

# CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

May 14, 2025

6:30 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-by phone if needed

### Open Regular Council Meeting 6:35PM

Pledge of Allegiance

### Open Public Hearing-Raising Water Rates 6:36PM

Hear testimony

**Close Public Hearing 6:38PM-** Mayor opened the Public Hearing for raising the water rates. Mayor asked for anyone in attendance for opinions on raising the water rates. Kim Bosse asked what Council decided on. This will depend on what Council hears tonight, we do have a few options that have been discussed in prior meetings. Kim had spoken to people who own property elsewhere, Eagle & Meridian and what she is hearing is that Council is trying to keep it low, which is good but this isn't making any money. She understands from what is said that we are not breaking even. Mayor said they are trying to be more fiscally responsible. Her opinion is that they need to break even. Have to rip the bandage off at some point, rather than the City carrying the load for the water. One person asked if this is only for the City of Crouch, yes. We have a very small water system with 12 hook-ups, mostly businesses. The goal is to make it break even and there is a loan we have on the system and we're trying to get that paid off. Mayor closed the Public Hearing regarding the Water Rates.

### • **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of April 9th, 2025
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (\*) Approve Consent Agenda- Member MH made the Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Member PC Second the Motion, All- Yes, Motion Passed.

### • **Municipal Water System**

- (\*) A. Watermaster Report- We have two applicants for future Watermaster. The Mayor met with JD, Terry Tuckers eldest son. He is a pleasant young man. They spoke about making a check list of things that would be checked so that we would receive a report on the water

system. This would show the work he is providing and to make us more transparent. This would allow us to know that the system is running well. JD's fee would be \$330 a month and additional work outside of the scope of the contract would be billed at \$50 an hour. The other application is for Tyler Parish is \$375 a month, emergency unscheduled work is \$250 and any additional work outside of the contract would be billed at \$85 an hour. Mayor advised that we have had George Simpson come out a couple times with very little notice to look at the water system. That would have incurred a lot more on the financials depending on the person we would have under contract. JD would have charged \$50 an hour whereas Tyler would have been \$250 for an emergency trip. This is not a common occurrence, but it has happened. Member MH said it's a no brainer. One is more than the other and we do not know Tyler Parish or where he is from. Cinter Waterworks is less expensive. Member TW said not that they are less expensive but Cinter is local and has more knowledge of our system because he was our Watermaster before. JD made the effort to come in and answer any questions the Mayor had and was willing to create a check list system for Council. We do receive our water tests results from Analytical Labs but we do not get any other information on routine well or water checks from George Simpson. Member MH said he has never seen George for as long as he has been on Council. The Mayor said that we don't necessarily need him to come to all meetings but if we have a report from him, Council can keep up on what's going on with our water. Jen from the Merc Store asked if he was a member of the Chamber. Council did not know. Member MH said that one of the reasons that the Municipal Water System is on the Agenda is so that the Watermaster didn't have to sit through the whole Council Meeting. Clerk said the mixer will be installed next week, either Thursday or Friday. JD also said that with the mixer, the water will be much less stagnant and the water level can stay at 75-80% capacity. The tank is 135,000 gallons. This would allow for more fire protection, especially through Fall fire time and even in the Winter. Member PC said probably more in the Winter because they have the river for other times of the year. The mixer will also keep the water from freezing. Member PC said JD would also have some institutional knowledge regarding our system that we would lose. Jeff Baum interjected on our hydrants; do we have a process or procedure to exercise our valves and hydrants quarterly or have an inspection process we apply. Member PC said they exercise them, probably not as much as we should, but they do. Just for operational and they will flush them. Steve Raddigan asked if it will be a requirement to flush them out annually, this will expose us to washouts unless you use a diffuser. The city doesn't have them; the city can't even close them if one was knocked off because we do not have the tools for that. Steve asked who is going to be responsible for flushing the hydrants, our guy? The Mayor said he supposes it would be. Member PC said he is ultimately responsible to make sure they get done because he is Fire Chief, but if our guy wants to do it and it would be done annually, he would be totally fine with that. We have no hydrant records. Washing out the roads in this community would be a big thing because it's not asphalt. Mayor asked if we should look at getting a diffuser and tools. We need to be able to shut the valves down because if we had to call the Watermaster to come do it, that could take some time if he wasn't in the area. Jeff will give us a diffuser with a reducer. Could put a PITOT on it to measure volume and PSI. Member PC said it probably wouldn't hurt to put one on there just to have those numbers for when they do ISO ratings. It could measure the PSI for going up hills or down. Steve Raddigan said once a Watermaster is approved, he will get with him to get the size of the valve. Mayor asked if Council had an idea for who we would prefer as a Watermaster. Member MH made a Motion for Cinter to be our Watermaster. Member PC Second the Motion All: Yes. Motion passed.

- (\*) B. Discussion/Decision on Public Hearing for Water Rate Increase- Mayor said with the Motion passing for Cinter Waterworks to be the Watermaster, we now need to choose a monthly water rate based on them. It had been discussed from \$40 to \$55 in

the prior meeting. Now it is decided that \$60 a month will be necessary. The Mayor asked for a Motion. Member MH made a Motion to raise the water rate from \$40 to \$60 a month per EDU and apply the Water Ordinance as written, effective July 1, 2025. Member TW Second the Motion. Roll call: TW-Yes PC-Yes MH-Yes Motion Passed.

- (\*) C. City needs access to all well house facilities including electrical panels- The City needs to have access to all electrical panels, key codes, door codes (locks), hydrants and valves, which was discussed a little bit. The Mayor asked if we do not have access to all those things. Steve R. said when he went to deliver the pump to the wellhouse, he could not get in because the key lock system requires a thumb or a key. Mayor asked if we are that digital in the City of Crouch already! Yes! George did change the battery so we do have the code to that but we don't have the key in case the battery dies. When Steve R was out there, he noticed the electrical panel on the wall has a padlock on it but we do not have the key to it. Steve said he called George and George said he replaced the battery so now we can get in but as far as keys to the electrical box, no keys. Mayor suggested getting a hold of Terry Tucker, he may have them. We may have to purchase new locks. We will have to borrow bolt cutters from Marcia's. Mayor gave Steve permission to do what he has to do to retain access to the building and anything inside.

- **New Business**

- (\*) EMT Compensation for Large events- Council needs to cover what events we may need them at, who would be responsible for paying them. At the last meeting the cost was \$200 for 2 EMT's to be available per day. The Mayor said personally he felt the city could do something to help; we do have the LOT fund available. The EMT's would provide us with a safety net for events in case we should need them. Member TW asked what is considered a large event. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Spring Festival, Fall Festival, maybe one or two others. We could probably use EMT's for the 4<sup>th</sup> on a Friday and Saturday this year. Jen from the Merc said they are having an event with vendors and food trucks since it will be a Holiday weekend. Chief Cleaveland gave us the estimate for the EMT's, maybe have a booth set up possibly, or just be around. Chief Cleaveland said they would be assigned just to the event so it would not affect his staff. They would be there from the time the event started until it ended. All medical necessities would be available and they would be able to get them out to the ambulance so as not to affect traffic. They would have a better handle to get help to anyone who may need medical services. Mayor asked Council if this were something they would want to do and on what days. Kim asked if the City is sponsoring all these events. No not necessarily. Jen said the Chamber is. Kim asked then why is the City responsible for providing this service. Shouldn't it go to the vendor, whoever is putting on the event? This could snowball to other events by asking the city to provide this service for them, weddings etc. The way the Chief sees it, which could be interpreted differently, is the Chamber is responsible for reporting to the City Council on things that take place within the District. Then it's up to the Fire Dept and local services to provide a safe environment for those people. Member TW said the Spring and Fall Festivals are sponsored by the Chamber and they charge fees. We are the ones that approve or disapprove of these events to take place. It falls upon us to provide a safe environment for all the extra people. The Mayor said if we were to approve it, we could stipulate that they organize the EMT's for it. They will be bringing something to the table as in LOT funds and extras for the businesses here. Chief Cleaveland said the other option is not to approve the EMT's and if they are needed, they may have to wait for help to get here because he only has so many people on duty. They could be way out on a call and it takes time to get help here. Kim said it's not that we're saying that the City shouldn't make someone available, it's just that the City shouldn't be paying for it. Member MH said the Fire Dept used to

come down as a fund raiser, they never asked for any money. People gave donations to them. Member MH said he is on the fence about paying a Taxing District money, he sees that as one issue although he does like the idea of having EMT's here on the same token, how much are they actually needed. Since we don't have fireworks in the City anymore for bad accidents to happen, we may not need them posted here.

- (\*) Discussion on Crouch's support for 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Fall Festival Chief Cleaveland said the insurance and cost of running the ambulances and staffing, is increasingly tougher for him to do. Their budget is tight. Jen said the Chamber is sponsoring it and they are charging the vendors a fee in order to bring people here for a stay and play weekend which feeds the LOT tax. So, if they don't have events, people don't come and stay, nobody pays the tax and the city doesn't make any money. We are off the charts on vendor payments that the city requires and that is revenue for the city. So, yes, The Chamber sponsors it but they can't pay for everything. Member MH said from the Fall Festival, we never got our money back that we gave the Chamber. A lot of people did not pay and there wasn't any alcohol money. It's one thing to donate money that you've pulled in but you've made a profit, but we didn't make a profit. Here we are subleasing a building and the street for this event but we did not make a profit. Jen said she did not know what money Member MH was talking about. She said there was \$100 entry fee for the lightening event. Member MH was talking about the money for the dumpsters and porta potties. We paid \$750. It's ok to give some money back but we were hoping that we would turn a profit as well. Member MH said he knows you're doing it for the businesses, which there are three businesses up here and he is wearing a City hat right. Jen said the Merc paid for the Fall Festival out of their pocket. Member MH said we spent the \$750 and he was for that because they were starting that up, and he did not want to see it fail. As far as the 4<sup>th</sup> goes, the City has always sponsored that, that's a nation-wide deal. He is with Member TW, whatever we spent before we should spend again. The Mayor asked for caution that we don't go down the path of always looking to get what we gave either. We all moved here for whatever reason and we like what we have here and we don't want to see those go. If we have to pony up a little here and there, it's worth it. The Mayor and his family love the Spring and Fall festivals. He realizes that he doesn't personally foot the bill here, he is an unpaid person like we all are. If we could do any kind of a gesture, maybe if it's only for the 4<sup>th</sup>, a couple of days for the EMT's, he is with them there for sure, dumpsters and what not for other things too. We just shouldn't be looking to get back what we are giving, it should be close, but we do not want to see these things stop. Member MH had one more comment. When he and Marcia put on the dances at Community Hall, it cost them between \$250-\$700 and not once did she ask for money, nor did the City offer to give anything back. It was done to pull the community together. Member MH said by Jen doing that on their own and pulling that off, he commends them! Comment from Jeff Baum said but the City lost." The community at large lost. Member MH is a Chamber member as well, and if he was sitting out there, he may have a different point of view. Right now, he has a City hat on. Jen said that in two months the Chamber has raised \$15,000 for fireworks that they are paying for. The Mayor said there's no doubt that they're doing a tremendous job! As we move forward with caution, we don't want to lose activities. Member TW said some are political and some are committee sponsored events. The Mayor said it's hard to quantify when we have an event what we do or don't gain, it's very hard to do. We can look at LOT numbers, but ours is not the same as other cities. Other places have 1% on everything, our is 2% on prepared food and liquor by the drink and 3% on short-term rentals. When the LOT was discussed the 1% was an option but we were not trying to hit fixed income people. Cascade, Donnelly and McCall do but do not, that did not sit

