City of Gold Bar
EST. 1910

107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 1, 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 by Zoom. Staff members present in person included Public Works Director Norris, Chief Whalen, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough said Bridge services are working on county credentials. He also let the council know there will be a significant increase in jail rates for the coming year. The Department of Commerce initial housing review has been completed. The city is working on nuisance abatement. Councilmember Lie asked if Sultan was going to offer Bridge services, which they are not.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls, with over seven hundred in the region. He said the abandoned 5th wheel on the highway will be removed by Washington State Patrol. He addressed a recent fatality on the highway in Gold Bar. Councilmember Lie asked if there was a way to charge owners who abandon recreational vehicles and there was discussion around the difficulty of finding the legal owner, illegal dumping, cases left pending, multiple owners, fees that RV owners are charged for disposal that goes to the county, and that several abandoned RVs recently have come from a specific property and the owner has been cited. He also said this issue was a low priority for prosecutors.

Mayor Yarbrough said the city is looking at alternatives for prosecution services and that current cases are not getting filed due to staffing. Other options would allow the city to have cases actually filed rather than just going away.

Director Norris said regular maintenance is ongoing, including fencing for Stickney Mountain Place. Councilmember Lie asked for an update on the pump track, and the city is waiting on the engineers.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears has been looking at the proposed county budget as it impacts the city.

Councilmember Lie spoke briefly about the upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow presentations and that the council should get summaries of meetings. He asked who would be attending the earthquake presentation and Mayor

Yarbrough reminded him that he said at the last meeting he would be attending. Councilmember Lie then said to not mail in votes.

Councilmember Martin thanked Director Norris and staff for the new railings and said staff did an excellent job. She also reminded people not to burn.

Councilmember Russell talked about the closures of Reiter Road and Index-Galena Road.

Councilmember Craig thanked Chief Whalen for responding to the hard calls. She asked why Sultan did not want Bridge Services but there was no known reason. She will be attending an upcoming legislative priorities meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance #795, Salary Commission. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #795 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #797, Electronic Mobility Devices. Wording was added regarding parental responsibility. There was brief discussion around age limits. Councilmember Russell moved to accept Ordinance #797 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

Ordinance #798, Prohibiting Kratom. Councilmember Russell moved to accept Ordinance #798 for a second reading and adoption as presented and with a second by Councilmember Martin, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

USDA Loan Payoff. Over the last three years the city has worked to pay this loan off early and it is now possible to pay it off completely. There was discussion around the amount of the final payment, interest saved, funds that would be closed after payoff, and revenue that would be returned to the water capital fund. After discussion Councilmember Russell moved to authorize the city to pay off the USDA loan and with a second by Councilmember Sears the motion carried.

Acquisition Exploration, Ley Road, Passive Riverfront Recreation. There is the possibility the city may be able to purchase property on Ley Road to be used for passive riverfront recreation as detailed in the comprehensive plan. The property would be a piece of a natural pedestrian path. It may be possible to obtain funding through a Snohomish County Conservation grant with a deadline of September for submittal. Councilmember Lie asked if this should not be discussed in executive session, but because there is no actual purchase or dollar amount being discussed, an executive session is not needed yet. There was discussion around the grant, the need for easements to complete a full path, and if the city could purchase the property without the grant, which is not known. After discussion, Councilmember Sears authorized the mayor to apply for the grant and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie suggested that Councilmember Craig bring up the city's adoption of the kratom ban at the legislative meeting she will attend.

Councilmember Martin reiterated the need to limit fires.

Councilmember Russell talked about the possibility of a safety event around bikes and helmets with the fire department. He also thanked first responders.

Councilmember Craig liked that the city was applying for the grant and would also like to see things like community gardens.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the August 18th, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39377 through 39396 with EFTs, with $7,237.39 for claims and $54,067.66 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of $61,305.05 and with a second by Councilmember 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 7:39 pm.

_____ _____

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer