

CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

February 11, 2026

6:30 p.m.

City Hall

Garden Valley, ID 83622

Minutes Regular Council Meeting

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

Changes on agenda are for emergencies only.

Mayor-Trevor Schiefelbein-Absent

Council President-Mike Hefner

Steve Pedersen

Henry Vanderwyk

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance- Council President Mike Hefner conducted the meeting.

Treasurer-Steve Raddigan

Water Master- Terry Tucker-absent

Bonnie Horsewood-City Clerk

Geoff Schroader-City Attorney-by phone if needed

- **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 14, 2026
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Member SP made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member HV second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed.

- **Municipal Water System**

- (*) Watermaster Report- All is good. Terry did clean out the wellhouse. There's Forever Chemicals (PFAS) test we may have to do if we are chosen to do so. It is a fairly expensive test and we do not know what would follow if the test came back not good.

- **New Business**

- (*) Discussion/decision Kraig Wees as new Council Member- Since the Mayor was not present at this meeting, this was tabled until March's Meeting.
- (*) Discussion/decision City and Chamber working together- Chamber President, Jennifer Schmidt was given the floor. She said in 2024 the Merc put on the Fall Festival and the City had given them \$700. She understood that the LOT could only be used for health and safety. She feels that porta potty's, trash, EMS and handwashing stations are for health and safety. The Vendor permits that they took in from the Merc and the Festival were 135, which was \$2700. This year they have 42 vendors so far. When they moved the 4th of July and the Fall Festival to the park, that was \$1200 in revenue just from business licenses, which does not include the 2% that the City missed out on. There is no cooperation from the City. She has never seen a City where the Chamber is responsible for all the costs incurred for all the Festivals and have to come up with all that money by themselves. She is aware that there was a vote on the 2% and she is not certain why we can't have a special election and change that so it can be used for other purposes, like the Christmas tree or parades and things we are trying to do for the community. The \$2700 is a pretty powerful number for them to have brought into the city, which wouldn't have come in otherwise. When they came in, the Merc only had 23 Vendors, which was \$450 for permits and they have more than doubled that. That's something the City needs to think about in the Budget for the money that they are

bringing in. They could use some help. They did 2100 volunteer hours last year for the Chamber to do the Festivals. Council President MH said that we have given them money back and that was money we felt they had basically generated and we have always helped out on the 4th. Jennifer said not this year and not last year. They were given \$700 after the first Fall Festival which The Merc paid for out of their own funds. That was not a Chamber event, it was something they put on and we gave them \$700 back. They have gotten no other money from the City for any other event. SR said we paid directly to the vendors. MH said we did bring in porta potty's and a dumpster and because the 4th wound up over at the park, (Jennifer said "No it did not"). MH continued, because it wound up over at the park, we cannot take those to the park. Jennifer said reason that the Festivals are at the park now is because the City refused to help with the cost of it and because we were told there was a business that was going to have a vendor that was going to set up on that business property. She was told that vendor permits would not be enforced if someone chose to have a vendor on their property. She paid \$5000 for a band that was going to be in the city and there was a band booked 300' from her band, so they did not have a whole lot of options. Council President MH said that it is stated in The Chamber minutes that they want to continue to have their vendors in the park, that the vendors thought it was a better fit. Jennifer said no, that is not accurate. MH said it is in the Chamber minutes; he read it. She said that she did not say that. She said that she would like to work with the City, she thinks that people are angry and upset that the city's not helping them at all. Everyone was pleased with the 4th of July because it was family friendly and they felt that way because it was all contained in one area. They had music all day, had the kids games there and they plan on doing it this year as well. The Soapbox Derby will be down there too. It has created a nice atmosphere and people want to stay all day and enjoy the festivities and the fireworks. Her personal feeling is it's better to have it down there instead of up here. Personally, it's way easier for her so she doesn't have to haul everything back and forth as she spent hours and days doing that. She feels that it is a benefit of having the Festivals here. There have been a couple of issues with that. There were a few businesses that called TOK management about food trucks being up here because it was hurting their business, that combined that the City wasn't willing to pay for any of the costs or help with organization of any of it, combined with the fact that we had competing bands after they spent that amount of money, they didn't feel like they had a lot of choices. This is her personal opinion since she is not certain what was said in the minutes or who said it. She asked if it said who said that the vendors wanted to stay at the park, because she didn't say that. MH repeated that the minutes just said that the vendors voiced their opinion that they kind of like it at the park. Jennifer asked what minutes that was from. MH said it was within this past year but he would be happy to show her because he has those draft minutes. She said there have not been any vendors present at any of their meetings. The City is limited to what the funds go for and it was voted in by the taxpayers. She said she understands that but the vote could be changed. MH said yes but we aren't going to do that today. She wasn't saying that we have to do it today, just saying it's a discussion we could have. MH advised Jennifer that this will come up for another vote in 2032 because this was only a ten (10) year deal. She said that it is a long way away. She said there is other revenue (couldn't understand the full comment). MH said that The Chamber has to realize one thing: we have our stuff that we are looking into and we can't do anything unless we have funds. That's one of the reasons this was passed to start with because we didn't have any money. We have a water system to take care of. If we lose our well, we don't have enough money to drill a new well due to rules changes, etc. Jennifer said let's go back when we had a grant for a public sewer system let's address that. Didn't we have a two-

