

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 18, 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 Martin moved to approve the agenda as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough attended an active shooter webinar. He said National Night Out had good turnout and thanked Chief Whalen for all his work. Mayor Yarbrough also worked on drafting three ordinances on the agenda. Councilmember Lie asked for a status update on Bridge Services. Chief Whalen has sent the agency information they need. Councilmember Lie then asked about training for train emergencies and community transit. Amtrak has no training scenarios planned but the Department of Emergency Management has a workshop that Mayor Yarbrough will attend. He also let the council know that the city applied for a matching grant through Snohomish County for potentially paving Powell Lane. If the application is accepted, more information will come to the council for approval.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls including code enforcement work with Office Manager Beaston. He thanked people for attending and helping with National Night Out. Councilmember Lie asked if stolen bikes were reported and Chief Whalen said they were, through the online portal.

Director Norris has staff working on storm drains. He said Community Transit contacted him regarding engaging with the city. There is a new transit manager, and they will be scheduling a meeting with the mayor.

Clerk Stowe listed tentative public hearing dates of September 15th, October 20th, and November 17th for the 2027 budget. She also said she is looking at paying off the USDA loan and will bring more information to the Council.

Office Manager Beaston previously submitted a brief report. Councilmember Lie said he was disappointed in the way neighbors treated dogs, which led to brief discussion around animal control.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears apologized for being late due to traffic.

Councilmember Lie spoke briefly about the upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow agenda and that people need to pay attention to what they are voting for.

Councilmember Martin talked about fire danger and that department resources are stretched thin.

Councilmember Russell also talked about fire risks. He said people complain about crime, yet when elections come around no one runs against the prosecuting attorney. He then talked about a mountain lion or bobcat in the area and that people should make sure their animals are in at night.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Park Survey Results. Director Norris reviewed results from surveys taken at National Night Out and the Gold Dust Day celebration. Out of 150 responses, 52% favored the pump track. There was discussion around the survey, council preferences, opportunities for children in the city, and the next steps. After discussion the consensus of the council was for Director Norris to ask Prizm for preliminary information on installing the pump track. He will then bring that information back to the council for approval. It was noted that electric mobility devices will not be allowed on the pump track.

NEW BUSINESS

Street and Road Maintenance Agreement. After brief discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to renew the interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for street and road maintenance and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #795, Salary Commission. This ordinance is the revised elected officials' salary ordinance. There was discussion around the phrase duplicating the word 'mayor' and the need for a limit to terms served. There was also discussion around setting a specific number of people for the commission, with Councilmember Lie in favor of setting a number and Councilmember Sears preferring not to have a specific number due to the number of volunteers the city typically can get. After discussion, Councilmember Lie moved to accept Ordinance #795 for an introduction and first reading with amendments and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

Ordinance #797, Electronic Mobility Devices. Discussion around this ordinance included the use of sidewalks, the cut-off age for requiring helmets, other jurisdictions including wording that parents are ultimately responsible, and a typographical error. After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #797 for an introduction and first reading, with the age for required helmets being changed to under eighteen and the typographical error corrected, and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #798, Prohibiting Kratom. Discussion around this ordinance included that the ordinance captured what the council wanted done, not many jurisdictions have banned kratom, the potential benefits of kratom vs. the risks, the need of regulation because of those risks, the need for research, and adding a sunset clause of six months. After discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #798 for an introduction and first reading as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Fire Inspections Interlocal. This is a renewal of an existing interlocal for fire inspections of businesses. After brief discussion, Councilmember Russell moved to authorize Mayor Yarbrough to enter into the interlocal and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie talked about the outreach meeting with Community Transit and the need to look at extending services and offering micro-transit.

Councilmember Martin congratulated Councilmember Craig on her recent CERT qualifications and reiterated the need to limit fires. Mayor Yarbrough said Councilmember Craig is also applying to be a representative for small cities with State Emergency Management.

Councilmember Russell said speeds need to be limited on sidewalks and reminded people again to bring in small animals at night.

Councilmember Craig reviewed the recent AWC Legislative Priorities meeting, thanked the Chief, the fire department, and city staff for their work on National Night Out, and talked about an upcoming class on emergency management.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the July 21st, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39328 through 39376 with EFTs, with \$82,177.53 for claims and \$56,005.08 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$138,182.61 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried. It should be noted that these checks included two billing cycles.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer