

CITY OF CROUCH

Scheduled Meeting of the City Council

November 13th, 2024
6:30 p.m.

City Hall

Garden Valley, ID 83622

Minutes

The public has the right to attend meetings, with the exception of lawful executive sessions.

Changes on agenda are for emergencies only.

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:34

Pledge of Allegiance

- **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of October 16th, 2024
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Member SM made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Member SWM second the Motion, passed.

- **Water Issues**

- (*) Water Master Report- Clerk contacted our Watermaster. Everything is good, big tests will be next summer. We have one more coliform test in December.

- **New Business**

- (*) Roof for the Tucker Building- Insurance adjuster came out 11/5/2024. Waiting now on ICRMP to get back with the City. Member MH said there was some nice tin left over and could have been reused, just a few dents. Tucker building is insured by the City.
- (*) Crouch Fall Festival Outcome/Discussion on helping with expenses- The Mayor was approached by Jennifer at The Old Crouch Merc, she asked if we could help out with the expenses. The Mayor had offered that we may be able to do something with our LOT funds regarding porta potties and trash. She did share the invoices with Council, she has already paid for the services. These were all within the City and our attorney said we can cover them. Mayor's personal opinion is we should cover them. The 4th of July isn't the only thing we should help out with. The Festival was a tremendous success being it was put together on relatively short notice. It did bring a lot of business to the City, which is how we obtain the LOT funds. Mayor asked for the Council's input on this issue. Member MH said Jennifer had all these vendors come up. He asked if they paid anything other than the permits. Those that sold food were to pay the 2% on their sales. Member MH asked how much the city received for that. Clerk advised that all City Hall has received so far was \$90. Member MH said this is a little different than the 4th of July because there were hardly any vendors. It used to be a mess in town so we had to have dumpsters to clean up the mess and porta potties for all the people in town. On this thing, as vendors come in, they should be in line to pay for some of their own. Clerk asked Steve Raddigan what the bill was for the 4th of July for expenses, \$300 for Miller (trash) and \$420 for porta potties. She possibly had bigger units and

overestimated. Member MH said if she is having all these people come up, not knowing what she made off of them, but there should be money from them to pay for their own stuff. If we start doing this then everything that comes up, they will be asking us to pay for it. Member SWM said that this should have been in advance so we could say we have a better contract for services. Mayor said that this is hindsight, Jennifer did not know. Tom Wentz mentioned about the Chamber of Commerce, isn't that what they do? Mayor said she is basically the Chamber due to it may be on the verge of collapsing. That's how we got started helping with the 4th. The Mayor said that personally we should do something to help. He did see a lot of locals enjoying the Festival. Member PC said at this point good faith would be a good thing and then in the future there is some set protocol for things inside the city. Example: let us know before, get separate bids before. Tom said all the food trucks sold out of food. The Mayor said we may still receive LOT funds. A lot of them take cards and they will have to register them into Crouch and that will ping which will tell them what needs to be deducted, it's all a timing thing due to it being just a month ago. Member MH said he doesn't want to be subsidizing other businesses that are not up here. When Jennifer came to our last meeting, we asked her if she needed anything else. She said no, everything was good. The Mayor spoke with her later and she asked about the 4th. Mayor said that Council would discuss it. Member SWM asked where the money comes from if we decide to pay: LOT funds. We do have a healthy budget in the LOT although there were things we were hoping to use it for, the water system was a big one but it is essentially, there's not enough money in there to expand our water system. Therefore, we have the potential to use the money for these kinds of things, possibly a walkway along Middlefork Rd at some point, if we want to venture that, updating Community Hall and other possibilities. The LOT is designed for small tourist cities for improvements to draw tourists. Cascade has a 1% city tax but we did not want that due to it would be on groceries which are more necessities so we opted to do it on ready-to-eat foods, liquor by the drink and short-term rentals (Air BnB's) at 2% & 3% respectively. Tom Wentz asked if that was only in Crouch city limits, yes because that's our jurisdiction. Garden Valley gets hit with the States 17% for Air BnB's. Tom asked if we pay that as well. The Mayor said if you have an Air BnB in Crouch, he is assuming that the State is still at 17% plus 3% for the City. Member SM said he agreed with Member PC that if we do help with this, that in the future she understands that Council will need to decide ahead of time. Right now, we have the cart ahead of the horse. He is fine with helping with this. Member SM asked for a reminder of what the City paid for the 4th of July, \$720. Member MH said let's do the same thing then, \$700. Member PC asked if the Chamber gives the City Council updates or do, they work in conjunction with us or are they two different entities? Nobody is aware of any Chamber meetings being held recently. Around two years ago, we had just revamped. We had some City Council Meetings where they, Chamber members, were showing up trying to figure out if they dissolve this thing, could we get some people from the city to take this on and almost melt this underneath our umbrella. We didn't want that so we said let's help you get some publicity and find some local people who would be interested in helping with continuing this. The problem is people are too busy with kids and life. The Mayor likes being on City Council so his kids can participate in events here. By the Council showing faith in this means a lot to him personally because his kids got to play at the jump house and they ate at the vendors and it was very nice that there were multiple vendors that they could eat at and did not have to cook. They were able to have the funds to eat food that we normally don't get up here so it was a cool event for them. The Mayor does respect what Member MH is saying, how can we balance this? From what it sounds like the Chamber is at the same

spot they were at two years ago, from Jennifer and a few other people, he has heard that they don't even have enough people for their quorum's or their meetings officially. This could be on our radar coming up in the Spring for the 4th! Member SWM said the Chamber goes all over Garden Valley and Lowman, not just Crouch. They are a totally separate entity in the fact that they have their own funding. Mayor sees that at a point we should have better communication with them but part of that is broken down, falling apart. Member MH said that is in part due to past leadership from what has been told. People are just busy but they don't show up and help and they just don't get involved anymore. This appears to be a cultural thing now days that is affecting us and we will be dealing with in the future. Member PC said even if we could provide some leadership on how to steer it would be advantageous for us at the City Counsel as well. The Mayor has acted as a liaison, attended their meetings, not as a business owner or anything, but just trying to see where we were and when they were in that transition period. When they had all those who had been there for years and years and years and they were just done. Their kids had all grown up. They grabbed some people and filled those spots and they've had some successful 4th of Julys. The Mayor did not know it had degenerated again until he spoke to Jennifer a month or two ago about that. All the perspectives are very clear. Mayor said he highly values Council's input here and he is not a voting member but will break a tie if needed. He does care to help and to hold people accountable. This will now be given to Council to see if we should do something or nothing. Member SM said about the Chamber thing? No, going back to the Festival. Member SM said one of the big things with the Chamber is the park. He believes that the park is still within the city limits, most of it. The City should probably have something to say about what goes on there. The rest of the Chambers duties we shouldn't get involved with. Member MH said he thought that was Parks & Recreation. Yes, it is. Steve Raddigan presented the map of the park to show Member SM where the city boundaries are in the park. He said the park is not within the city limits, just a tiny part where the old playground used to be. The city has never annexed anything beyond those boundaries there (pointing to the map). The Mayor said we do help and he will be doing the Mayor's Walk A Thon to help with the cost of the new playground they just put in. We do rub shoulders here and there; jurisdictions overlap sometimes or we all just help out. Member MH said there are numerous people who have put a lot of money into the park over the years. The park looks nice, they put new sand in the pit again as it gets washed out or the cats use it as a litter box. Member MH said there were times that people on horses were pulling people around on buggy boards too, he has the pictures (laughter)! Lots of donations over the years to the park as well as taxpayers money. Member PC asked who technically in charge of the park, Garden Valley Parks & Recreation tax. They have their own board and enough people for their meetings and seem to be doing well. The park, library and all the way to Banks Lowman road was funded by government money in 2009 downturn. Member PC thanked members for the history and piecing things together. Back to the issue of the Fall Festival invoices. Mayor asked what Council would like to do. Member MH said he would go \$700 with the precedent that they come next time and ask the question and don't blindsides us by asking after. We collected \$300 for Vendor Permits and whatever we may receive for LOT. His opinion is it should be self-supporting or at least close. The Mayor asked if there is a Motion. Member MH made the Motion to approve the partial costs of the porta potties/trash for the Fall Festival in the amount of \$700. Member SM second the Motion. All in favor: All: Yes, No opposed. Motion passed. Member SM and Steve R. went over the map of the park to see where the boundary is. Steve R. showed him that the city only has a tiny part where the old playground used to be.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- No update.
- (*) Update on Well Property- Mayor will have Steve R. measure around the wellhouse so we can reduce the amount of fencing we may need. Steve R. presented a picture of the property and drew out where he will measure, leaving enough room for a truck to get in and maneuver around the wellhouse. We will discuss this at our December meeting. We have to have the money spent by the end of FY2025. The Mayor and Council went over the picture of the wellhouse property, where our property is and Chris Holt's property is. We will save money with less fencing and open up more property for Chris to use. Some of the fencing is down around Chris's property. Member SM went over and saw the new blocks that Shepherd's set for us. He said if we could get someone in there for the power pole is to get an anchor that Idaho Power uses and pull the existing pole on to the new one which we could place right next to the old one, leave the meter base on the one that it is on, and transfer the rigging up to the new pole leaving the old pole in place and leaving both poles attached together. Mayor asked where we stand on this as of now. Jeff wanted SM to call Dig Line because he wasn't sure where to dig. If we had one of those blocks placed differently, SM said he could have had that old pole straightened up in a few minutes. It would take a lot to move one of those blocks, ratchet strap wouldn't cut it (laughter). The power line is sagging so badly right now, right on Chris's roof, if we pulled it back a couple feet that would fix it. Mayor said let's get on with Dig Line and get moving on this if we can before the snow starts flying.
- (*) Community Hall Improvement Project- The Mayor had the clerk reach out to Brian Payne to get a bid on what we need to do at Community Hall. It needs a lot of work, doors, walls, doorways in the hall that the chair carts have ruined. We want to get this fixed up as much as we can financially. We need to vet people who rent the Hall after use, to go in and check everything out to make sure there is no damage and it is left clean. Walk through, take pictures or video before and after that way we have evidence of what it looked like. The Clerk will be in charge of doing this. The Mayor moved all of the chairs on to the stage and placed them in the storage areas on the stage. We could potentially rent the back room out, which we will discuss later. We are cleaning out all the things on the porch leaving only the bench and the little library, the bikes are in Bonnie's truck and she will get the rest of the things out. We can make it nice and start using it. There was clear talk with the person who rented it out often with the potential of abusing us and our generosity by using it as a long-term storage facility. Said person was overheard admitting to people he was using it to store his things. This was upsetting but part of that was on us. Bonnie will be doing checks at the Community Hall as will the Mayor if she is not available. The Mayor did mop the main hall and it looked Great. There is some minimal damage to the floor but we probably don't want to do too much to the floor. Clerk mentioned that the Mayor had mulled over the idea of roller skating in there again although it is against the rules, we would need to talk about it. Member SWM said she would agree with it! She was a roller derby participant! If there was a way, we could vet the type of skates used, for example rubber wheels. The floor is damaged so we wouldn't want to further damage it. Member SWM said the thing is the stoppers on the skates need to be non-metal. You would need to use indoor skates not outdoor ones. The skating rinks have a super nice wood floor that's not damaged. The person checking people in with their own skates, checks the wheels and approves or disapproves of the skates. This is a thought that needs more work. The Mayor's daughter loves dancing so they were going to purchase a fog machine and laser lights.