million-dollar grant for the Weilmuster's to put in a public sewer system? No, and we aren't tied in with Weilmunster either. She was told that it was in place but the city refused, she doesn't know, she was just asking. Mary Thompson said they just want collaboration between the City and The Chamber to work together. The city is not against them in fact MH is a Chamber member and he personally donates. When Jennifer took on the Fall Festival, he told her that it was a monumental task. She did a lot of work and he witnessed that! The City is aware of all the benefits that come out of that for the businesses up here, hotels, bars and restaurants. It's a big boost for everybody! In the same token, everybody wants money. The school, the softball team, the football team. Everybody has their handout and now the boat races are starting again and they are already calling. She understands that and they are not donating to the sports teams unless they volunteer at the Festivals. She said that herself, Scott, Samantha and John were the only ones who cleaned up for the 4th of July. MH, two of his employees and Scott cleaned up in front of The Merc. She said they cleaned the park and the bridge because people did not show up. This is why people quit the Chamber and quit volunteering nobody helps because everybody is tired of it. The 4th is drawing back all the locals since it is no longer chaos. She said they are trying to make it family friendly, come up and stay the weekend. Their SWITA funding all comes from stay and play. They can't get funding unless they promote tourism and stay & play. Kraig Wees said he agrees that the porta potty's and dumpsters are definitely health and safety that would fit. How else can you see the City helping out other than organizational wise or are there other funds that you are looking for? Jennifer said when they have doubled the permits, since they have come in, maybe they could get a portion of that to help with fireworks or some of these events or something. Mary Thompson said that she feels that EMS is health & safety. They wanted a tent down there so that there was somebody available if something happened to get there right away and not trying to get through the crowd, and Paul (Cleaveland), got shot down with that. MH said that Paul was offered a place at Garden Valley Smiles to use his building and Dr. Ballou was going to donate the money for the first time where it was. Mary said that she was just saying they got push back from S. Raddigan that it was for only health & safety not EMS. "Like he is against the fire department on all levels and it's just irritating! We want the City to work with The Chamber". Jennifer said that's why they changed their meeting to the day before and the Council meetings the day after so we were all on the same page, Trevor would then come to their meetings, he only came to one meeting. They said they are trying to make an effort to come to our meetings but nobody wants to show up (at theirs). If they do, they scroll on their phone the whole time and it's very frustrating for them. They are working hard to bring revenue into the city and to bring people here, they know there are people here who don't like tourists, but the fact of the matter is: they are coming. They want to monetize on that and they can't do that if they are getting push back all the time! MH said that we've never said no. Mary said they do not see people at The Chamber meeting. We see one person and the whole time he is scrolling on his phone, which is disrespectful! MH said, "So what are you asking, you want the City Council to come to The Chamber? They just want some collaboration, like if you came to our meetings, you would know what's being discussed and what our plan is. We would like your input just as we are giving you our input now. We would like input from the Council, even if just one person would show up and give us some input respectfully. MH said that Steve Raddigan has been giving you input. Jennifer said Steve does not give respectful input. Mary said he does not! Steve records the meeting and scrolls on his phone the whole time. MH said he has informed you of how the City LOT money can be used. Jennifer said that's the only thing he has done. The LOT can be used for health & safety, that's all we have been told. That's it! Jennifer said, "That

