

CITY OF CROUCH
Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City Council
March 13, 2024
6:30 p.m.
City Hall
Garden Valley, ID 83622
Minutes

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

Changes on agenda are for emergencies only.

Council Members

Mayor- Trevor Schiefelbein
Steve McAninch-President
Clayton Smith
Shawna Martin
Mike Hefner

Staff

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

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

• **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2023
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda-Member CS made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Member MH Second the Motion. Motion approved.

• **Water Issues**

- (*) Water Master Report-Nothing new to report. Tim Fritzley was working on going out with our Watermaster and sight see. Tim has a presentation for Council but it is lengthy so he will present it a bit later in unscheduled delegations.
- (*) Water engineer update- Steve Raddigan went ahead, after the last meeting with the approval of our attorney and the Mayor, signed the contract with Mtn Water Works to get that update started. Steve has been in contact with the other agency, and he will share that information with them, but they are three months out. Mtn Water Works is two weeks out. Steve limited Mtn Water Works to option (1) one and (2) two. The other agency may be able to fill in on longer and bigger projects. Mayor wanted to update everyone after our meeting last week, they were counseled by Shelly and Jeff who had attended our last meeting and they advised that the bid from Mtn Water Works was a really good deal at \$2000. Tim asked what Mtn Water Works was going to do? Steve advised that they were going to provide the update costs of one & two which is basically to redo the Chapter 5 information. Jeff advised that we needed to get this cleaned up, so the Mayor went with his advisement.
- (*) Discussion on the Special Water Meeting- Mayor went over that Council had been presented with the option of forming a Water District, using what funds we can to meter or whatever we need, and then handing this water system over to the District, if that is

to be formed or just keep it on under the city. Steve Raddigan said he thought when we put it on the Agenda it was to form a committee to look at the alternative options. Does the Council want to form a committee to explore this further? Member SWM said to wait until we hear the presentation before a decision is made.

- (*) Discussion and approval of Updating the Water Facility Plan
- (*) Discussion on forming a Water Committee

• **New Business**

- (*) Approve Resolution 2024-R001 for Bank account CD's- Steve Raddigan said the only change to the Resolution from last month was he did fill in the blanks. The Mayor will need to do this because as he is the only one who can create the accounts. The rates are the same as last month, so we did not lose any interest. Member CS made the Motion to approve Resolution 2024-R001 for Bank account CD's. Member SWM Seconded the Motion, All: Yes: Motion Passed.
- (*) Approve Resolution 2024-R002 for Surplus from Community Hall- It was discussed to remove some broken chairs, heavy tables and the benches and replace them with more folding chairs and tables. SWM made the Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-R002 for Surplus from Community Hall. Member CS second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion Passed.
- (*) Update on Impact Fee Meeting place and time- This meeting will be 4/25/2024 at Community Hall at 6:00PM.

• **Old Business**

- (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Member McAninch met with Donna and Sherry. Had about an hour meeting with them, spoke about how many HOA's are in the area, different taking responsibility for their various neighborhoods in the area. First aid kits and grant money that the Fire Chief had spoken about that we might be able to get to put together first aid kits and things like that that we could use. Sheltering that currently is the school. The community Church up the road is installing generators and stuff so that may be a secondary choice. Was a good meeting. Mayor said to let us know how we can help, if they need a place to hold their meetings. Member McAninch asked who does our website. Currently Steve Raddigan is doing some and Bonnie will be shown how to do it but there is so much to do that we have not gotten to that. Mayor said he may have some people who can help with that. Member McAninch said that eventually a Comprehensive Plan will come out that everybody will want, and it was discussed to post it on our website.

• **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Road Committee Report- Mayor has been working with Tim Fritzley with getting some of the paperwork from some of the business owners on Old Crouch Rd seeing if they would share some of the survey's and possibly piece together something with that. Still trying to get with Twillegar as well. He is no longer the chairman, Clay Tucker is, but he is still a commissioner. He told Tim he was doing research and will get back to Tim when he is done.
- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim was in attendance. She has been out of town and will be leaving again soon. The Museum has a new board member, Barb Baker, hoping to be approved by the board. She has information on grants which is exciting for the board. They will have a meeting before Kim has to leave and are hoping to get the Museum back open after the Winter.
- (*) Andrew Bourret Business License for Homestead Timber Frames-clarification of zoning- Mayor did speak to Geoff about this. He was ok with this if Mr. Bourret wants to submit some paperwork about what his business is about and how they do their work.