It would be a cool thing to do for the youth or whoever, to have a roller rink with music and laser lights, disco ball, etc. It was just a thought. He did get some indoor hockey equipment with wiffle balls so the windows wouldn't get broken out. Just some ideas although right now those are against the rules. If and when this comes the Mayor will bring it up to Council. We received a bid from Brian Payne which included painting the ceiling. The ceiling isn't that bad but we just wanted him to look at cosmetic things that need to be done. The ceiling is a big cost. Our attorney said we need to get more bids so Bonnie will get more bids. Council is welcome to go look at Community Hall, Bonnie has the key code, get ideas of what they would like to see done there. There is a lot of so much beautiful potential there so it's a balance of putting the right money in the right places with some accountability on our end which Bonnie and himself will tackle. Just make sure people are leaving it pretty clean, probably not exactly the way they found it but close. Member MH said that is used to be that you had to sweep and mop the floors. Mayor agrees that it should be brought back. Tom Wentz said since it is a Community Hall we should get the community involved! They told Tom "Step right up" (laughter)!! Member MH said they used to split wood in there with an ax and maul not to mention the rowdy parties with the cattlemen's dance were huge! Back on topic we will get more bids and discuss it.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Road Committee Report- None
- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim was absent but gave the Clerk her notes. The Pepsi machine sold for \$100, Kim had Greg Boyer helping with cleaning up. They have purchased video cameras for the Council Meeting room and the back Museum room in City Hall. She had contact with a person who may volunteer and work with the stairs. She had communicated with Geoff and the Garden Valley Historical Society, there should be no comingling of funds between us and them. He will send a letter answering other questions. Member SWM joined the Museum Board. The Museum Board determined where to put the cameras. One will be over the window by the flag, one will be in the City Hall Museum by the chalkboard and one will be by the vanity in the corner. The board voted to purchase two more cameras for the Tucker Building. The lumber sign has been put up on the side of the Tucker Building. Kim has a girl on Community Service that had 10 hours to do, so she has had her helping with oiling wood in the Tucker Building and said it looks so nice. Kim taped up a huge gap by the back window. The Tucker Building will be closed from November to January. Their next meeting may be in February depending on the snow. If anyone should want to see it during these months, depending if access is possible, they can call her and set that up. Darren Coates offered to build the ADA ramp for the Tucker Building for no charge if the City purchases the materials needed to do this. Mayor said we should consider this. Darren also pointed out that the ADA compliant wheelchair needs to be able to go through the door at the back of the building, but that would cost \$2000. Kim concern was that the space inside is too tight for a wheelchair to go. Kim said since she is a veteran she can get 10% off of materials at Home Depot. The Museum does have their own money, they just purchased their cameras. Kim's thought was that the City owns the building. This has not been confirmed so the Mayor will speak to Geoff about it. The Mayor said that was very generous of Darren to do that.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