right with the Mayor. We will only capture LOT in a certain way. We cannot always expect to get what we put in. It's not a bad thing to look for that because we do want to be fiscally responsible. Sometimes giving a little extra than what you get can be a nice gesture. Member MH said as a business owner, if he was putting on an event, he would not expect anyone else to pay his bills for it, water, garbage etc., he's going to pay for it. If he is going to patch a hole in the street, he is going to pay for it. Member TW said with due respect, it's fine that some people want people to come to town and some don't. We're looking at all the infrastructure of Crouch. As MH said about a tax base and we're paying cash and taxes, the City is getting hit twice now. Jennifer Schmidt said that she will anticipate that the 2% will be generating more revenue this year because she and Samantha have spent hundreds of hours working in that. Dr Ballou, on the EMT issue, he has been a volunteer. They did a fund raiser at Terrace in the morning at the golf course, then the last couple of years they have had a BBQ fund raiser at the Fire Station. It's a busy time and you never know what you're going to get. The most dangerous thing was the fireworks; it is controlled now. In his opinion, he does not see why we need to have people at the ready, considering that hardly anything has happened in the past. Also considering that less than a mile away, most of the police officers, EMT's and the firemen will be gathering for their BBQ for the 4<sup>th</sup>. So, we are in pretty good shape for that, the busiest event we have here. Member PC said he cannot predict how many people will come to that BBQ. He had only brought up the idea of having EMT's for the best coverage and for public safety. Services would not be denied anyway. The Mayor said he would donate personal money for this, Member TW said he would donate a bear they could auction off to have them there for a day as well. Member MH said to set up a booth and put out a donation bucket and just see how much it brings for the weekend and get back to us on it. Member PC said he was just trying to create a slightly safer environment for the community, making sure they had help there in case they were needed. Holly Stroebel commented to the Mayor that he had mentioned that our costs were lower this year than previous years because of the Chamber and what they are asking for. The City paid \$600-\$700 last year for the 4<sup>th</sup>. This year they are asking for \$500 for the 4<sup>th</sup> and \$500 for the next one (Fall Festival) so now we are at \$1000. Steve Raddigan, speaking as the treasurer, what is happening here is that agencies are, The Chamber, are wanting to do events and coming to the City to help fund those. That's why we agreed to take care of the dumpsters and porta potties because those were issues that were impacting on the City itself and we agreed to that. Now they want to have another event and have the City pay for that. (Jennifer said they'll just pay for it) This is a Council decision, but when will it stop? How many other organizations can come and ask for the same thing? Could the school or some other organization come and have an event and have us fund their stuff? On the issue of the Fire Dept, that is a separate taxing district. They are the one for providing public safety, medical and fire. Sometimes this City forgets that it is only responsible for certain things. The Fire Dept is not part of the City, the City is within the District. If the Fire Dept wants to attend the event, that's on them. If the City Council wants to help fund them, that's on you, but the City's not responsible for putting EMT's in the event. The Fire Dept decides if they want to fund it and pay for it themselves or not. Do they need to be at the event or just down the street or just work it as normal. Kim Bosse's other concern was liability we may incur by funding these events. Jennifer said we are not funding the event, just a portion of the event. Kim said if you're putting any money into it, you are funding it. Steve Raddigan said that is why we have invoices. Kim said people walking around could sue the City, and what about the people who come to us and we refuse? How are we going to figure out where to cut funding for events? Member PC said a

hypothetical situation: you have somebody who has 5000-8000 people down there. That's going to overwhelm the Fire Dept's resources. We're not going to put in and supplement the Fire Dept because they have a small budget a very minimal staff to protect the entire district with. He just brought this to kind of like an insurance policy with a medical staff on hand dedicated to that many people. Kim said it's not a bad idea, now if the City wants to donate to it. Steve said no, we're not going to donate. Kim not to be paying for these events run by others. Member PC said we have these different commerce's but they all operate independently, we don't have oversight or responsibility, just saying. Steve Raddigan said they do have the oversight and what you do I tell them if they want to have this event here are the requirements that you need to provide to us. The City of Crouch does not have a mass gathering permit. Boise County does, however. Jennifer said the Chamber has insurance to cover all of these events. Steve said that the information for events needs to be gathered before all these events, so everyone knows the rules before the event. That's how the Fire Dept has its oversight. Steve said we are doing this one event at a time. Not ahead of time. Jennifer said if he came to the Chamber meetings, he would know what's going on. The Mayor said he did miss the last meeting. Member PC said maybe in the future when we do these events, this is rolled into how many people will be attending, he as Fire Chief looks at it and says, yes, we will need x,y,z for this many people. The organizer of the event can absorb some of the costs for all the additional resources that maybe required because they will be stealing resources from the people who live here. The City should be listed on the insurance for these events. If there is an additional cost to add them it is paid by the event organizer. Member MH asked if the dumpster guy is a member of the Chamber. Yes, and he did give them a break on costs because last time they over did on the dumpster size so that added to the costs. Jennifer said they are alternating between Bisby and Miller because they are both members of the Chamber and they each donate a dumpster and cardboard trash cans. Member MH said the issue with porta potties each year, so he asked the Mayor what would it cost to put in a public toilet? Maybe look into a grant for adding a permanent one. The City does supply one porta potty year-round. Every business owner knows that people always ask to use the business bathrooms. Steve Raddigan said on the issue of us attending the Chamber meetings, the City should not have to attend the Chamber meetings to know what is going to be expected of the City. The Chamber should come to the City and say this is what we would like to do. We shouldn't have to go and see what they want to do. The Mayor said they did have some presentations he was invited to and couldn't make it. The information feeds into the City, the City shouldn't have to go chase it down. Dr Ballou said he would donate his office to the Fire Dept to use this year for the 4<sup>th</sup>. It is air conditioned and will be cool, and that way if something comes up, they're ready to go. Member PC said they will be having a booth set up. They could set it up in front of his office and be comfortable. Thank you! The Mayor said he wants to be a little careful. When we had the Hemlock scare, the Mayor put it on Facebook. A gentleman commented that he would just go in there and pull the Hemlock out. Mayor replied, snidely, 'it sounds like you're volunteering'. He just wants to be careful when it comes to looking at what we gave as to what we get and it doesn't seem to reciprocate, he understands that, he wants to be fiscally responsible. If we shirk and avoid duties or going a little bit extra doing certain things. If we start doing that, then we lose these special events and entertainment for the kids. Then what do they turn to. As a former counselor to youth, he has seen what happens when kids have nothing to look forward to, sports and wholesome friends and whatever else. He just wants to be cautious, while we do have our responsibilities and our lane as a City, if there is something we can do

