

CITY OF CROUCH

Meeting of the City Council

March 11, 2026

6:30 p.m.

City Hall

Garden Valley, ID 83622

Minutes Regular Council Meeting

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

****Changes on agenda are for emergencies only.****

Mayor-Trevor Schiefelbein
Council President-Mike Hefner
Steve Pedersen
Henry Vanderwyk
Kraig Wees

Treasurer-Steve Raddigan
Water Master- Terry Tucker
Bonnie Horsewood-City Clerk
Geoff Schroader-City Atto

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:30

Pledge of Allegiance

- **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 11, 2026
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Member MH made the Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Member SP Second the Motion. All:Yes, Motion passed.

- **Municipal Water System**

- (*) Watermaster Report- In November 2025, we had an issue with a water test. Cindy Tucker, Terry's wife, explained what happened. When they came in in July, a test was done and it came back clear. The November test came back positive for bacteria. Four follow up tests are required within 24 to 48 hours, which were done. These are required upstream, downstream, where the original test was taken and always at the well. Three follow-up tests were required the next month as well, which was December. They were unaware of this. Josh explained that those that are testing yearly or quarterly, (Crouch was quarterly), are missing these new repeat tests. So again, they ended up getting a violation but since they took a test and they were still in quarterly, they were back in compliance. Now the new year is here and they did the March test which put them in compliance. They received a letter that said they have to do tests monthly. Cindy asked how do they get back to quarterly. Josh said that if a sanitary survey comes up or is coming up, and everything passes on sanitary survey then that will wipe it out and they can go back to quarterly or if Terry does a level two assessment. They are not sure when we will conduct a sanitary survey. They will have to go back and see what George did. Either Bonnie or Steve will have to call Analytical because she cannot access George's testing, she was not on the testing paperwork when the testing was done. The sanitary testing is usually done every three years. We are back in compliance but now the Community Hall is monthly, City Hall wasn't where the bad test came from, it was Com. Hall. Central District has so many new requirements and the book is huge. Everything should be up to date by 2027. Terry said that Central District may not be aware of this other well. It does

have a PWS so it is active, although he suggested that it be used for irrigation. Most of the tests that fail come from that well because it isn't used and is stagnant. Terry said that well is 390 feet deep. He suggested abandoning that well. We could get a grant, \$30,000, and switch over to our City well. Mayor said to add this to our April Agenda for discussion. Geoff asked if it could be rehabbed to be used as a backup well and expand our water system? He said to rehab it would be a dead horse. It would be better to drop about 40 bags of bentonite and seal it off and let Central District know it's closed. Makes more sense to have it all together because at some point that well will become an issue. The pump and pipes are old and we do not know what shape they are in. We could drop another pump down there but if the pipes are bad, it would have to be engineered, which would be around \$7500-\$10,000 to have it engineered. He said it would be better to just abandon it and put up a fence around it. Mayor inquired about the time limit on grants. Bonnie would have to stay in contact with them or go on DEQ website they have popups for grants and continue watching. Mary Cordova does all the grants in Terrace Lakes. We will discuss all this in April.

- **New Business**

- (*) Discussion/decision Kraig Wees as new Council Member- The Mayor and Kraig have spoken with each other so the Mayor wanted to bring his name up for a new Council Member. Member SP said he thinks he would be a good fit, Member HV said he agreed as did Member MH. Member SP Made the Motion to Appoint Kraig Wees as the new Council Member, MH Second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed. Mayor had Kraig take the Oath of Office.
- (*) Presentation on Social Media for City Employees- Geoff explained all the powers, duties, limitations and responsibilities the City and the City Council have, especially new members, and City employees. (This presentation was an hour long so pertinent issues will be in the Minutes. The recording is at City Hall). He also went over how our Local Option Tax can be used and the limits of the city for private donations. The City CANNOT donate their funds to private enterprises (Article 12 section 4 of the Idaho Constitution). The City can contract and be contracted with (Idaho Code 50-301). Someone can present a proposal to the City stating what they would like to do along with the requested amount. Products and services can be negotiated to determine what they are worth. This also requires which funds would be used. LOT monies can be only used within the City limits; General Funds do not. The Public is always welcome to come into City Hall during our business hours and review all of our records for any information they would like or if preferred, a Public Records Request (3-10 day wait depending on the time it takes to retrieve the requested information) can be filled out and any information they would like will be sent to them. If a Council Member writes a note to themselves, they are not public information unless they share with other Council Members, then they are open to the Public. Member KW went back to the revenue for the City. He acknowledged the LOT funds, no property taxes imposed by the City. Are there any other avenues to bring revenue into the City? If the Community Hall was rented out, does that money go to the General Fund? Yes, it does. He asked if there were any other revenue generating sources? Yes, the Liquor fund, State Tax revenue sharing and the street fund, which is restricted to the streets. The Mayor, Attorney and City staff can discuss issues which does not constitute an open meeting. Mayor and Council Members cannot get together and discuss issues unless it is at an Open Council Meeting. When it comes to Social Media, people want to post or make comments. If you have a personal Facebook page or make comments on a Facebook page, and you do not do so under the authority of the City, you are free to say whatever you want. The page also does not become a Public Record that's not subject to First Amendment protection, example: if you make a Council Member Wees page and

