City of Gold Bar
EST. 1910
107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 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 Lie, Martin, Russell, and Sears. Staff members present in person included Public Works Director Norris, Clerk Stowe, and Chief Whalen. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

Councilmember Lie moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Craig and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

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 gave a brief health update.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen talked about trainings the deputies attended, and reminded the council that there will be a presentation at the next meeting regarding prosecution services and to give questions to him or Clerk Stowe ahead of time. He also said Shop With a Cop will happen December 8th, and the Snohomish County Sheriff will attend the December 15th council meeting. Councilmember Lie asked what the purpose of the prosecution presentation was which led to discussion around cases not getting filed, county staffing issues, the difference between county prosecution services and municipal prosecution services, and that the presentation is just one option for the city to consider. Councilmember Lie then asked if Bridge Services continued if cases were dropped by prosecution, which they do. Councilmember Russell asked if a teenager gets pulled over for an e-bike violation can that influence their ability to get a driver's license at age sixteen, which it can.

Director Norris said the county is now responsible for the flood gauge on the Wallace River at the Ley Road bridge and a link is on the county and city websites. He also said the new transfer switch is complete and came in $9,000 under budget. He is halfway through interviews for the open maintenance position and staff are working on routine tasks getting ready for winter. Councilmember Russell asked if there were issues with the radar sign at the east end of town and Director Norris said this time of year there is not enough light for the solar panel. The vendor suggested purchase of a second panel.

Clerk Stowe made an error in completing the 2027 Levy Certification. Councilmember Sears moved to accept the amended certification and with a second by Councilmember Russell the motion carried.

Office Manager Beaston visited the Cannery Levee with the Department of Emergency Management. She reminded people to contain their garbage.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears apologized for missing the previous meeting.

Councilmember Lie talked about a health Department presentation to Snohomish County Tomorrow, thanked Office Manager Beaston for sending out emergency management information, the need to encourage the county to be more aggressive in repairing Reiter Road, unlicensed ATVs in Sultan, and his work with ballots for the recent election.

Councilmember Russell attended a Veteran's Day event and talked about veterans, veteran scholarships for students, the color guard at the event, and historical society displays. He said veterans still have impact and need to be taken care of.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – none

PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Stowe called the public hearing for the 2027 budget to order at 7:20 pm and reviewed the hearing process. Councilmember Lie requested the budget worksheet. Clerk Stowe briefly reviewed upcoming purchases. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #802 relating to the 2027 budget for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried. With no further comments or business, Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the public hearing and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried. The regular agenda was returned to at 7:27 pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Ordinance #800 Banning Family Burials. Councilmember Sears moved to table action on this ordinance until Councilmember Craig was present and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #801 Amending the 2026 Budget. Councilmember Sears moved to accept Ordinance #801 for an introduction and first reading and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears is excited to work with the new state representative.

Councilmember Martin agreed with Councilmember Sears and spoke briefly about election results.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilmember Sears moved to approve the November 3rd, 2026, minutes as presented and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39501 through 39531 and EFTs, with $52,296.27 for claims and $1,000.00 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of $53,296.27 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 7:32 pm.

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Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

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Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer