

Agenda

CITY OF GOLD BAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

7:00 PM
CITY HALL

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

AGENDA APPROVAL

MAYOR'S REPORT, STAFF REPORTS, COUNCIL COMMENTS

CITIZEN COMMENTS (SIGN-IN REQUIRED, LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)

CONTINUED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. ORDINANCE #799 CLOSING FUNDS – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

2. ORDINANCE #800 BANNING FAMILY BURIALS – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

3. WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LETTER OF SUPPORT – DISCUSSION AND ACTION

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

MINUTES APPROVAL

September 15, 2026

VOUCHER APPROVAL

CHECKS

39418 – 39450 and EFTs

CLAIMS

\$15,523.11

PAYROLL & TAXES

\$56,824.91

TOTAL

\$72,348.02

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE #799**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON, CLOSING FUNDS 404, 405,
AND 407 RELATED TO USDA LOAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Bar obtained a loan from the US Department of Agriculture in 1994 for the construction of a new well, with an anticipated fulfillment date of 2052; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement of the loan, the city created three funds to hold revenue for the life of the loan; and

WHEREAS, the City paid the loan in full earlier than anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the revenue held in reserve for the life of the loan must be released and returned to the Water Capital Fund (403); and

WHEREAS, in order to release those revenues, the related reserve funds must be closed which requires council action; and

WHEREAS, the reserve funds have served their purpose and have no reason to continue;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON,
DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section I	Fund 404, Fmha Reserve Fund
Section II	Fund 405, Water Emergency Fund
Section III	Fund 407, Water Debt Fund
Section IV	Severability
Section V	Effective Date

Section I, Fund 404, Fmha Reserve Fund

Fund 404, related to the USDA loan, shall be closed and its revenue in the amount of \$74,359.64 shall be transferred to fund 403, Water Capital.

Section II, Fund 405, Water Emergency Fund

Fund 405, related to the USDA loan, shall be closed and its revenue in the amount of \$85,000 shall be transferred to fund 403, Water Capital.

Section III, Fund 407, Water Debt Fund

Fund 407, related to the USDA loan, shall be closed and its revenue in the amount of \$4,921.08 shall be transferred to fund 403, Water Capital.

Section VI, Severability

This ordinance is severable and if any portion of it shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section VII, Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect from, and after, its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Gold Bar this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Attest: _____, Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

Attest: _____, Steven Yarbrough, Mayor

First Reading: _____

Posted: _____

Second Reading: _____

Passed: _____

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE #800**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON, AMENDING GOLD BAR MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 8, HEALTH AND SAFETY, PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION DUE TO CRITICAL AREAS, WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND ON-SITE SEPTIC SYSTEM HEALTH CONCERNS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature enacted Chapter 68.74 RCW, which authorizes families to establish private family burial grounds on corporate or privately owned property under specific state minimum guidelines; and

WHEREAS, RCW 68.74.030 explicitly grants local cities and counties the full authority to enact local ordinances that further regulate, restrict, or entirely prohibit the establishment of family burial grounds within their local jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the local geology, high groundwater tables, and proximity to critical water bodies within Gold Bar create severe environmental risks, including potential biological and chemical contamination of critical aquifers and local drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the properties within this jurisdiction rely entirely on individual On-Site Sewage Systems (OSS), commonly known as septic systems, which require strict, unencumbered space for both primary and 100-percent reserve drainfield capacity to protect public health from system failures; and

WHEREAS, RCW 68.74.080 mandates that a family burial ground constitutes a permanent dedication of land that restricts grading, construction, and heavy machinery access in perpetuity, creating an irreconcilable conflict with the maintenance, inspection, repair, and replacement requirements of on-site septic systems; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Bar City Council finds that prohibiting the establishment of new family burial grounds is necessary to protect public health, prevent groundwater contamination, and preserve the integrity of critical areas and critical aquifer recharge zones; and

WHEREAS, such establishment requires the creation of a new chapter in the Gold Bar Municipal Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section I	Creation of New Chapter
Section II	Title 8.28.010, Adoption of Prohibition
Section III	Title 8.28.020, Enforcement and Penalties

Section III Severability
Section IV Effective Date

Section I, Creation of New Chapter

Chapter 8.28, Family Burial Grounds, is hereby added to Title 8, Health and Safety, of the City of Gold Bar Municipal Code, to read as follows.

Section II, Title 8.28.010, Adoption of Prohibition

Family Burial Grounds Prohibited.

A. Prohibition. The establishment, placement, or operation of any new family burial ground, as defined or authorized under Chapter 68.74 RCW, is strictly prohibited on all real property within the incorporated limits of Gold Bar.