somebody comes on and says something you don't like, you just delete it, if you wish. You've done nothing to violate Constitutional Rights. If a Council should see comments involving an issue in Crouch, they may see them but cannot weight in on them. City employees can or may not have authority to speak on the City. The Mayor has authority to speak on the City and he can delegate the authority to city employees.

The Mayor reached out to Chamber Members with all the new information given to Council by Geoff. With the legal limitations and avenues given to Council, Geoff suggested that they entertain a dialog with that organization and have that organization make a proposal to the Mayor & Council on what services they can offer and at what price they would charge in LOT or General Funds. Keeping in mind LOT has to be within the City limits. If it's LOT it will be competing with the laundry list of uses for that money which the citizens voted for. The Council can select someone to delegate and interface with them to draft up a proposal, see if it's feasible. That's a great way to do it and everything is legal then. The Mayor asked the attending Chamber Members, Jennifer & Scott, President & Vice President of the Chamber, if they had anything for the Council or if they would like present at our next meeting. Their reply was "No, they are good".

- (*) Trash issue in Crouch- Sandra Baum spoke to the Mayor about trash in and around the City. She wanted to ask the City if it would be ok to post signs around regarding picking up trash or be fined even though it wouldn't be enforced. She does not need a sign permit. She might hang them on the posts along Middlefork Rd. She may want to contact Boise County as well. The Mayor and Council have no issues with these signs. She has been picking up loads of trash.
- (*) Council member needed for the Museum board- Kim (absent) asked for a representative for their Museum Board. The Mayor said he would sign for the Museum board. They will inform him of when the meetings are. He will be seeking volunteers for a board for the walkway as well.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Discussion/Decision on bids to repair the floor by the furnace in Community Hall- Bonnie recommended getting two separate bids, one for the hallway and one for the main Hall. Member SP updated the meeting with what happened at Community Hall. There was water damage in the hallway from the furnace which needs to be repaired. The main Hall also has damage underneath from snow build up along the side walls. ICRMP would not cover the main hall damage. It looked like minor damage which has turned into a Big issue. Mayor asked for a Motion to obtain more bids for Community Hall. Member KW made the Motion to get more bids, Member MH Second the Motion, all: Yes, Motion passed.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- They had their first meeting last month. Kim will be out for a while due to knee surgery.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (*) The Mayor wanted to add the walkway project to the meeting. He has spoken to lots of Community members and board members about the walkway project. We do have a lot of irons in the fire with the Community Hall, the park but we do want to pursue this walkway, it's time. There are two sides to this, working with the County and legalities there which assumes we will need a specified Council member to push that along. The other issue is funding. We may need to apply for a grant, get a grant writer, may need survey's. Keep all of this in mind for our next meeting and hopefully we will have two reps from that meeting. Mayor will be getting a list of delegates from

the community, Garden Valley and Crouch at large that are willing and able to be a part of that.

- (*) **Clerk Report** – Bonnie asked if the Council wanted the leash law put on the Agenda for next month. Geoff read a portion of how a fine for an unleashed dog works. Will put on the Agenda for April. If we have a new Ordinance it is required to be published in the paper. If we get a new leash law, Geoff highly recommends putting it on our website. Bonnie asked about making it legal for just her signature needed business licenses. Geoff said we may be able to amend the Ordinance for that. Jennifer said Council may want to consider raising the cost of a Business License. Member MH Brought up Vendor Permits for young kids and fund-raising kids, a no Fee Vendor Permit. There is a clause that applies to this. Geoff cautioned with this. The Mayor had a last-minute comment to make. If anybody attending this meeting ever has any personal questions, concerns about personal who work here, he would appreciate being contacted by phone, text or email. He will gladly meet in person just contact him. That includes Council members as well. He Highly encouraged the Chamber to come back at our next meeting and talking with Council with Anything we can do to help with the 4th. He would appreciate their consideration deeply!
- (*) **Treasurers Report- Submitted**
- **Adjournment: 8:08**

Next Regular Council Meeting is April 8th, 2026 at 6:30 PM
ASTERISK (*) ITEMS ARE ALL SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE CROUCH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Trevor Schiefelbein-Mayor

Bonnie M. Horsewood