

CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

March 12, 2025

5:30 p.m.

City Hall

Garden Valley, ID 83622

Minutes for Public Hearing/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.

Council Members

Mayor-Trevor Schiefelbein

Mike Hefner-President

Paul Cleveland

Shawna Martin

Tom Wentz

Staff

Treasurer-Steve Raddigan

Water Master- George Simpson-absent

City Clerk- Bonnie Horsewood

City Attorney-Geoff Schroader

Open Regular Council Meeting 5:42PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Public Hearing 5:42PM

Hear testimony- Steve Raddigan brought to the attention of Council that page 4 line 16 of the new draft of the Sign Ordinance. This was regarding the issue of obtaining an electrical permit before permitting the sign. Geoff advised Council that he would be modifying any changes live on his word document, as they are made. Steve then said page 4 line 22, administrator needs to be clarified who that is. It will be changed to City Council as administrator. Next page 7, line 3, the Section 12-__ pertaining to the Violation Penalty, needs to be completed with section number, 12-10. Member PC had a question regarding lighting for signs, light pollution. This seems like this is subjective. Are there numbers that we could put in as far as lighting other than someone just saying that the light is too bright. We may need something that measures the lumens. Geoff said that is a good idea although he is not familiar with measuring lighting. For example, how does McCall measure their lighting. We do not have a light Ordinance here in Crouch, the Dark Sky Ordinance. It had been brought up in the past when Bob Powell was Mayor. The Mayor said it has been brought up to him by a few people but it can get a little hairy. Then you have to get into how you quantify brightness. This runs along the lines of noise. What might be too loud to one person is not loud to another. There are decibel meters that a number can be used for noise levels. If we want lumen standards, we need to see what that would look like at night. We would need to set a standard as to what would be the best. Amazon does sell brightness meters for around \$100 or so. The Mayor did offer the owners of The Shame a few weeks ago that maybe they could put a smoke type screen over the sign because some colors may be brighter than others. Geoff said he can replace the wording in the Ordinance draft from glare to lumens. Member MH had a question for page 4 line 36. Council discussed the interpretation of this sentence. Geoff suggested the following wording: 'The area of the sign face shall be computed by measurement of the extreme limits of the sign display together with any color or material forming an integral part of the sign.' Council agreed. Ty Archer asked how the size of the sign is determined, for

example, Starlight Theater. Their sign is not on a building, just on two posts. The Ordinance has how sign size is for the placement on a building, but how would it be determined on just property. If a property frontage is 200' then the sign would be limited to no more than 20X20'. Member SM asked about a sign being on the side of your house, say it is painted on there, is it still a sign? When is a sign part of your home or by the side of the road to attract business? Definition of a sign is in the Ordinance which Geoff read aloud. If you painted a sign on the side of your house and it does not conform to the requirements stated in the Ordinance, then it is not in compliance. The sign at the ATV rental by the carwash was brought up for it's size. Since it is there before our new Ordinance is voted on and goes into effect, it does not have to be changed until it falls down or is broken. When that happens, a new one will have to conform with the new Ordinance. Member TW said, so put new signs up now! (Laughter) Ty Archer said how would that affect his firewood sign, if someone wanted to sell hot dogs at his place, would they have to get a sign permit for that? Per Geoff, the presence of the sign is based on the property size. Ty said so they can't put a sign up. Geoff said the two signs could be combined relevant to the property size. Member MH said would that be a temporary sign? Ty said probably. We do have a temporary sign regulation which if they are up for over a certain amount of time (after 72hrs to 6 weeks) then they are permanent. Member PC was said it would probably encroach upon the first amendment, but do we have any interest in what a sign can have printed on it. No, we cannot. A clear example from Geoff was a word regarding a certain individual holding a certain office in DC in 2021.

Close Public Hearing 6:11PM

- **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of February 12th, 2025
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Mayor asked if everyone had a chance to review the payables & financials and minutes from our last meeting. Motion needed to approve the Consent Agenda. **Member SM** made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, **Member PC** Second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed.

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- **Municipal Water System**

- (*) A. Watermaster Report- George had checked the water just before our last meeting, per the Mayor. Things are ok. Mayor asked if there was any progress on the well property, fence, and power pole. Due to weather nothing as of now. Member MH said Terry Tucker with the mixer is on order and he will do that as soon as it shows up. Check is still out.
- (*) B. Discussion/Decision on water rate study & water fees- Steve Raddigan went over the status of the water system. We took \$28,000 out of the General Fund to pay back the deposits for water hookups. There was some money in the Water Fund but not enough so it was all taken from the General Fund. That debt obligation is part of the input for the following rates. Steve broke the rates down into 5,6,and 7 years. To determine this, it has to be determined who will be paying for water. We have 6 EDU's that are unaccounted for. Council needs to decide what they want to do with those EDU's. There is an option on the Mud Room and Garden Valley Smiles, we can amend those to less than 1000 sq ft, then they can be one EDU. As it is written there should be two. Steve is not looking for a decision on rates tonight. Council needs to decide what they want to do with the 4 (four) that are not paying and the two that can go either way. We will be needing a new Watermaster or we may end up with Mtn Water Works at \$1500 a month. Bonnie called Terry Tucker LVM but no return call as of yet. An ad has

been placed in the Idaho World. Bonnie will call around and try to find any contacts for one.

- The options on water that Steve presented may change depending on what a Watermaster pay would be. Mayor advised Council to look over each option and come back with this at our next meeting and discuss ideas and opinions. Member MH asked Steve about the \$50,900 in the Water Fund currently. Steve said that is due to the ARPA funds still in there. When those funds are taken out there will be about \$16,000 in the Water Fund. Steve would like permission to get the \$14,000 back out of the \$28,000 that is owed to the General Fund from the Water Fund. That would reduce what the Water Fund owes, then Council would only look at tables 2,4,and 6. Member MH said that there are 11 invoices so we pick up 4 that would make 15. Steve said do not get confused invoices with EDU's. There are 11 invoices representing 16 EDU's. So do stay at 16 EDU's or do we capture the other EDU's that should be paying two and are only paying for one and bring in the other 4. The 22 are explained on the table options. Mayor clarified where the \$14,000 is coming from. Steve said it is in the Water Fund and if it is paid back into the General Fund that will decrease the amount owed to the General Fund from the Water Fund. The Mayor asked for a Motion to move \$14,000 from the Water Fund into the General Fund to be applied to the debt obligation of the Water Fund. **Member MH** made the Motion, **Member SM** seconded the Motion. All: Yes. Motion passed. With this Motion passing, just go forward with the water rate table options of 2,4 & 6. At next month's Council Meeting, we will have an in-depth discussion of these options. Member MH called Horseshoe Bend to see what their rate is for businesses for water, base rate is \$76.78. Standard 1" meter, \$153 for 1 ½". Table this for April's Council Meeting.

- **New Business**

- (*) Executive Session: **Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (f)**: To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement. Mayor asked for a Motion to go into Executive Session. **Member MH** read the reason for the Executive and made a Motion to go into this Executive Session. **Member SM** Second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion Passed. Just before going into this session, Jennifer Schmidt advised that the potholes on Old Crouch Road will be patched in the next couple of weeks. FedEx driver's husband works for the County and advised her of this. Public left the meeting.
- (*) Discussion on Public Hearing/Sign Ordinance Amendments- On the Agenda for April Council Meeting.
- (*) ICRMP regarding Museum items- The items are covered by our ICRMP insurance.
- (*) Community Hall floor refinishing- Bids are being collected.
- (*) Discussion on possible Ordinance regarding Overnight parking in Crouch- Member MH said there is a problem with people parking their vehicles overnight especially in the Winter. It makes it hard for them to plow the snow off the parking lots and streets. Geoff said an Ordinance would not be a quicker solution than just putting up 'No Overnight Parking' signs. Member MH said he has called to have vehicles towed before and it usually takes 3 days. The Mayor said that we could just have the business owners put up signs. People would not know it would take a few days for their vehicle to be towed. Tracy Raddigan said the Community Church has these signs. We may want to ask them to see if the signs are working for them. Member MH said he thought that we did have an Ordinance for no overnight parking, which was why he mentioned the issue. We do

