

CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

April 9, 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
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-by phone if needed

Open Regular Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

• **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Public Hearing/Regular Meeting of March 12th, 2025
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda-Member **SM** made the Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Member **MH** second the Motion, All Yes. Passed

• **Municipal Water System**

- (*) A. Watermaster Report-All tests have come back clear. We did receive a complaint from Garden Valley Smiles that their water smells bad. Tracy Raddigan smelled it and said it smelled a little dirty, like river water although it was clear. The Mayor said maybe they need to flush it. Steve Raddigan said that we don't know because the fire dept did pull water out for the fire. It's possible that the water was stirred up except that they were the only ones to complain. There's not a lot we can do. Bonnie did give them George Simpson's number. Mayor said to contact them next week and see if it has gotten better.
- (*) B. In depth Discussion on water rates- Homework for Council was to go over the water rate paperwork. There were 6 options and 3 were nixed. Steve Raddigan said that Council could certainly have a discussion but can't really come to a decision until it is determined how much a new Watermaster will charge for services. If some company comes along and says they will do it for \$1500 a month, that will change the rates. Member MH said but every month that goes by we're shooting ourselves in the foot by not raising the rates. Steve said that's true. Council could pass the rate increase and change it later when it's known how much a new Watermaster will be. Member MH said in his opinion we should go ahead and raise the rate and then go back and figure out the other little details. Mayor asked about Tyler Parrish for a Watermaster. Bonnie had spoken to him and he had advised me to check out the DEQ website. She did call him

today and left a LM. Member MH said that he had spoken to Terry Tucker and everyone up here is after him to do it and he hasn't decided to take it on. Mayor said the last problem was that neither George nor Terry wanted to sign a contract. We owe the citizens here a paper trail and it would be good to get a quarterly report forwarding the water tests to us, and documenting that they are doing that, checking out things so we know that things are going well. We then put out an ad for a New Watermaster, that's when Terry Tucker resigned because we asked him to do a little bit more. Member MH said he has never seen George at a Council Meeting nor has he seen any paperwork. Then we put out an ad per Geoff and George was the only person who responded. Member MH said he has spoken to Terry about invoices. The Mayor said we could work up something very simple for Terry like a cheat sheet. Steve said we would need to know what Terry's inspections would look like first. We needed an inventory sheet of what was at the well house that we wanted Terry to do. Tim Fritzley gave us a list of what equipment was there, not inventory that comes and goes. We just need a paper trail for testing etc. The Mayor asked Council if they had any discussion about rates or wait until we get a Watermaster. Member MH said he would like to set them today, \$76 to get this started. There were two plans that started at this rate because we have variables at the end yet. Council also needs to decide on the four businesses that aren't paying as of now and change the EDUs that are being underbilled. Member TW asked why we bought meters. Member MH said we never bought the meters. We went ahead with the extra pump, mixer and fencing instead. The power pole hasn't been installed, waiting for the ground to dry up a little. Back to rates, Member MH suggested the \$76 per EDU. Need to check the business that by the Water Ordinance, they should be paying for two EDU's not one. That would be the Mud Room and Garden Valley Smiles. Member MH said he thinks they should only be billed for one, in his opinion. Member TW asked how it is billed per toilet? He is billed per toilet. Mayor said it is billed per type of business. Steve said it is not per toilet. Member TW said he doesn't even use the other toilet. Member PC said the Mud Room and Garden Valley Smiles use a lot of water during the day. Mayor said to look at alternative two & three. Achieve Physical Therapy does not pay anything. Garden Valley Homes & Land doesn't pay. Balance Massage Therapy and Spa Life and Miracles Mama's are not paying either. Mayor asked why some are charged for two. Steve said it is due to our Water Ordinance. Plans two & three would incorporate these businesses into the rates. If Council is uncomfortable with charging the Mud Room and Garden Valley Smiles for two EDU's, Steve R. said the Water Ordinance would have to be amended per the square foot of the business. Council seems to be ok with billing the (4) businesses that are not paying currently: Achieve Physical Therapy, Garden Valley Homes & Land, Miracle Mama's and Balance Massage & Spa Life are together. The question is: should the Mud Room and Garden Valley Smiles be charged for two or should the Ordinance be changed. Member PC said he would go with the nature of the business, they are using water and per the Ordinance they should be billed for two. Member MH already expressed his opinion. Member TW said they should all be charged accordingly. That leaves us with alternates 2 & 3. Flag the above businesses, some are getting an extra EDU and some will just be being invoiced for the first time. Looking at the alternatives we now have: Alternatives #2 \$55, #4 \$51 & #6 \$48. This is all inclusive which means Garden Valley Smiles will pay for 2 EDU's, Mud Room will pay for 2 EDU's, Achieve Physical Therapy and Garden Valley Homes and Land will both pay for 1 EDU. Member TW said that Eagle water is \$45 on average. Steve R. said they have a much larger customer base than we do. Member MH said that Horseshoe Bend's is \$76.78. Steve R. said he would recommend the 5-year plan to pay down the outstanding debt to the General Fund

sooner. When that is paid the Water Fund can start building up around \$6000 annually for any problems that may arise. The first rate increases the city did was from \$25 to \$40 which was 60%. In 2015 it was \$25 and in 2021 it went to \$40. Member SM said the 7-year plan was a more reasonable route, which going from \$40 to \$55 may be a shock to customers. She said that staying under \$50 makes people feel better. Member TW asked if he would be paying \$55 X 2: yes. We would not have reserves for 2 years between the 5- and 7-year plan, when we could get approx. \$12,000 in those 2 years. If something should happen, we would have money to work with. Mayor also advised if we had to get a loan on anything such as major repairs, these amounts would skyrocket. Member MH recommends table 2. Member TW said from a business perspective 5 years sounds better to get out of debt. As a consumer, \$48 of course sounds better. Member TW said looking at the city and not personal, he will go with table 2 since this will help the city. Member TW asked if the customers would be notified before this is implemented. That was the purpose of the Public Hearing. Member TW asked when that Public Hearing was held. Consensus was a couple of months ago. Member MH said we had people come up and present charts and information so this has been ongoing for a while and \$55 is very reasonable. The Water has never been soluble and breaking even would be great. Mayor asked for a Motion to set the water rate to \$55.37 and apply the Water Ordinance as written. **Member MH** made the Motion to set the water rate to \$55.37 and apply the Water Ordinance as written. **Member PC** Second the Motion. **All:** Yes. Motion Passed. This will take affect June 1, 2025. Member TW brought up the fire hydrant by The Mud Room. This hydrant is around 6" off the ground and it is hidden in the Winter by snow. You cannot get a wrench to go around it, is this up to code? With the recent fire, this is important. Member PC, our Fire Chief, said there are lots of issues he is working with currently in Crouch. Member TW said if he had a fire that is the one he would want to use and if it's wintertime, they won't get to it. Steve R said that if there were to be a fire at Tom's they would probably another hydrant due to the heat from a fire. Member PC said that using that one is case of such fire, using it would cut off access to the parking lot there.

- **New Business**

- (*) Sign Ordinance Amendments- Council has not received the current Ordinance with the new updates from Geoff yet. There was talk of lumens so we ordered a lumens device that will measure them. Steve R. is going to contact the property owners and give them the lumens meter so they can collect current lumens. This would need to be gaged during a full moon, complete darkness, with outside lights on and off and from different distances. Different things to be factored in. The owners have been shutting off their sign when they close so there have been no issues. Council will have to set a lumens number that will suffice. Since the lumens have not been determined, it cannot be set in the new Ordinance as of yet. Council will set a maximum number for the Ordinance when they get the numbers from The Dirty Shame owners. Member SM said she would be more comfortable with a Council member taking the reading of lumens. The Mayor said he will do it since he is close by. Steve R. gave the meter to the Mayor. Council will table this until next month's meeting. Bonnie mentioned to the Mayor about temporary signs. If we had just had a Council meeting and someone should come in wanting a temporary sign, they would have to wait a month for Council's approval. So, could we add to the Ordinance that the Mayor can approve the temporary signs? The regular signs are a Council vote.
- (*) Community Walkway in Crouch discussion- The Mayor had been speaking with people around Crouch about a community walkway. Someone had told him that there is an iron frame that can be used so that any snow and debris will fall down through it. The