He had come into our office and spoken to Steve R. and Bonnie about his work and the zoning of where he would be doing his work. We were unsure of the definition of zoning, so we referred him to Council for clarity. He told Council he is a 28-year Navy Seal Commander, and he retired a year and three months ago, he purchased the business 3 years ago. Mr. Bourret said his work is over the top! He is under contract currently to buy the Mansion (Uncle Billy Bob's) and The Shed which is contingent upon tonight. He explained that all the work they do is by hand. He brought a piece of wood and his tools to show Council the type of work they do. His main tools are a chisel and a wooden hammer, which would be the noise factor. He showed Council basically how he does his work. They build like how things were built before the industrial revolution, all hand tooled. One of his co-workers, Jeremy Ford has been building like this for 20 years. He feels this kind of work falls into place with our area. They mainly work with Douglas Fir and have worked with some Pine. He said the oldest timber frame home is 385 years old and they used all different kinds of wood. He was hoping to get his business license signed so he could close on the purchase of The Shed and Mansion. The Mayor said he will speak with our Geoff after our meeting and see what we need to approve his business license. Mayor said we will need some documentation showing that the work that is done matches our definition of Mixed-Use zoning. As soon as we receive that Mayor will sign his Business License. The Mayor did not want to impede his purchase but wants to make sure that all is legal and conforms to the zoning. Andrew will stay after the Council Meeting and the Mayor will call Geoff for more exact details of what he needs to provide Council with.

- **Unscheduled Delegations:** Tim Fritzley had a presentation. Copy is available in the Minutes Book in City Hall.
- **(*) Clerk Report-** Water guns instead of balloons for July 4th. Bonnie brought up the Issue about using water guns instead of balloons for the 4th of July parade. Member CS said he had just gotten off the phone with Kraig Wees from the Chamber of Commerce and they are going to phase out the use of water balloons this year and go to water guns. They have used some water guns before from the top of the bus. Member CS said the plan is to have barrels of water along the parade route to fill the guns up. They are planning to sell squirt guns before and during the parade at a minimal cost and hopefully that will alleviate the problem a little bit. Kevin Coldani said with all the balloons left on the road last year, they did ask for volunteers to help clean it up. There were a couple Chamber members and a couple of volunteers so that is an issue. There is also the issue of hurting people with the water balloons. Some people had to shield their children from getting hit with the balloons and some even got the wind knocked out of them from the balloons being thrown so hard. Kevin asked how do we enforce this? Do we try to make it some kind of a rule? This won't change overnight, they are just trying to implement some new things, start with the water cannons and supply water. They will be discussing this at their upcoming meeting. The rafting company has most of the balloons. Maybe talk to them about helping clean up or getting rid of the balloons. Member MH said to tell them we will sell them squirt guns instead of water balloons and that may take care of a lot of the problem. Kraig's idea was to get ahold of them ahead of time. Member SWM said just advertising will eliminate a lot of it as well. She said it is a lot more fun with the squirt guns, as her being an experienced parade participant (laughter)! She said a water gun will get someone wetter than a balloon. Kim did bring up the point that it's almost like the fireworks, we don't have anyone to enforce this, per se. Member SWM said if you make it sound like fun instead of making it a rule you have to use a water gun,

people will be more open to it. If we communicate with people why it's more fun with a water gun and there's no cleaning up little balloons, it would be more accepted.

Make it more of an option than a limitation. The Mayor said his neighbor had written a Letter to the City about the balloons and how many were left on the ground. The Mayor said they will not be using balloons this year. Kevin said they will speak with the rafting company. The Mayor said the rafting company does use water guns but also a lot of balloons. Member SWM said if they really want to use the balloons then they HAVE to come clean them all up! The Mayor said he would be willing to help. He thought having a breakfast then going out and cleaning for an hour. Pastor Ernest has offered his church for breakfast. We have trash cans that the city provided last year too. It's hard for some people to change tradition. We need to do what the community wats us to do. Member MH said we band fireworks so this can be done. Member SWM said that the rodeo grounds became open, so it was like a compromise. She said we need to get the point across that having a water gun is more fun than getting hit with a water balloon. Just having a water gun and a five-gallon bucket, getting it filled up will be a lot more fun! This is our new tradition!

Bonnie had one more idea for smoke detectors for Community Hall. They have some with a ten-year battery so we wouldn't have to keep replacing the batteries. The Mayor said yes just go ahead and get them.