that is a little extra I think it's our duty to try as best we think we can. Set an example for others, like Dr Ballou is setting he doesn't need to but he is going to. Doing just a little bit extra. The Mayor does see all these very good points, not saying one is right or one is wrong. He is bearing a word of caution to try to preserve what we have built and help with what's being added, whether it's the Spring or Fall Festivals and other Wonderful little things or big things. Let's make sure that we are not losing out on the dances that Marcia used to organize. When bridges are burned with people then these things are gone. Those are great memories and now they are gone, but maybe we will see one in the future. You don't ask for help and you set something up yourself, he can understand both sides. Sounds like we have a solution for the 4<sup>th</sup> but it doesn't look like we need EMT's for the Fall Festival. The 4<sup>th</sup> is so cataclysmic than anything else we set up here. Member TW said when you have a bouncy house, kids can get hurt. Member MH asked what we had in the budget for the 4<sup>th</sup> last year. Steve Raddigan said we invoiced, we don't donate, for \$700 or \$800 for porta potties and dumpsters and we specified where they would be located, because they had to be within the city limits. Chamber is only asking for \$500 for the 4<sup>th</sup>. Member MH said he is positive that we donated more money every year for the 4<sup>th</sup> than the \$500. Member MH corrected; we paid more bills than the \$500. Mayor said if Dr Ballou is willing to do the 4<sup>th</sup>, we could do the \$500 for each. Do we need EMT's for the Fall Festival. Steve Raddigan said that is a decision for the fire Chief to make because he is responsible to provide that service, not the city. Member PC said when the permits come in, they need to know approximately how many people may be attending so he can look at it as the Emergency Operations Chief for this area to see if this is going to overwhelm their services or not. If he determines that will be the case and they will need extra dollars, it should be put on the organizers to cover those costs to make sure that there is proper EMS. We could add that to our event planning protocols that the Chief can stipulate if extra staff is needed. Dr Ballou said that the best thing about the Spring and Fall Festival is they are local here. The 4<sup>th</sup> people are doing crazy stuff everywhere and we can be overwhelmed quickly. Have two EMT's at that event would be good. The Spring and Fall we should be ok without. There are not many risky things going on at those events. Member PC said as we see continued growth with people coming in, we can properly manage this and be ahead of it so we are not overwhelmed so if we had a mass casualty incident, they would be prepared with staff. That is where his thinking was about this, it wasn't about the money. He has to supplement the EMT's because he only has so much and most of the time, he cannot get minimum staffing as it is. He is just trying to provide a proper, safe atmosphere. Member MH asked if the Chief was considering outsourcing EMT's. No, they would be off his staff but then again, they are still volunteers. He could offer them \$500 but they could say they were busy and wouldn't be interested. Member TW asked what if there was an emergency elsewhere, would they be able to go. They would, so that is why the Chief is trying to backfill. This is something very new, kind of outside the box thinking to make sure he can provide this service. Member TW said that there may be businesses that would sponsor this too for EMT's. Like a sign that says this is sponsored by such and such business. As we look into the future this will probably overwhelm the services that he can provide as far as EMS and Fire so he is trying to get ahead of that. Hopefully this will grow as the community grows. The fire runs have increased 50% and his staffing continues to go down. He is trying to balance the needs and the future. Jennifer said the Chamber could do fund raising specifically for the Fire Dept during the Festival to help fill that gap. Member PC said this is Great brainstorming. Member MH said to put a donation jar out and people up here will give a lot of money, Council agreed. The to house fires that have occurred recently, the

