution #26-05, Purchase and Procurement. Clerk Stowe sent the resolution back to city attorneys for review of suggested changes by Councilmember Lie, which were approved. Councilmember Sears moved to change the amount in the table in section 13 to \$350,000.01 and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried. Councilmember Lie then moved to adopt Resolution #26-05 as amended to include approved threshold changes and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #26-08, Financial Plan. This resolution amends the financial plan to allow general fund beginning balances to be used in support of the street fund, with restrictions. After brief discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to adopt Resolution #26-08 as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Parks Discussion. The Council previously approved the creation of a skate park as part of the 2026 budget. Director Norris suggested changing that to a pump track and offering a booth at the Gold Dust celebration to get resident input. There was discussion about what pump tracks look like, ages of people that use them, more activity by bicyclists than skateboarders, and more options for use. After discussion a consensus was reached to gather information through the survey.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie hopes that children involved with the Gold Dust celebration wear helmets.

Councilmember Martin reiterated her comments about limiting fires.

Councilmember Russell inspected Bigfoot and cleared brush.

Councilmember Craig will be attending the upcoming AWC Legislative Priorities meeting.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to amend the July 7th, 2026 minutes to correct the word ‘wildlife’ and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39299 through 39327 with EFTs, with \$65,896.68 for claims and \$2,741.69 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$68,638.37 and with a second by both Councilmembers Sears and 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 7:51 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer