

CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

February 12, 2025

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.

Council Members

Mayor-Trevor Schiefelbein
Steve McAninch-President
Paul Cleveland
Shawna Martin
Mike Hefner
Tom Wentz

Staff

Treasurer-Steve Raddigan
Water Master- George Simpson-absent
City Clerk- Bonnie Horsewood
City Attorney-Geoff Schroader-by phone if needed

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

• **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of December 11th, 2024
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Mayor requested a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member MH made the Motion to Approve Consent Agenda and Member SM Second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed.

• **Water Issues**

- (*) Water Master Report-Mayor has spoken to George Simpson and all is good. We do need to start looking for a new Water Master because George will be moving away. The last water testing he will be doing is for March because it is quarterly. He will be leaving early June, it sounds like. Mayor said we need to try to get a Water Master in by March or April would be great so they would overlap a little so George could orient the new person as to what we are doing there. Mayor asked Clerk to put an ad in the paper and make some calls. Steve Raddigan mentioned the ARPA funds. Council had the breakdown of what the funds were designated for in the water system. Replacement pump, motor and mixer, (which helps us to have more water reserved in the water tank which would be very helpful especially in fire season), fencing materials and installation. Member MH said Council did a good job designating the funds. We were short \$1396.07. Mayor suggested using the LOT funds for the difference but since it was for the water, Steve Raddigan said the money should come from the Water funds. Mayor agreed. Mayor asked for a Motion for the \$1396.07 shortfall to come out of the water fund. Member MH made the Motion to approve \$1396.07 for the overrun for the funded amount of the ARPA and to have these monies come out of the water fund. Member SM second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed. Steve Raddigan referred to the Water

Rate Study Report he has from Nwang. Council has the Report and they will need to review it and there will need to be a discussion on this issue if they want to take any action. In this report there are alternatives and ideas on water rates and what rate options we have, and the different amounts. Including not only a one-time increase but an annual increase proposed over 5-year period. This issue dates back a year ago to be able to get the water system closer to breaking even. Steve said when this discussion is held, he does have some issues with the numbers. Steve said he will try to work on the goals in the report, Nwang has four goals, if Council directs him to do so, he will work a little differently with the money. The Council had questions with the numbers in the report, they were not accurate as what was paid out and what was listed in the report. We do know about the \$28,000 that the water fund owes, and the \$18,000 that Nwang would like for the capital and \$5000 for the reserve. If Council has no problem with those numbers, Steve can work with that. Council asked Steve to crunch on the numbers and bring it back in March if possible. We need to discuss the water fee at the March Council Meeting.

- **New Business**

- (*) Mayor to Appoint Tom Wentz as new Member to City Council- Mayor has met with Tom Wentz several times and knows he will be a Great member on City Council. Mayor asked Council for a Motion for appointment of Tom as our new Council Member. Member MH made the Motion to appoint Tom Wentz as a new Council Member. Member SM Second the Motion. Roll call: MH-Yes, PC-Yes, SM-Yes. Motion Passed. Mayor gave Tom the Oath of Office! Applause from All! Tom thanked Crouch!
- (*) Council to select and vote for new Council President- Mayor asked for a discussion, Motion for the Council to nominate a person for Council President. Member SM nominated Mike Hefner for Council President. Member PC second the Motion. All Council Members except Mike Hefner, Yes. Motion Passed. Mike Hefner is our new Council President.
- (*) Discussion/Decision on increasing insurance coverage on City Hall, Community Hall & Tucker Building- Council had in their packets the information regarding insurance coverage currently. As it stands the buildings are underinsured. We would never get back what we would lose, even if the buildings were fully covered. The rate increase was on the information to get the buildings insured up to \$500,000. Member MH said he thought it was a good deal if ICRMP is willing to ensure the buildings for a rate increase of \$1500, that is a great deal. The average to rebuild residential buildings is between \$250 and \$350 a square foot. Commercial would be more and it just keeps going up! Kim Bosse, from the Museum board had a question regarding coverage on valuable items in the museum. Our insurance does cover contents. Kim said one of the books by James Castle is valued at \$5000. She said standard coverage usually does not cover fine art. When an insurance company says contents, it may not include fine art. The items are cataloged. Mayor asked Kim how hard would it be to start photographing valuable items. She does have photos of the Castle items. Mayor asked Bonnie to look into this issue and let Kim & Council know. Possibility we may need a rider. For the time being we will worry about the building being covered. Member MH asked what the annual premium for our insurance is. Steve Raddigan said \$3000 something, Steve had already included the increase in the budget. Steve suggested that Kim make a list of what they have and give it to Bonnie just to make sure everything is covered. At least the big-ticket items. For now, the Mayor said we can move forward with the new coverage. Will put on the agenda an action item for our March Meeting if we need to add a rider. Mayor asked for a Motion to increase coverage on Community Hall, City

Hall and the Tucker Building. Member MH made the Motion to increase coverage on Community Hall, City Hall, and the Tucker Building. Member SM Second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed.

- (*) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) event planning/discussion- Member PC and the Mayor had spoken about this. Member PC said that when we have an event in the city it should be planned well enough ahead of time so that we can look at the possible impact on emergency vehicles, traffic, & parking. Council needs to look at this to make sure that none of these services will be impacted by the event. Member PC and the Mayor had spoken about really big events 4th of July, etc, that Fire Chief Cleaveland (member PC) would be able to do a walk around to check for hazards, extension cords as tripping hazards, any food trucks/vendors blocking thoroughfares or any kind of emergency access, fire hydrants. It would be like a final inspection and 'you are good to go' before the event begins. Member TW said the fire hydrant by his place is buried so he put a cone there so it is not plowed into. That one needs to be raised or something so it is visible. Member PC said just to be proactive for us as a community to oversee these projects so they do not overwhelm our resources and they don't impact the daily activities going on. Since there is no action item at this point it can be added to our agenda for a discussion at our March meeting. If we would like a safety walk through with Chief Cleaveland or even the Sheriff's if they would like to scope it all out and make sure it is copacetic for whatever they need for their purposes. Steve Raddigan suggested people drawing out a map ahead of time where they are going to have everything set up. We could give this to the Chief. The Chief does not need permission from the City Council to do any type of safety inspections. Mayor said we want to be the ones who facilitate that because we collect the vendor permits and LOT funds from it. This needs to be brought up at our next meeting with these big events. Tell the participants that we need this extra information and implement some paperwork and hand it out to those participating, including that we need a map sketch. Chamber member said if City Council could give them some guidelines like a map of some sort so they could guide people where they should or shouldn't be. Member SM said like a recommended base map and they could fill in the blanks. Chamber member said recommendations like there is a fire hydrant here or we need to keep this much open on the street, whatever is important because they don't know what's important. We can get with the Chamber, Jen at The Merc as well to hand them out. Question, could we get a Council member to propose this to the Chamber and set in on a meeting with them. Mayor said he could do that. Mayor has to find out when their meetings are. Member PC said get everyone working together and make sure it is a successful event. Be able to get services quickly and be safe. Mayor said Jen is going to have a Spring Fest and the 4th of July after that. The Mayor will catch up with her and tell her we need to get on a map, etc. and since she is on the Chamber that will work. Kim Bosse asked about a Mass Gathering permit. County has a Mass Gathering requirement for one but the City does not. Those permits in Boise County are just for private events. We never had one on the 4th of July but across the river at the Youren's they did because that's county. We do not want to get involved in that.
- (*) Lot Split application-McAninch- Steve McAninch would like to split his property up here. All his information is in the Council packets. He has five acres here and would like to split it into one three acre and a 2-acre lot to go with the house he is selling. Steve Raddigan said Steve McAninch is aware of the zoning of the property. His property is currently zoned RA. The parcels will need to be re-zoned to R1. Mr. McAninch still has to get a separate parcel number for the split lot, get it recorded and then come back to City Council for the re-zone approval. Mayor asked for a Motion. Member SM made the

Motion to approve the Lot Split for Steve McAninch. Member MH second the Motion to approve the Lot Split. All: Yes. Motion Passed.

- (*) Liquor License submitted for Approval- Liquor License for the Longhorn Bar & Restaurant. All paperwork was submitted and she has applied for her County License as well. Mayor asked for a Motion to approve the Liquor License for the Longhorn. Member SM made the Motion to approve the Liquor License for the Longhorn. Member MH second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed.
- (*) Discussion on sign Ordinance: set Workshop date: set Public Hearing Date- This is for our Sign Ordinance. It is a mess that we need to clean up. We need to look at some of the rules and stipulations that we have with our sign Ordinance in regard to the electronic moving ones. The Mayor had gotten some complaints about The Dirty Shame sign. As it says right now in the bylaws of the Ordinance nothing can be moving on there. Geoff and the Mayor spoke at length with the owners of The Dirty Shame. They are going to shut it off at night and that is all the neighbors were concerned with; it is big and bright and on all hours of the night. What we could do to meet them in the middle would be to allow some motion on there until a certain time of day. This would allow for others to have their signs do the same thing in the future. As long as it is turned off, we preserve whatever starlight we have. This is the unofficial agreement we have with The Dirty Shame owners. That's where we stand with this for right now. Looking forward, the Mayor said we need to have a workshop and get public opinion and co-council from the general public, put together a more definitive and more all around friendly regulations for everybody, type of rules for the signs. This way everyone can walk out with a win/win. After the public workshop, we will have a public hearing to adopt whatever comes out of that workshop as our new Sign Ordinance. The Dirty Shame owners were advised that this subject would at least look at this and discuss it tonight at our meeting. They did really well with us, meeting in the middle where they could. The motion on the sign was not an really issue during the daytime. It was not distracting drivers or any laws so no worry there, it was more the residents concerned with it at nighttime as long as it is off at a reasonable hour. The Dirty Shame owners agreed to just shut it off when they close and turn it back on the next day when they open. The neighbors were happy with that. Mayor asked for a date for a Sign Ordinance Workshop and a date to do a Public Hearing. The Mayor suggested the Public Hearing be set an hour before our next Council Meeting, 5:30 PM on the second Wednesday in March at Community Hall. We do need to have a special meeting/workshop before this meeting. This is where we would get into it with everybody involved, vested business owners, community members at large, Garden Valley and Crouch, whoever wants to come and give their input, and try to walk out of there with some sort of everyone is happy solution. That is our hope. Mayor asked for a Motion to set dates for the workshop and Public Hearing. Member SM made a Motion to set a date for the workshop and Public Hearing. Member MH Second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed. The Mayor suggested doing the Public Hearing the same day as our March Council Meeting. This will be when it is. We just need Council to look at their calendars for a date for the workshop that will work for everyone. The Dirty Shame owners said they will be on board to come to these meetings. They are very friendly and had a great conversation with them. We are all just trying to meet in the middle and make everyone happy. Workshop just needs to be before our March meeting. We would like a date that people can make the meeting they cannot make it; they can submit an email to us and we can try to incorporate it into the workshop and discuss it. Council suggested Tuesday February 25, member MH said he is not here on Tuesdays. The next day was suggested, that works. Mayor asked for a Motion to set the workshop for February 26 at 6:30 PM. and have our Public Hearing on

March 12th, at 5:30PM at Community Hall before the regular Council Meeting. Member SM made the Motion to make the workshop meeting for February 26th, at 6:30PM at Community Hall and the Public Hearing at 5:30PM March 12th at Community Hall. Member MH Second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed. Steve Raddigan asked for a draft of the Sign Ordinance so he can drop one off at the Merc to Jennifer and to The Dirty Shame. Clerk will drop off an announcement at the radio station.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Dawna Booth was in attendance so she was happy to update Council. Their goal was to have a lot of community awareness due to what happened with the fires last year. She said our community members are more on board of being prepared in having needs in place and CEP are trying to meet those needs and education. Next month, Jason Yearsley is going to do a CPR certification class, no fee for this. It is usually \$35-\$40, he will have a cap on how many people can participate. They will advertise that through social media. If there are more people, they will offer a second class. Later on, they will be doing gardening and food storage. Last Saturday they had a communications workshop with specific mentions of HAM radios, GMRS and the actual radio station. She handed out some information pages with items of interest regarding communications and the things they discussed at this workshop. There were twenty-five people in attendance. It was an amazing meeting with HAMS there in the area and GMRS which is a licensed wireless communication but there is no test for this. It is something very easy for people to be involved with. Steve Raddigan is helping to get people to communication with Radio Net, trying to get all parts of the valley together. One difficulty is the terrain and not within line of sight. Chief Cleaveland is also hopeful to get somewhat of a command post together. He said this is a good first step for trying to see how this will work into the emergency operations of Garden Valley if we have a priority one or two that affects the entire community. After he spoke with the commissioners, they gave him their approval, so what they are doing is looking at using one of our fire stations for these radios so if we have a communication failure we can have an emergency operations center that's able to communicate with other jurisdictions and agencies in case of massive failure of our infrastructure, it would put us in a good spot. The goal of the Emergency Preparedness Committee is to assist the Chief in what he is doing since they are second or third in line. Practice is necessary and on a regular basis so that everyone is comfortable. They do have 11 people who are willing to be neighbor coordinators who will have GMRS and HAM and will get a list of all of the neighbors so that if something should happen, they could be contacted. Alan Hart had brought up low ray which is the ability to text which does not take much power to do and you do not have to be online to receive it. That is something they will explore. Member TW asked if the local radio station is involved, because they should be and also that not all people are on social media. Steve Raddigan does post EPC information online. Member TW said he was under the impression that the radio station was here to keep the community informed. The radio station does have a generator but it seems that when Alan Hart tried to get it running, he had a problem getting it to work. Another problem Sandra said is if the power goes off, someone has to be there to switch it back on. She is usually the one to go and reboot everything so that the radio station can function. At one time the fire station was handing out little battery-operated radios, Chief confirmed this. Member MH asked if Jordan Jones was participating in this. He did not make the meeting last week. The Chief said he works with Jordan and he will speak with him. Steve Raddigan asked if Jordan had been appointed Emergency coordinator of Boise County. Last Chief Cleaveland knew, Sheriff Turner was going to place him in that position and hoped Jordan would take it. Steve Raddigan said he

noticed the position was still opened. Steve R. advised Member TW that the information comes from the radio station, which is their source of information. Do not rely on Facebook for factual information (laughter)! Chief Cleaveland said another exciting thing they have been working on during this last fire season is an evacuation procedure for Garden Valley and labeled each jurisdiction so everyone will have a number. They will be doing some community meetings so they can talk about some of those things, the fire wise, what number a person lives in which will make it quicker for evacuation instead of road numbers. Everyone will have a number for their area so if your number is advised for evacuation, it is much clearer. Dawna said a goal is to have Boise County help us with the City of Crouch's emergency plan which really is not in place, the county has not done it. That would be something we would incorporate into the plan including communication, ERC locations so that you have a plan ready at your disposal and it can be seamless. There are many levels of communication needed because not everybody can get the radio station. A lot of work and a lot of moving pieces but we are putting together a good plan.

- (*) Community Hall Improvement update/funding source- Shawna Bass is done with the painting and repairs in Community Hall. Mayor said it looks really good! Mayor let the Council know that Bonnie will be looking into options for curtains for the stage just getting numbers and he thinks that we need to do something with the floor to try to preserve it, she will get numbers for March's meeting for that. Shawna has been paid but we need to clarify where we want those funds to come from. Mayor asked Steve if he had a recommendation on what funds we should use. Yes, from the LOT fund. Mayor asked for a Motion from Council where they think the funds should come from for the repairs in Community Hall. Member SM made the Motion to approve the use of the funds from the LOT for the repairs made to the Community Hall. Member MH second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed.
- (*) Renting Community Hall backroom update- Bonnie placed add in The Idaho World. She spoke to Tim Benedict, who came to look at the room. Tim said he will get back with me.
- (*) Tucker Building bid choice- This is for the bids for the roof at The Tucker Building. Council has had these bids for a while and has had time to look at them. Hopefully, they are still valid. Mayor asked Council if they had a preference of who to use. Member MH said there is a lot of difference in some of them. Mayor asked for a Motion for a bid for which ever Council chooses. Member MH made the Motion to accept the bid from One 7 Building, Josh Fuhrman for The Tucker Building roof. Member SM Second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed. Steve R. asked if that bid included tax, if so, it would have to be pulled.
- **Scheduled Delegations**
 - (*) Road Committee Report- Mayor asked Members if anything was going on with the road. Member MH said he has not fixed the one pothole yet. He has the material but has not gotten to it (snowy). Mayor said if he needs help he will help him.
 - (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report-Kim Bosse and Sandra came and mounted the James Castle pictures at City Hall. They had previously been mounted on the wall but someone had taken them off the wall and just sat them on a cabinet where they could have easily been taken. They are now secure. Kim had spoken to the Mayor about getting an evaluation/value on the James Castle items. There was no charge for this but we do not have paperwork for the evaluation. If we need it in writing the lady will charge for that. Mayor said we may want it for insurance purposes. Bonnie will let Kim know if we need it written. If there are more items that need to be evaluated then we will