donations have been exceptional! Member TW said that Murphy's Law, during one of the events, a propane tank from a food truck could catch on fire by denying the service, so maybe having one EMT would be ok. Steve Raddigan said they're not denying the service. Steve said that 4<sup>th</sup> would be the one that would be more apt to need extra's. The other two not so much. The Mayor said we can see what happens with the Spring Festival, if it's just insane and judge that for the Fall Festival. With the 4<sup>th</sup> coming around, Dr Ballou has graciously offered to cover for that so we have a little time before we pull the trigger on anything else. Member PC said that this is all Great. A lot is visionary and a lot of it is us paying attention mind full to this and paying attention to stay ahead of it so we don't get overwhelmed and have a mass casualty incident that we can't handle. For now, we will table the EMT compensation issue for the Festivals, no motion unless Council wants to bring it up. Seeing that Dr Ballou is covering the 4<sup>th</sup>, we could deliberate at a future meeting before the Fall Festival if we want to gauge how the Spring Festival goes, as to if we want to support EMT's. Mayor said that Chamber has asked for \$500 to go towards the 4<sup>th</sup> for porta potties and dumpsters and an additional \$500 for the new Fall Festival. In the past we have given \$700-\$800 for the 4<sup>th</sup>. Member MH said he is in full support of \$500 for the 4<sup>th</sup>, Member TW as well. Mayor asked about the Fall Festival. Member TW asked what the Fall Festival did for us last year. Mayor said we put in quite a lot more money last year BUT to be fair it was organized quickly without a lot of notice, not to sound unfair, Jennifer and the Mayor have since had many discussions about what we're trying to do as far as getting us notice, she has already implemented protocols for getting vendor permits which alone would bring in quite a lot more money to us as well as remit some of the LOT. The Mayor is just trying to defend and put down what we got last year as to what we can expect this year. Jennifer said all of the advertising is stay and play, encouraging everyone to stay the whole weekend. This will benefit the Air BnB's and other local businesses. Looking at the past, for the 4<sup>th</sup> we have paid \$700-\$800, so this year they are asking for \$1000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> and Fall Festival. They did not ask for anything at the Spring Festival. Kim said her opinion is that the city should help with porta potties especially for health reasons with so many people. Steve Raddigan said we are providing for porta potties. Now if Council is so inclined to provide per each event, they can stipulate in the Motion that we will provide up to \$500 for porta potties and dumpsters per each event. Steve will get invoices from Jen for these services. Question from Holly is there a way in the future to go back and look at the what the LOT was at the point where there wasn't these Festivals and maybe look at what it is after these events. Mayor said did she mean earning wise. She said we can get an idea of what it is bringing into the city. She is happy to divulge what they pay from The Dirty Shame. The Mayor wondered if the LOT could break it down into what an event collected. Steve Raddigan said that the businesses submit the proper paperwork but it doesn't separate by event. It is reported only in that monthly period. Most of the businesses pay monthly but a couple pay quarterly. The discussion was going into what businesses pay and we cannot disclose that. Holly said she can do it daily and would be fine with being a guinea pig just to see if these events are making or not. If they are not then don't put anymore money into them. Member TW said that not all of the vendors who qualify to pay haven't paid. From the Fall Festival the city received \$90. There was a learning curve with that one and we have addressed that so hopefully that has been resolved. Holly will go ahead on her own to see if there is difference when we have events as to when we don't. Vendor permits issued have been our biggest ever. Jen asked if we were going to have anyone checking Vendor Permits due to some people saying they were going to sell on their own and not pay the Chamber the \$100 to be involved in the