not have one. Geoff did say the trespassing code in Idaho is quite powerful. A business owner can tell a person to leave and if they do not it is a Misdemeanor. Member MH said the problem is that if the vehicle is not occupied then you cannot tell them. Member SM said that if it is a trespassing issue then the car could be called in as trespassing. Geoff said no because a car cannot trespass, just a person can.

- (*) Discussion/Decision opening another CD for LOT Funds- Our balance is larger than we need. Steve has tried to stagger the accounts so they all come due at different times. If we open an 18-month CD for \$50,000 at 5%, we would have \$26,000 in the LOT funds for any needs we may have. Mayor asked for a Motion for Steve to open a CD for \$50,000, 18 month. **Member MH** made the Motion to approve Steve to open a CD for \$50,000 for the LOT Funds, 18 month. **Member SM** second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion passed. Steve said he cannot open it but Bonnie can do it. She had asked at MACU if she were able to open one and they had told her yes, she could. The Mayor said then Bonnie will do it.
- (*) Discussion/Decision on Large gathering safety concerns- We had spoken about getting a map of the layout for events. This one concerns the Spring Festival coming up in May. The Mayor asked if we want to make this a stipulation moving forward. Jen at the Merc had ariel photos taken of the downtown area. The photos given to Council had placements of where things will tentatively be. Food trucks, kids games, vendors etc. Do we want to require a safety walk through with the participants and a map for the set up. We can give them a blank map so they can map their location. Mayor asked if Council wants to make this a requirement for all major events. We already have some things in place, like they need to have event insurance. Added to this the planner would have to produce a map. We would share the map with the Fire Chief so he could do security walk throughs prior to any events. Mayor asked for a Motion to make a part of our large gathering safety procedures and event planning require a map of the layout and emergency access availability to our Fire Chief. **Member SM** made the Motion to have large gathering safety concerns require a map of the layout and emergency access availability checks through our Fire Chief. **Member MH** Second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion passed. Steve Raddigan commented that if the Chief approves the layout, we can make this a standard handout for all events. Member PC said then as Fire Chief he can report back to Council on these maps and any issues or recommendations. Council will discuss a standard layout map at our next Council Meeting in April.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Not too much happening right now. Member PC said they were doing some CPR awareness but no one is being certified right now. The more people that are aware the better. He did not see this as being integrated into any emergency disaster plan at this point. Jason at the Fire Dept was holding a class for CPR but it is a non-certification class, just showing people some skills.
- (*) Renting Community Hall backroom update- No response from Tim Benedict. Ad still in the Idaho World.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Road Committee Report- We were told that Boise County will be paving Old Crouch Road soon. No one had heard anything about this so Mayor and Council said they will believe it when they see it!
- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim advised that they had held a meeting and will be loaning some artifacts to the GV Historical Society for a maximum of 3 months. If they want to extend it for another 3 months, then they will have to redo

the agreement. The Mayor asked if Kim had the hours/days they will be opened when they do open again. She said they do not get enough traffic to have a set schedule. The Mayor said when we have a big event like the Spring Festival, it would be nice to see it open. Member SM said on events like that, there might be a high school student that needs some volunteer hours or a project they could be in there. The Mayor said he had sat in the Tucker Building after cleaning and just soaked up the feeling of being in a different era. The atmosphere takes you back to a different time. Really enjoyable experience especially with really old-time music playing! Kim will make sure somebody is there during the Spring Festival.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (*) **Clerk Report-** Bonnie advised that everything on her report had already been addressed in the meeting.