B. Findings and Declaration of Conflict. The City formally declares that private human burial practices create localized public health and land-use conflicts that cannot be adequately mitigated on parcels utilizing On-Site Sewage Systems (OSS) or containing critical areas. Specifically:

1. *Septic Integrity*: The permanent dedication of land required for a burial plot poses an immediate threat to the long-term functionality of septic systems by restricting the necessary physical clearance, heavy equipment access, and expansion space required for primary and reserve drainfields under local environmental health codes.
2. *Critical Areas Impact*: Due to the high water table, frequent flood events, and dense network of wetlands, streams, and rivers within the jurisdiction, the introduction of private burial plots within close proximity to residential homes presents an unacceptable risk of biological contamination to public and private drinking water systems.

Section III, Title 8.28.020, Enforcement and Penalties

Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance and a land-use violation, subject to code enforcement, civil penalties, or injunctive relief as provided under Chapter 8.16.080 of the Gold Bar Municipal Code.

Section IV, Severability

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section V, Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Gold Bar this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Attest: _____, Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

Attest: _____, Steven Yarbrough, Mayor

First Reading: _____

Posted: _____

Second Reading: _____

Passed: _____

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 15, 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 met with Chief Whalen and Index Mayor Johnson regarding potentially removing areas east and south of Sultan from the Gold Bar region. He is working on the application process for becoming a Tree City and on the Snohomish County Conservation grant application. Office Manager Beaston attended a recent Department of Emergency Management meeting in his place.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen said Deputy Brunsdon represented Gold Bar at the 9/11 memorial. Chief Whalen talked about a recent call in Gold Bar that utilized a drone, which led to brief discussion around drone accessibility, where they are useful, and how they help with officer safety. He said Bridge Services have received equipment and that while Sultan is not participating at this time, they may in the future. Deputy staffing should be back to normal soon.

Director Norris said staff have been grinding and repairing sidewalks and working on the Stickney Mountain Place fence and stormwater catch basins. He also said the city has had to replace the hand-helds used for reading meters. Councilmember Lie asked about equipment that allows staff to drive by meters for reads but those are very cost-prohibitive.

Clerk Stowe had a flyer and business card that was dropped off for councilmembers relating to a community group in Sultan.

Office Manager Beaston attended a recent DEM meeting and said they covered emergency gathering spots such as parks, supplies for 'doomsday boxes', communication options, local resources, and bridges. She has covered the information in the past, but it was applicable for new DEM staff.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Lie spoke briefly about the upcoming Snohomish County Tomorrow presentations. He would like to see regulation banning family burials on residential lots on the next agenda. He talked about the Startup Event Center as a potential emergency shelter and the need for a fire-resistant building that meets seismic code. He

encouraged Mayor Yarbrough to invite the Sultan School District for a presentation on the next agenda before ballots go out so that voters know what is in their bond.

Councilmember Martin talked about fire district teams supporting Oregon.

Councilmember Russell said there was another cougar sighting and encouraged people to report these to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Danielle (no last name given) spoke about her opposition to the potential land acquisition for a pedestrian path near her home. She talked about environmental impacts, where recreation can be allowed, native growth protection areas, trespassing, homelessness, maintenance, privacy, safety, and garbage.

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing to order at 7:28 pm. She reviewed the hearing process and no councilmembers had any reason to recuse themselves from the hearing discussing the 2027 budget. She then spoke briefly about preliminary budget work, including cost of living increases, revenue less than expected, and increased costs for law enforcement. Director Norris said the city is applying for a federal grant to improve fire protection such as replacing the old wood reservoir and booster pumps, and a County grant to pave Powell Lane. Councilmember Lie asked if the city had any banked capacity for the upcoming property tax levy, which it does not. Councilmember Martin asked if there were funds for the county grant since the county had budget issues, but those funds are available. Councilmember Russell asked if the budget would take into consideration rising fuel costs, which it will.

With no further discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:40 pm and the regular agenda resumed.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #796, Code Review. This ordinance involves a lot of material and Clerk Stowe asked the council to take their time reviewing it. She also asked them to consider reading the municipal code in full to see if there are other updates needed that she might have missed. Because this ordinance includes portions of zoning code, there will be a public hearing when it is next on the agenda. Councilmember Lie asked if lawyers had reviewed updates to code in the past when Linda Loen was mayor but that was unclear. He asked about archived ordinances and what ordinances adopted each code title. Clerk Stowe told him that ordinances up to #700 were archived with the State and those from #700 on were at the city hall. She and Director Norris also showed him where ordinances and associated dates are listed within each title on the municipal code. With no further discussion, Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #796 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears complimented staff on the city hall railings.

