

# CITY OF CROUCH

## \*Water Workshop\*

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

2:00 PM

The Council meeting will be held in City Hall at 342 Village Circle. Anyone needing special accommodations for disabilities should contact the City Clerk at (208)462-4687 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

### Council Members

Mayor- Trevor Schiefelbein  
Steve McAninch-President  
Clayton Smith  
Louis 'Ti' Archer

### Staff

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

## 1.(\* ) 2:00 PM Water Workshop Meeting

Opened 2:04PM

George Simpson, Water Master, brought water meters, gave them to the Council and those in attendance to look at. He explained how they work, the installation process and the cost difference between the manual and remote ones. The remote ones are battery operated and the battery is only in use when the lid is lifted. The cost for equipment is \$500-650. George will email detailed costs. The meters will require a shut off valve at each location, if not the system is shut down. Thor Oden: The manual meters are a bear to read. He said the remote ones would be easier to read, especially for \$100 more per each. Steve Raddigan suggested the remote ones as well because we have no one to read the manual ones. George said we would need to know who has shut off valves, \$1000-\$1500 per each one. Jim Trudeau asked: What will be done to the existing hook ups? Steve Raddigan said people who have paid their \$2000, the City is responsible for the existing hook up. Any new ones, people would have to pay for the meter and installation although the City owns the meters. At this point the \$2000 connection fee may not be sufficient. The City Clerk would verify that payment has been made and George Simpson would have to approve and supervise the installation. The City would have to approve any contractor (bonded and licensed). The City is responsible for the line leading up to the meter, the homeowner is responsible for the connection from the meter to the home. George said his subdivision has a basic charge for the installation and connection fees. George asked about grants (DEQ-USDA)? Geoff will call the Mayor up at Macky and see how they did theirs. Question was asked if there is a difference between businesses and residential? Price would vary depending on water usage. Connection fee \$2000 X EDU's used. Any property three hundred (300') from the water line must hook up. Jim Trudeau asked about the location of

the meters? Two feet from the home and should be installed on the property or easement. ISPW standard installation, below the frost line and would have to be insulated. Village Circle Rd by the well we have an easement to access the well. This was in exchange for Messick to have a water hook up. Jim Trudeau asked if the wellhead needs a fence? The wellhead has a cap on it and no building on it. There needs to be a fence. With DEQ's approval. We could get a concrete bunker, it would be a better choice, update all wellheads with one. George will get an estimate for the cost of this. We do not have a good distribution map. George has paperwork at the well that he will drop off at City Hall.

Question: How much would it cost to recalculate the fees? A fee would have to be defensible. Steve Raddigan said if anything went wrong, we would be in trouble repairing it. We need to collect more just to cover the costs. Mayor: Would we see an increase with meters? We would have a base rate-consumption fee-maintenance. There is a limit of 25 EDU's per well. We would need to add a second well to be able to add any more EDU's.

Tim Fritzley suggested that the businesses form a HOA on water and the City get out of the water business. With less than 15 customers, and we have eleven (11), this can be done. HOA can run and own a water system; it would not be a public water system.

If there were to be a fire, it could use 2000 GPM 180,000 gals for a fire. Our tank is approximately 140,000 gallons. If the tank were to be kept full, it would run out. The store could run an access line to the river for fire suppression. The water system was put in for the store.

Tim Fritzley: Will the City ever have a viable water system? No. Geoff: If we were to charge a realistic user fee and install, people could see how much it is to use city water. With this they could then decide if they want to be a customer. The Council would have to provide them with one.

The water system was handed to City. The Mayor and Geoff will start meeting with business owners and those on City water to see if they can or want to form their own water system.

**Closed meeting 3:09PM**

**Next Regular Council Meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30PM**

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Mayor: Trevor Schiefelbein

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City Clerk: Bonnie M. Horsewood