event and have not obtained Vendor Permits as far as she knew. So, her question is, are we going to have someone checking and if someone does not have a Vendor Permit would we make them shut down? We won't be shutting anyone down but if they don't have a Vendor Permit for the City they would be advised they need one to sell. As far as them not paying the Chamber's fee, we can't do anything about that if they choose not to be a participant with them. Member TW said he will be selling but not part of the Chamber's event. He has his City Vendor Permit. Council said Bonnie isn't going to go around and check. Member PC said he will be going around with Charity for health inspections and he will be doing his fire inspections so it's not a big problem for him to see if they have one or not. Jen said so if someone doesn't have a permit nothing will happen. The Mayor said that there is legal action that can be taken per Geoff, we would need a tip about it. Jen asked her question again, "Is somebody going to check?!" The Mayor said that Bonnie is not going to go out and check but she will be available if it was reported to him that someone did/did not have a permit. Jen said if nothing is to be done, then what is the motivation to getting a Permit?!! Steve Raddigan said the Ordinance. Jen said if nobody is enforcing the Ordinance then why would anyone get a Permit?!! The Vendor Permit has to be displayed but we are not going to go around and police everyone. (Council Room became a little heated at this point). It was pointed out that anyone who has a Vendor Permit can sell within the City limits. Steve Raddigan brought up the point that just because the Chamber is putting on an event, which does not give them the authority to exclude other people from showing up in the area. Everyone who has a Vendor Permit has to display it and that is printed on the permit as well. Member TW said we are a small town and the bigger we get it becomes more complicated. We are used to functioning on honesty and supporting your neighbor. There is an ice cream truck in the parking lot and he thinks they should be renting a spot instead of working out of the parking lot. Mayor returned the meeting back to the original discussion about helping with porta potties and dumpsters. Council was asked their opinion on this. Member MH said that last year we spent \$1550, if we help with both events this year it would only be \$1000 and that puts us in the right direction. Member MH made the Motion to help with porta potties and dumpsters for both the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Fall Festival for up to \$500 for each event. Member TW second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed.

- (\*) Covering open loads in Crouch- Member TW said this issue is a safety issue, we have kids around. Trucks coming up and down with the gravel falling on that turn by his business. The law is 6" below the side boards but he hasn't seen any below that. He said it is getting better. Mayor was told by our attorney, Geoff, that if we get a picture of the driver and their behavior of their driving, a picture of the load to make sure it was within the scope of the law, something could be done. Tom would have to identify the driver and file everything. He will continue to clean it all up and it has improved. Knife River is good about covering their loads. Member MH suggested sending letters to the locals here reminding them that the load has to be 6" below the freeboard. The problem is that they come around that corner and the load shifts and dumps out some. Tom could live stream what's going on in the town if we obtain some cameras! (laughter). Fake camera signs could be put up too like the suggestion of getting a fake police car and parking it around town to slow people down.
- (\*) Business Registry Sign-Banks Lowman Rd- The Mayor was made aware by Steve and Bonnie that in '94' that the city controls those signs there. The information in the Council folders suggested that we may be able to start making some income for the city from them. The sign itself does sit on private property but it was quit claimed to the city. Member MH said that they used to have their sign up there and they received a bill from

Dan Fry, because it sat on their property, they were going to charge everyone \$500 a month. Once they removed their sign, nobody else received a bill. Member MH said he would like to know where his sign went! The Mayor asked Council would like to do anything with it. Steve advised Council what this whole thing started out .It was \$50 a year. The suggestion was: \$1000 a year for a whole sign and \$500 for half a sign and limited to only licensed businesses within the city. This is only a Suggestion! It appears that the consensus is that businesses would not pay that much. Kim suggested giving it to the businesses for them to use with no fee. It is a hard sign to see and has no lighting and access is also difficult with the gate there. Jennifer said they are working to get a blue sign on the highway that lets people know the there is food and lodging here in Crouch and just let them know that our town exists. The Mayor said a better idea would be a Historic Crouch sign with an arrow pointing and a solar light, kind of fancy and nice. Other cities have them although they can be expensive but would draw attention to us. We could probably get people to donate for this. There have been people visiting here in Garden Valley that were not aware that Crouch is even here. Off subject, Jennifer asked about the City renting chairs from the Community Center. We have discussed this before. The issue is the chairs coming back damaged and if someone should come to rent the Hall, having no chairs there for them. Back on the subject of the business sign, leave it there because it is a Historic. Work on a Historic Crouch sign.

