City of Gold Bar
EST. 1910

107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6th, 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, with Councilmember Sears joining via Zoom. Staff members present in person included Public Works Director Norris and Chief Whalen. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough gave an update on the County Conservation Advisory Board and stated that the city was one of nine entities required to make a presentation as part of the grant process. The board unanimously recommended fully funding the city's grant request to help purchase the parcel at Ley Road and the Wallace River, with final approval being required by the County Council, which is expected in mid-November. Mayor Yarbrough added that since the futures program had already been funded, the grants should not be affected by the budget restraints the county is experiencing. The mayor also added that the county budget did not include any funding for county - city partnerships which is what the city applied for to pave Powell Lane. However, County Councilmember Sam Low is looking at ways to add the money back in. Nothing will be known until the county passes their budget in mid-November.

Mayor Yarbrough stated the city, along with the Gold Bar Red Hatters and Gold Bar PD, we will be hosting Trunk or Treat, on Saturday, October 31st from 5pm to 7pm at Gateway Park.

Mayor Yarbrough stated that, to date, there has been one letter of interest in joining the Salary Commission. There is also an opening on the Tree Board. The city finally received notification from the Arbor Foundation that the tree city application was approved, and the city of Gold Bar is a 2026 tree city. Brief discussion ensued.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen stated that for the month of September the department had responded to 883 calls for service, made twenty-three traffic stops in the city limits and sixty-one in the region. Chief Whalen stated that there had also been an uptick in trespass complaints, particularly in the 6th Street area of Croft Avenue between Railroad Park, Mann Station, and Gateway Park, as well with the Post Office. He continued by stating that between the extra patrols and foot patrols they implemented, they were hoping to reduce that for the month of October.

Director Norris stated that the fence at Mount Stickney is about 85% complete, with just a small amount left to be done and that the fence looks much better than the split rail.

Director Norris stated that he received a draft letter from the Department of Commerce, but he has not received a final letter yet. He continued by stating that he had a phone conference with them to see what kind of assistance the city will get from them, and what the city will have to do. Director Norris briefly talked about future meetings regarding the Department of Commerce.

Director Norris briefly talked about the pump track and the estimate from the city's engineers. He briefly went over the different pump track plans that can be done, and there was discussion regarding which direction the council wanted to go. Brief discussion ensued.

Office Manager Beaston stated that September utility bills had been printed out on October 5th and should start showing up in the mail. She then stated that we are currently taking candy donations for the Trunk or Treat event and that candy donations can be dropped off at city hall. Donations will go to the Red Hatters and Gold Bar region Deputies for the event.

There was a brief discussion regarding code enforcement and animal control and the issues with individuals that take animals to Everett Animal Shelter and give inaccurate locations of where they originally located an animal, which a lot of the time is unincorporated Snohomish County, causing the city to be charged. Brief discussion ensued regarding the council report and upcoming budget and animal fees.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears had no comments at this time.

Councilmember Lie stated that there was no Snohomish County Tomorrow meeting for September. He briefly talked about the county shutting down everything, that they are going to be concentrating on the budget, and this was the time to contact the county about any programs that shouldn't be slashed. He will be speaking up about county parks.

Councilmember Martin stated that the recreation meeting was held, it was small in attendance, but they did talk about the roundabout. She stated that the heritage hunt, a self-guided scavenger hunt, has been extended through 2027, as it was well received. She briefly talked about fire season.

Councilmember Russell stated that there will be talks regarding safety at Wallace Falls happening soon.

Councilmember Craig attended the Washington Stated Emergency Management Association conference and the Washington State Patrol Crime and Safety Conference. The takeaway from that was discussion on vehicle ramming, AI integration, psychology, sociology, and emergency management. She also attended the legislative priorities committee for AWC and briefly talked about what was discussed. Brief discussion ensued on emergency management.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Morgan talked about the possible city purchase of the property on Ley Road and the possible impacts to his property that borders it. Brief discussion ensued.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #799 closing funds was presented for an introduction and first reading. Mayor Yarbrough stated that because the city paid off the USDA loan, the reserve funds associated with the loan were no longer needed. Brief discussion ensued. Councilmember Sears moved to approve Ordinance #799 for an introduction and first reading, and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #800 banning family burials was presented for an introduction and first reading. Councilmember Lie stated that he did not mind tabling it as there was more information he meant for Clerk Treasurer Stowe to send out.

Brief discussion ensued. Councilmember Lie made a motion to table ordinance #800 and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Washington State Parks Letter of Support. Mayor Yarbrough briefly explained that the city received a request for a letter of support from Washington State Parks, who are applying for a grant relating to improvements at Wallace Falls State Park. Mayor Yarbrough briefly described some of the projects the park will be doing. Councilmember Russell made a motion for the mayor to sign a letter of support with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Lie briefly talked about the recreating meeting that Councilmember Martin attends and encouraged every councilmember to contact Debbie Copple at Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce to get a copy of the meeting summary reports. He also briefly talked about DNR, different grants, and Reiter. For him, the really important ones were the Recreation Impacts Planning grants for the non-motorized area at Reiter, which has been ignored. Councilmember Lie stated he would like to make a motion that we send a similar letter with similar language supporting these three grant requests to DNR.

Councilmember Lie then made a motion to authorize the mayor to send a letter of support to DNR's request for these grants, and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried. There was brief discussion on wording.

Councilmember Lie briefly talked about citizen comments and activity on May Creek Road.

Councilmember Martin briefly talked about the letters of support.

Councilmember Russell talked briefly about citizen comments and being active in what's going on in the community.

Councilmember Craig talked about projects and the budget, and if that is something she can just email Clerk Stowe. Brief discussion ensued.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the September 15th, 2026, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39418 through 39450 with EFTs, with $15,523.11 for claims and $56,824.91 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of $72,348.02 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 8:00 pm.

Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Denise Beaston, Office Manager