Mayor was wondering if it could be suspended over the culver and keep it like a drain . Imagine like a metal plate with holes cut in it. Of course, it would have to be leveled and it could be plowed over in the Winter. He is looking into the cost of this and also getting a hold of County about permission because they have an easement along the side of Middlefork. Member SM suggested a culver with dirt filled in. Mayor said he is just looking for effective and inexpensive ideas. He has just noticed people walking to the Shame and Starlight and the weather is getting nicer now so there will be more foot traffic. There needs to be more walking room and not walking in the street. There is a lot of interest in this from the comments the Mayor has received. Starting from Garden Valley Properties to just past the creek by his property and to the Shame's parking lot , which is nice. So, for now, just creating a nice little walkway. Member TW said to be able to connect it to Starlight would be good due to the number of people that attend Starlight and now the Artisan Market. The Mayor is going to get some like-minded people from the community with their ideas and just put together suggestions. The Mayor would like to get with the County and see how they were able to get the paved walkway along Banks Lowman Rd. If any grants are available. Kim Bosse said personally she is not for sidewalks in this community but this is a traffic hazard with people in the road and to not having a safe place to walk on. Especially at nighttime, you can't see them. This is just getting started and the Mayor does appreciate all input.

- (*) Standard Layout Map for Large gathering- We need to get the map from Jennifer at the Merc. Member PC said that one would be perfect for the vendors, with just a couple of tweaks. Steve R. said we need to get it all on one map not the three we have. Add to next month's Agenda. Member PC said he was thinking about staffing an EMS station at these large events. Trying to get fire trucks there would be difficult. They do have a Ranger that would be better to get in there if needed. He would have to recuse himself but he just wanted to put this out there to Council to perhaps pay for two EMS personnel to staff these events. Mayor asked what that might cost. Member PC said about \$200. Kim Bosse suggested passing that on to the vendors. Steve R. said there is no mechanism to pass this cost onto the vendors. We only collect for vendor permits. Kim suggested increasing the cost of vendor permits. We would have to amend the Ordinance. The Mayor said if it's only a few times a year that would be a good idea and show the community that we care. Member TW asked if the vendor permits are good for the whole year or just per event. Business licenses are good for a year and as of right now vendor permits are a source of confusion and that needs to be looked at. The Ordinance needs to be redone. We would need to have a Public Hearing to change the Ordinance. Contact Geoff about this. The Ordinance needs to be cleaned up and fees need to be raised for vendor permits and Business licenses. For vendor permits, does the City want them per event or for all year round? Member TW said that Terrace Lakes charges \$175. That is for a booth and the special permit though. The city isn't putting on the event but they supply the space. A Business license is different than a vendor permit. Tracy Raddigan said a Business license is for someone doing business on a regular basis. A vendor permit is typically issued for a specific event. The Mayor said it makes sense to charge more for a Business license and less for the vendor permit. Get input from Geoff.
- (*) Sign Permit Approval for the Artisan Market- Nancy Blanchard wanted to get a permit for temporary signs for the Artisan Market. Mayor asked for a Motion for the temporary sign permit for the Artisan Market. Member SM made the Motion to approve the temporary signs for the Artisan Market. Member MH Second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed. Mayor signed it.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Nothing this time.
- (*) Renting Community Hall backroom update- Member SM suggested \$600 a month. Nichole tried to clean the carpet after the play they had there. Mayor asked for a Motion to reduce the rent for the backroom from \$700 to \$600. **Member SM** made the Motion to reduce the rent to \$600. **Member: PC** Second the Motion. **All:** Yes, Motion Passed. Steve R. said that maybe if someone was interested in renting the room we could tell them the carpet will be replaced. Nichole told the Mayor that she thinks there may be hardwood under the carpet. Get someone to look at this.
- **Scheduled Delegations**
 - (*) Road Committee Report- The Mayor signed a letter to Mr. Broughton for filling in our potholes.
 - (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim brought a special guest with her. They are working on a logo for their web page. They will have a new guest sign in page and lots of information and a space for them to say where they are from and how they heard about them. The board is working on new forms for donations for display. They are still working on signing an agreement with the Historical Society. They will contact Geoff to see if they need a witness to the signing of that. Items on loan are only supposed to be there for 6 months and 30 days after that they can be considered property of the city. They do have a notification process they use, phone calls or written letters and the forms on this are very clear. Obviously, they do not want to take their property so notifications will definitely be used. If they want to leave it for longer, they can renew the contract with a new application. This will help keep track of people as well. There are things in the Museum that shouldn't be in there, are items for sale and that's not what it's for. They are trying to be better organized and be able to help people. They are working on a spreadsheet with every item and who it belongs to, if it was donated or just on loan. Bill Baker has made it so that each item on the spreadsheet will have a picture of it. The Crouch Museum sign hanging on City Hall, Kim would like to move it to the eave of the Tucker Building, if Council has no objection. This would let people know what that building is. Kim said they just need the manpower to move it. Sandra said she could do it but it will require two people. Member TW said he has access to a bucket truck so that will be great. Kim introduced Kyle Willet (sp?). He is a Junior at GVHS taking advanced classes. He is working on his Senior project and would like to do something large. He is currently working on something on a State and local level. He would like to put a statue of James Castle in what he referred to as James Castle park right behind City Hall. This park has become the center of our town. He just needs some specific information. He is aware that the property is owned by four different entities so placement would have to be established, size of the statue, design of it as in life size, which would be an option. With that though comes a cost. Kyle brought a picture of James Castle which he thought would be a good model for it. It would be on a pedestal of concrete. Material to be used is undetermined. Kyle has been researching and reaching out to different places but all the answers he has gotten are vague on cost. He said possibly around \$10,000 plus. Bronze would be a good plating for it because it would be outside and needs to be durable. It would take 8-14 weeks, minimum. Kyle said there is a plague for James Castle but he feels he deserves more than that being who he was. Mr. Castle's artwork has been all over the world. The Mayor said he will make a letter of recommendation for Kyle and asked what else could we help with. Kyle said he would have to raise the funds for this. Member TW said could it be scaled back to just a bust of him. Kyle said that has thought of that because the bigger you go the more expense involved. The Mayor asked how solid is the \$10,000.