Councilmember Lie reiterated that he would like a presentation from the school district.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the September 1st, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39397 through 39417 with EFTs, with \$389,961.97 for claims and \$1,000.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$390,961.97 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried. This includes the final payment for the city's USDA loan.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Russell moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

CHECK REGISTER

City Of Gold Bar

Time: 11:41:04 Date: 09/30/2026

09/16/2026 To: 10/06/2026

Page: 1

Trans	Date	Type	Acct #	Chk #	Claimant	Amount	Memo
1796	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Denise J Beaston	3,648.10	
1797	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Krystal Craig	5.96	
1798	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Lance Hunt	3,937.54	
1799	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Anthony Johnson	3,346.36	
1800	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Chuck Lie	90.96	
1801	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Florence D Martin	90.96	
1802	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Richard D Norris	5,857.94	
1803	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Lee Russell	90.96	
1804	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Jordan Sears	90.96	
1807	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	EFT	Steven Yarbrough	909.63	
1795	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39418	Richard L Baker	4,495.32	
1805	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39419	Arthur Stowe	1,867.94	
1806	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39420	Lisa M Stowe	5,329.19	
1810	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39421	Vimly Benefit Solutions AWC Employee Ben.trust	8,905.85	Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - WDS PLAN D; Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - Basic Life; Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - HealthFirst; Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - VSP
1811	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	E39422	Coastal Community Bank	10,569.19	941 Deposit for Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 - 09/29/2026
1812	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39423	Dept Of Retirement Systems	4,325.20	Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - PERS 2
1813	09/29/2026	Payroll	7	39424	MissionSquare	75.00	Pay Cycle(s) 09/29/2026 To 09/29/2026 - ICMA
1814	09/30/2026	Payroll	7	39425	Dept Of Labor And Industries	2,949.77	3RD Quarter L&I: 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026
1815	09/30/2026	Payroll	7	39426	Employment Security Dept	238.08	3rd Quarter Unemployment: 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026
1821	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39427	Amazon Capital Services	296.26	
1822	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39428	DeAnn & David Brooks	175.85	Water Reimbursement
1823	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39429	Cascade Columbia Distribution	581.17	Remainder Of Invoice Minus Credit On Account
1824	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39430	Dept Of Corrections	342.90	
1825	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39431	EJ Municipal Land Use Planning, LLC	1,447.50	
1826	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39432	ICONIX Waterworks	1,662.11	
1827	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39433	Kelley Create Co.	201.32	
1828	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39434	Lakeside Industries	746.66	
1829	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39435	Michael J. Moore	274.25	Water Reimbursement
1830	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39436	Monroe Parts House, Inc. NAPA	52.48	
1831	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39437	Pacifica Law Group	1,776.00	
1832	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39438	Platt	200.10	
1833	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39439	Puget Sound Energy	70.12	
1834	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39440	Sno County District Court	1,305.98	
1835	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39441	Sno County PUD	2,135.41	
1836	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39442	Sno County Sheriff's Office	649.40	
1837	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39443	Sound Publishing	41.28	
1838	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39444	US Postal Service	390.00	Annual Fee
1839	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39445	Verizon Wireless	281.66	
1840	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39446	WA State Treasurer	925.71	
1841	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39447	West Coast Code Consultants, Inc.	1,810.43	
1842	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39448	Ziply Fiber	7.57	

CHECK REGISTER

City Of Gold Bar

Time: 11:41:04 Date: 09/30/2026

09/16/2026 To: 10/06/2026

Page: 2

Trans	Date	Type	Acct #	Chk #	Claimant	Amount	Memo
1843	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39449	Ziply Fiber	123.24	
1844	10/06/2026	Claims	7	39450	Ziply Fiber	25.71	
		001 General Government				30,386.40	
		101 City Street				4,495.01	
		401 Water Operating				26,133.40	
		415 Stormwater Fund				10,407.50	
		633 Agency Fund				925.71	
							Claims: 15,523.11
						72,348.02	Payroll: 56,824.91

Approve by the Finance Committee DATED this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Finance Group

Finance Group

Finance Group

Finance Group

WE, the members of the City Council of the City of Gold Bar Washington, DO HEREBY certify that the merchandise or services listed above have been received and that the above listed vouchers and the related checks have been reviewed and approved for payment by the City of Gold Bar City Council.

ATTEST:

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Mayor

Clerk./Treasurer

DATED this _____ day of _____ 2026.