- (*) **Treasurers Report-** Submitted

The Mayor had one item he wanted to present to Council before adjournment. The idea of a walkway along Middlefork road had been mentioned to him. He would like to have a serious discussion regarding this, at some point. Personally, the Mayor would like to see one, but he is here to do what the community would like. The question was asked where this would be located. He was thinking on the North side of the Middlefork, running from The Shame towards the city center and past the houses. There is a culvert there that never floods that does not need drainage. His neighbor Ty, himself and the Fords that have a long frontage, would like to see a walkway there. He would just like to get the wheels turning with ideas. It was mentioned that this is County property. Questions: could the City help financially, should we, these are things that Council could discuss. This was listed on the LOT as one project to look at. There are property owners that would like to see a walkway. Kim said in the summer people are walking on the side of the road which is not safe. We would need visual signs of people walking and speed and this may make it safer. Because some pedestrians walk out in the road which is not safe. The Mayor would

be

willing to head some community group, get with the County, look at LOT funds potentially to help with. The Mayor would like to speak to the County people and ask financially and if it could be a possibility. Member SM said if they are going to redo the road it would be a perfect opportunity for this. The idea was a walkway from Starlight to Wild Bill's. Eventually we could consider a phase that takes it out to Banks-Lowman or to the Senior Center. County is the best place to start to see what would be involved. Member PC had a question regarding the Boise County Deputies. He had spoken to Sheriff Turner to see if we could get more patrols here. He said it sounds like they got a special permit for the 4th of July. Is there any way we could get that extended for year-round. It is extra money so they can afford to police here. The City has not given them money for 3 years. Member PC said as to enforce our Ordinances. The Mayor said he did not see what prevents them from doing that. He approached them and they said they cannot enforce our City Codes except for July

4th.

It was said that they can enforce them, the law is the law. Member PC had been On some Fire Code parking issues, he has authority to enforce these, but the Deputies said they cannot enforce City Codes because they do not have permission. Traffic issues they can enforce but City Codes they said they cannot. Steve Raddigan said that the Fire Code is not a City Code. Member PC said he can issue tickets but the ticket portion of his enforcement, they do not have authority to enforce that. The

Mayor

asked Member PC if he could speak to their attorney. Geoff said they have authority to enforce the general laws inside or outside the city. General laws are standard laws. Fire code violations are State Code violations. Member PC can enforce those and he can. They can enforce State codes and do not require permission from the city. The Sheriff has expressed year after year that we have not had a contract with them. The Chief Cleaveland and Steve mention an important point. It might be useful to get into a year-round contract with the Sheriff's Office that gives them the ability to patrol here more often and do some of our Code violations they may or may not want to. If we have a Code violation, Geoff can file a charge against them in Boise County and prosecute the case. What Sheriff Turner expressed to Geoff a couple of years ago it was more of a case of manpower. If we could get a reserve deputy that lives here to come on, this is what some of the smaller counties do. Geoff and the Mayor could sit down with Sheriff Turner to see if he is back up with enough manpower to help. It would make the Fire Chief's job easier to be able to tell the Deputy that he has the authority to enforce to write those. The 4th of July just keeps our chaos under control and keeps us off the internet (laughter). Rumor has it that there may be some firework activity in the center of Crouch, not substantiated though. We may need some public education on this issue prior to the 4th of July. Geoff said now would be a good time to get something in place. Sounds like we have the funds to do this because we certainly, do not want to have our own police department. We can appoint somebody to be a Code Enforcement official, they have the ability to write citations whether or not they have been to POST. We could appoint multiple people for this. The Chief law enforcement officer is sitting at the table right now (Mayor) by statute. Geoff and the Mayor and will get with Sheriff Turner and Alex, Geoff will set this up. Member MH said they do an Awesome job on the 4th of July!

- **Adjournment- 7:21PM**

Next Regular Council Meeting is April 9th, 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