- (\*) Return City Planner funds- Back in 2022, Thor Oden had given the City \$2500 to go towards a City Planner. This has not been successful so the best thing is to return it to him with our thanks. Thor commented and said it sounded like a good idea at the time, which it was and we are grateful. With the Council members changing with new members, ideas seemed to start over and a City Planner could have kept things current with any plans. We will return and he can donate to another good cause. Mayor asked for a Motion to return the \$2500 back to Thor Oden. Member MH made the Motion to give Thor back his \$2500 donation for a City Planner. Member PC second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed.

- **Old Business**

- (\*) Sign Ordinance with Amendments/Lumens- The Mayor has not had a chance to do this due to an arm issue. He will get this done as soon as he is able to. Only positive comments on the sign, it looks great!
- (\*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Member PC said he and Dawna have put together a contact list of all the neighborhoods. He will have those if he needs them. The ham radio operators group is still up and running so we are going to be putting up an emergency operations center at the Fire Dept. in case we should lose communications, the radio operator's ( HAM & GMRS) can come down to the station and he will have good communication with the outside world. It's going very well!
- (\*) Standard Map for large gatherings/emergency access- The current map that was given to Chief Cleaveland, he was happy with that one. We do need to adhere to the original plan and be able for people to put on the map where they will be set up and the food trucks will be. This will change at every event. Jennifer said that it would be for every event. Steve said that would be if the Chamber was doing the event. We need to have the maps so that it can be designated where things are and emergency traffic has accessibility. This will be the master plan then as to where food trucks will always be and vendors as well using the original map the Chief has. He will have copies of this map.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (\*) Road Committee Report- Member TW said can we get a road sweeper? (laughter). We can get a broom! (laughter)
- (\*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Museum forms that they have been working on are done. Historical Society attended their meeting and they are good with it. Bill Baker has made it so they can put a digital photo of items on their spread sheet. Member TW has volunteered to work on our sign, to get a cherry picker (Jen will get the lights off the Christmas tree too). They have completed the postmaster wall in the Council Room and it looks Great! They obtained the postmaster list back to 1955. Kim said they were looking for documentation when the Castles were postmasters. Mayor suggested Clay Tucker's mother, the Alley's, Shepherds, Fackerel's too. They have been up here for a long time. They have a new board member, Bill Ford, awesome gentleman and another member, Titan Walker, to give tours. The Museum will be opened for the Spring Festival too. Kim and Sandra will have Museum until 3PM for the Spring Festival. Kim gave Bonnie all the information for the board members so we have the ability to contact them if needed. Kim will start sending the financial report to Bonnie for the Council packets. Mayor said the pest control guy sprayed the Tucker Building, for free, so there may be dead bugs over there. Kim uses Com Service workers too.
- **Unscheduled Delegations**
- (\*) **Clerk Report-** Vendor permits last year were 52, this year 81, same date a year apart. Waiting for one more bid for Com Hall floor. We need to think about raising the fee for Vendor permits. We are on the low end. Steve Raddigan said that this brings up the issue of Vendor Permits and Business Licenses. Vendor Permits are for occasional sales and business licenses are for the entire year. The vendors at the Crouch Merc should be considered as a business and have that license because They sell year-round. The costs for each Permit and License should be different. Steve said we will actually rewrite the Ordinance and then bring it before Council.
- (\*) **Treasurers Report-** Submitted Member MH had a question; Was the Watermaster on the report,(Yes) and what was the \$50,000? It was from the LOT and it was put into a CD which Council approved in March. Member TW said he just signed up with Verizon for internet and wondered why we are paying so much for Ziplly. We will contact them and let the Mayor know what we find have permission if it is a considerable savings.  
Dr Ballou asked how he would go about being able to expand his business. We explained the process to him.
- **Adjournment**

**Next Regular Council Meeting is June 11th, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

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

Trevor Schiefelbein- Mayor

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Bonnie M. Horsewood- City Clerk

Approved Minutes