do that. They had loaned some books to the Library back in 2011. They were in the back-room office of the Library so they offered them back even though Kim said they could still use them. The Library cannot code them. It is nice to see the book and ask to look through it but it cannot be coded and it risks being damaged or taken. They did return them and signed the document to sign them out and they are back with the Castle things. Kim noticed that there is a new blue sign out by Davey's bridge and she wondered if anyone knew who had placed it there. The Mayor asked what the sign says. It says: Information Center, Garden Valley Center for the Arts and the Museum. Kim tried to contact the Chamber of Commerce with no luck. Surmised it was the County. Geoff did contact Kim and he answered some of the questions she had for him. There were still a couple she needed answered, so she will reach back out to him. One issue she has is that there are a lot of items in the Museum that are on loan. The documents that are signed when they are loaned is for 6 months. Some have been there for years. Some people are not here anymore, some have passed away and family has moved, so they need to figure out what to do with the items. Legally they need to know what they can do, possibly run an ad in the paper and have family pick up the items if they want to. Mayor said maybe on Facebook she would be able to get a hold of the families of those that have passed not the people who have passed (laughter). It is just some housekeeping things she needs to speak to Geoff about. The Mayor said to just call him and see what he says. The items could be deemed abandoned. Member TW said they could put an ad in the paper but the Mayor said that people could come out of the woodwork to claim them and not have the right to. They would have to show evidence that they were family or such. Steve R. said there might be a time frame to consider the items abandoned. On the Tucker Building, she is going to talk to the Museum to see if they could get a grant to fix up the windows. They have big gaps and just need fixing. They cannot preserve anything with the windows the way they are. The gaps in the siding need filled with chinking as well. The weather and bugs come in the building and it is harmful to the items inside. They will have their first meeting in March. The Museum and the Historical Society cannot mingle funds per Geoff. Steve R. said the City funds the Museum; it is not self-funding. They can coordinate with the Historical Society but they will stay separate. The Museum can loan them items to put on display in their cabinets. The Historical Society was awarded a \$7000 grant but were told not to spend any of that yet, possibly due to it is Federally funded. They hope it will go through because they want to get a section in the Library for Garden Valley History. Sarah did clear out a place with a nice display cabinet and they will put a lock on the cabinet. The Mayor said we have so much stuff in the Tucker Building and City Hall but he does not know just how many people know it is here and how many actually come through. We have more people in the Summer but the Museum needs to be open more. They are trying to get the word out that they are here. The Historical Society will also have a computer dedicated to History and people can scan pictures they bring in or if they want to donate them and they will have a file cabinet with information as well. This is what the grant will be paying for even if the funding does not go through, this will still be done.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (*) **Clerk Report-** Clerk sent out 16 Business License reminder letters did get one back so far.
- (*) **Treasurers Report-**Submitted two months' worth.
- **Adjournment 7:37PM.** Mayor did remind Council of our Workshop on 2/26/2025 at 6:30 and the Public Hearing at 5:30, an hour before our Regular Meeting on 3/12/2025.

Next Regular Council Meeting is March 12th, 2025 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