Kyle could not solidify that. There are many factors that would affect the cost. Kyle would love to do some fund raising with all the events coming up. He is trying to get this idea out there. He would need to have these things before starting to fund raise: basic size, material and time frame to narrow down the costs. His intent on coming to Council to see if they would be interested in moving forward. He has been trying to get James Castle in statuary hall in Washington DC. Each state has two representative statues. Ours are currently William Edgar Borah and George Lake Shoup. That project will take a couple of years. Member TW said there are grants available, he is working on a pretty big project in Stanley, so there are grants available. He may be able to get his full statue with the help of grants. Kyle said he would love to be pointed in that direction. He just wanted his Senior project to benefit this community since he was raised here and wants to give something back. The Mayor said he will speak to Kyle personally regarding his project. He said he is one of the most upstanding young people in our community, not just intellectually but so is his heart. The Mayor said this project is the most selfless project he has seen and also the most ambitious. The Mayor said if there is something he will do personally, he's offering it. Getting some solid numbers would be great. Personally, if it was \$10,000 for a life size, he would push Kyle to go for it. Do whatever you need to get the funds. Life size statues capture the image of the person like nothing else can. Member TW said he has a chainsaw and wood too! Kyle said he will do more research; he has done as much as he can so far. He will be in contact with us. Steve R. said the City may want to consider having it placed on City property. We will need to identify the pins for City property to see where it could be placed for insurance and risk to the City. Member TW said he will do all that he can to help as well.

- (*) Optavise Benefit Advisers AIC- They came in early and spoke to members of the Council, handing out information to them.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (*) Mike Uhl would like to borrow six tables from Community Hall. Council had questions: how long did he need them and where. Bonnie did not know. Member TW said they had some the other day at Payette Forward. Typically, the City does not loan things from Community Hall. Maybe once a few chairs but they had rented the hall. If we should choose that road to lend chairs and tables, we would need to figure out a rental fee and deposit.

- (*) **Sign Permit application:** New signs for Mountain America- This is a backlit sign so the sign is lighted from behind it. There would be some light projecting out. Looks like the eagle's face will have the light coming through it. Member SM said to give them the sign. It's mostly black, a little red and the eagle's face for the light to shine

through.

Makes it easier for people to see the bank at night and it's in a commercial area. There was discussion about how bright the light may be. Member SM said if we are going to check the lumens on this one then we need to check every business in Crouch.

Member SM said we have never had an issue with lumens until now, now it's an Issues! We need to get a lumens number and follow that. This sign permit meets the current requirements. The Mayor called Geoff to get advice on this issue. Mayor asked for a Motion to approve the sign permit. **Member SM** made the Motion to approve the Sign Permit Application for Mountain America. **Member PC** Second the Motion. **All:** Yes, Motion Passed.

- (*) **Clerk Report-** Still getting bids for Community Hall floor. Thanks to Steve R for hauling away the trash from the play at Community Hall. We have received 4 Festival. Specific Vendor Permits and 4 are LOT businesses.

- (*) Treasurers Report- Submitted
- Adjournment: 8:04PM

Next Regular Council Meeting is May 14th, 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