does not speak collaboration at all. Showing up at a meeting and recording it, so you can go back and tell on us is not collaboration. That's just what's happening! Let's just be real about it!" Kraig Wees said he is not on the City Council yet, but he would volunteer to be a liaison for the Chamber and the City, since he has resigned from the Chamber board, there is no conflict of interest. He said they could vote on that next month when he will be on City Council, if Council would like to do something like that. Jennifer said it's not all about money, it's about working together and serving the community. MH said that he is pretty sure that there will be porta potty's and dumpsters for the 4th in town. Leslie Lazo, from Garden Valley Farms, asked about using the property around City Hall for the Farmers Market this year. MH asked if she was referring to the acquisition of the park? She meant the City property and possibly using the grassy area behind City Hall. She said that people didn't see the Market in the grassy area and thought there was no Farmers Market going on. They would prefer to use the grass and the pavement area again. Ms Lowber just wanted to confirm that they could use the pavement again this year and maybe some of the grass. They want the Market to be a success! Just a small part of the grassy area is part of City property. Bonnie said that she had asked the Mayor last year if they would be able to use our paved area again this year and he had ok'd that. MH said that we are trying to purchase the gazebo/park area with part of the LOT funds so it can be used for all functions. At this time, we are waiting for an answer. Leslie asked who they would contact about using the area not owned by the City. Steve R. said he would get her the information for TOK. Jennifer said she has the property line map which has changed since Dr. Ballou has changed his property. Yes, it was rezoned last May. They would need to get permission from the property owners and get insurance for TOK. Jennifer stated the issue last year was that the person did not want to get insurance and they required that. Tony Free will be keeping that area maintained as far as mowing and upkeep. MH said that maybe this needs to be addressed next month to verify.

- (*) Discussion/decision on dogs at large- They has been an issue with dogs doing their duty on peoples property and out off leash. MH has spoken to a gentleman back here about this and that person will take care of it. MH asked Bonnie about the leash law. Boise County has a leash law but The City of Crouch does not. We only have a vicious dog Ordinance with no mention of leashes. At a previous meeting way back when the vicious dog Ordinance was approved, the attorney said that should cover the leash law but reading through it, it does not say anything about leashes. MH said so maybe we need to add leashes to the Vicious dog Ordinance or make another one. Bonnie said maybe a Resolution for it that leashes are also required. MH asked where in Boise County does that apply. Kraig Wees said City trumps County he thought. It seems that different areas, neighborhoods enforce or have a leash law. Terrace Lakes has a leash law and Castle Mountain has a stipulation that the dog must be within the eyesight of the owner or a neighbor can complain and there's a fine. We need to ask our Attorney. Jennifer asked about the Social Media issues for City employees. It was not put on this Agenda because our Attorney will not be here at this meeting. It will be on the March Agenda.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Discussion/Decision on bids to repair the floor by the furnace in Community Hall- We have a couple of bids for the floor and there is a lot of damage underneath the building. Bonnie called and spoke to ICRMP. She mailed pictures to ICRMP. They will send an adjustor out and we will go from there. Since we have a \$10,000 deductible, we need to assess all the damage and see what steps we need to take and get it all taken care of because it could run into a lot of money. It is safe to walk on now just a little spongy.

Member SP explained all the damage he could see. We should have more information by the next meeting.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim was absent. The Museum is closed.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (*) **Clerk Report-** The City is letting the Wrestling team use Community Hall for their practices. Geoff is finishing up the Garden Valley Smiles Rezone Ordinance so we should have that for March as well. Steve R. has been researching phone and internet providers and we are going over all the options that would fit our specific needs. Sandra Baum asked me to put her on the Agenda in March regarding trash around Crouch. She has been picking up trash all over. Sandra said that when Emmett is cleaner than Crouch, that's a problem. Just letting Council know ahead of time so maybe they can come up with a solution. Jennifer said maybe do like the adopt a highway, the businesses or someone take a section of town or a road. Our City trash can is used by people and that helps. Before adjournment, Jennifer asked if anyone has any plans to undecorate the Christmas Tree or unplug it at any time. It's been plugged in 24/7. Is anyone undecorating it or is it going to be up all year? MH said, yes at some time. We don't know when yet. We will probably at least take the star down. We need equipment to do that. MH said he is not planning on taking his down right away.
- (*) **Treasurers Report-** Submitted
- **Adjournment-7:05**

Next Regular Council Meeting is March 11th, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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

Trevor Schiefelbein-Mayor

Bonnie M. Horsewood