The Mayor added a couple of things. The Mayor's Walk A Thon he participated in, a \$1000 coming our way, Yee Haw! The Mayor received a letter from Council President Steve McAninch. He will be resigning after December's meeting. We do have an

a party in the audience, interested in being on City Council. Mayor will speak to Geoff and see when we can appoint Tom Wentz, December or January.

- (*) Council Member Shawna Martin renting the back room in Community Hall- There are Legal issues that the Mayor needs to speak with Geoff about renting the back room to Member SWM. We will table this until next meeting. The Mayor and Bonnie will be tidying things up, getting the carpet cleaned etc. before we rent it out. Member MH said we talked about renting it out, did we get an idea on how much it should rent for? He said we had rented it out a long time ago and Member SM said it was either \$500 or \$600 then. The reason the Mayor needs to speak to Geoff is because SWM is on City Council and would need to have a contract with the City, so we need to see if there would be any legal issues with that. We have cleaned up a lot of junk out of Com. Hall and there is more to do. Member MH asked the square footage of the back room. We're not sure we will have to measure it. It's probably less than 400 square feet. Council members are can go in there and check it out. Council can discuss this if they would like to, if nothing else it gives them something to think about. There's a possibility that we would need to open up an ad for it, just like if we had a job opening. This way the general public would have a chance to apply to be a potential renter. Clerk asked if there was heat in the room. Member MH said there should be because the CPA rented it years ago. The Mayor would encourage whoever to bring their own source of heat. The Mayor said he does not believe there is separate heat in there. When the Mayor is there, he kicks the heat up a little bit but that back room is cold. Mayor said to look into what rent may be and City would cover the utilities but said person would need to provide their own heat source. City would cover power, water and restrooms. Clerk will get the square footage and comparable costs for our area.
- (*) **Clerk Report-** Sent out Business License applications for 2025, there were 61. Have received some back already. Clerk will deliver as many as possible due to stamps are costly. Clerk asked if we were interested in decorating City Hall for the Holiday? Mayor said we should. He has been doing it for the past few years and he is still young enough to do it. It is a lot of work! Community Hall still has lights up from last year! The Mayor said to look at the front porch of Community Hall! It is covered with cobwebs underneath! That needs to be cleaned up. We could possibly sweep some of them down, don't want to power wash and have it freeze. The new roofs that we are getting is what prompted the Mayor to want to clean up things. There are staple holes in the siding on Com. Hall, no more signs to be tacked up there! Clerk was concerned with the theater seats at City Hall, don't want the snow to ruin them. Kim had said she a tarp we could cover them with to protect them through the winter. Clerk mentioned the light at the doorway at City Hall. It is really dim and maybe we could see if it needs a new bulb or something. Mayor said he will check it out.
- (*) **Treasurers Report-** Submitted. Steve said he is doing an amended budget for the (FY23/24) due to the expenditures on the Community Hall, we exceeded the \$6500. We will do another one for next year for City Hall.
- **Adjournment-7:15PM**

Next Regular Council Meeting is December 11th, 2024 at 6:30 PM

ASTERISK (*) ITEMS ARE ALL SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE CROUCH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Trevor Schiefelbein- Mayor

Bonnie M. Horsewood- City Clerk

Approved Minutes