- (*) **Treasurers Report**
- **Adjournment**

Next Regular Council Meeting is April 10th, 2024 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

Amendment to the Minutes from 3/13/20204

- (*) Discussion and approval of Updating the Water Facility Plan-This was approved after our last meeting by the Mayor, our attorney Geoff, Shelly & Jeff from IRWA. The cost was \$2000, which was a good deal. Steve will contact Mtn Water Works and they will be limited to updating options one (1) and two (2).
- (*) Discussion on forming a water committee- Tim said we were probably wrong going with Mtn Water Works for our system. Tim said \$50-\$60 a month would be sufficient for a monthly water charge. He said he doesn't know where the \$140 a month is coming from. Member McAninch said that was from DEQ.
Tim had spoken to Greg Simone who was involved from the beginning. Instead of forming a Committee, we need to talk to Geoff and see what it would take to just spin this off into a district right now. Tim suggested that Greg Simone be appointed as president of the board member of the District, initially and as the District adds officers and has elections etc. The question was asked what problem are we trying to solve? If it's fire suppression, you can't keep the tank full due to water would become stagnant. Tim said the problem is managing the system correctly and the city can't do that. Member SWM said also the cost and how is getting paid for. The question was asked how many businesses or private residences are on the system? The city sends out 11 invoices with no plans for expansion. Member SWM said that costs being determined going forward is what we are looking at now. Tim said by forming a district they could sit down with the customers and plan out what needs to be done. Mayor said the city is looking to get out of the water business. Member SWM said give it back to the ones that use it, and they can form their own board and take care of their own water. Tim said that basic maintenance has not been done since 2011. Steve Raddigan said that we don't have the documentation anyway, that is has been done. Steve R. agreed that we were given a substandard water system to provide water service to the city. He has been saying that we need to get rid of it and let someone else take it over. It's not the city's responsibility, unless they want to, to go in and fix all those little issues now. The problems have been identified and those go to the district when it's formed. A committee would just come back and rehash what we have already been through. Rich Fritzley said as a business owner, he would be very hesitant to take it back. We do have ARPA funds which could be used to fix some problems. SWM asked that if they form a district, could we give the money to them to fix some things. Steve R. said he would have to contact the controllers to see if that's possible. Mayor said we would not transfer the funds, we could just get a list, maybe A-D and pick out what we would be able to correct. Tim would like to bring in a good well contractor to look at the system and have it done correctly. He said between IRWA and a good contractor this could be done. Steve R. said we have already contracted Mtn Water Works due to Tim's statement, when we were discussing raising rates, that we needed to update our Water Facility Plan and we were putting the cart before the horse. This caused a small, heated outburst from Tim. He said

he has been saying for a year and a half that we needed to get out of the water business, transfer it over to IRWA, but nothing has been done about it. Steve R. said we are getting our monthly rates figured out and we can decide what we want to spend the ARPA money (\$39,000) on. Meters should be the number one item. The Mayor is waiting on our attorney on any steps going forward with forming a district. Steve R. said the first step is to go around and get people/businesses to agree that they would like to form a district, then they would vote on forming one. We will run it because it is still ours, they will form a district and then we will start talking was the information from Geoff. Member CS asked why the Watermaster hasn't done this, why are we paying him? Member CS would like to see the Watermasters check list. They are not at City Hall so where are they? He doesn't see why we are paying this man. Steve R. said because the city is required to have a Watermaster. Member SWM said the Watermaster is also required by law to have the documentation as well. Since we are raising red flags, Steve R. said he is surprised that a citizen can acquire the key codes and we can't get them at City Hall! Member SWM asked if we could cancel Mtn Water Works since we have a contract with them? We are only having them update some information and Geoff advised we need to continue on with the update. They can form a district without our permission. If that is completed, then we can see what they would like to see done with the funds we have. Time frame is important because meters would need to be put in the ground before the Winter comes.

Discussion on how much needs to be done to the water system but this system was put in basically for the store, not for the city. Member MH said the City was sold a 'bill of goods'. The Mayor asked what a time frame might be on forming a district? Too many variables to have an exact calculation on that. Meters are on the top of the list for the water system and Tim and Rich agree. You need to know where your water is. They will put a list together, but they do not want the funds given to them. We will need to install the meters with that money. Steve R. said we are using the term 'they' for an entity that does not exist yet. SWM said it's all hypothetical for now.

Rich said that their entity is a member of IRWA, and they are having a conference in Boise soon. He will have a chance to speak to many vendors about meters, valves, pressure gages and different water related things. Our meters have already been established by Council, so we do not need them. We do need design standards on how the meters will be put in the ground, Steve R. will work on that so that it is consistent on every meter no matter which company does them.

Trevor Schiefelbein-Mayor

Bonnie M. Horsewood-City Clerk