

CITY OF CROUCH
Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday July 12, 2023
6:30PM
City Hall
Garden Valley, ID 83622

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- by phone

Open Regular Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

- **Consent Agenda**
 - Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 15th, 2023
 - Review of Payables & Financials
 - (*) Approve Consent Agenda-Member CS made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member SM second the Motion, All-yes. Motion passed.
- **Water Issues**
 - (*) Water Master Report-Mayor spoke with George Simpson, all is well. Water tests have all come back good for chloroform and nitrates will be assessed in August. Steve R. was supposed to receive a bid for wellhead protection from George, we have the meters approved from our last meeting with our Water Meter Resolution. George will vet the person to install the meters. We still need a signed Water Master contract from George. Mayor will work on this and report back to Council.
- **New Business**
 - (*) Proposed Budget for 2024 review and discussion-Steve Radigan reminded Council that this only a discussion so that he can put together the final budget. He proposed a dollar-fifty (\$1.50) and hour raise for office staff; this would just keep up with inflation. He would like to transfer (\$28,000) to the water account which would be to reimburse people who paid for water hook up and will not be getting it. We need to give it back before they demand that we hook them up to the water. The water mains in Pine Grove were never installed, and Wander Inn had paid also. The money would come from the General Fund and if we do it this fiscal year it would relieve us from pushing an audit. Council had no issues with Steve giving the money back but there may be an issue with Thor wanting to hang on to his hook ups. Council President Steve McAninch said there needs to be a statute on how long they could be unused. Our Ordinance says two

years. Geoff's said we may need to have a special meeting or bring this up at our August meeting. Steve needs a decision on giving the money back this evening so that he can get the final budget completed. Mayor called Geoff for any legal issues there may be. Geoff said the people who did pay for water hook ups are entitled to them. Shawna Martin suggested sending them a letter asking if they would like their money back or hang in for water, possibly later. They should already be aware of this. There were no water contracts signed by the people who did pay, just a check and their name on a list. The monies went into the water fund for a hook up they cannot receive so they did not get what they paid for. There are no legal ramifications in giving the money back. If they still want water if that may happen, then we should have that in writing saying ok, but that is not likely to happen. They need to know the status of where the water is now, then we need in writing, from the people who have paid, them stating what they would like to do. We can refund the money because the water hook up is not going to happen. We would then have them sign a document that they have indeed received their money back. If anyone should wish to maintain their connection then they will have to pay \$40 a month for it, which they should have been paying. That fee is really going to go as well. That is the option they have. The \$2000 they paid is only for water access. They would have to pay any and all fees after that. SM Made the Motion allowing Steve to reimburse refunds (\$28,000) to all who have paid for water which we will not be able to satisfy that agreement. CS Second the Motion. Roll Call: SM-Yes, SM-Yes, CS-Yes, MH-Yes Motion passed. A letter will go out with all refunds.

We put aside \$4000 for Community Hall; we will be using that up. We may need to discuss raising fees later for Hall activities. The Hall does provide a great service to the community. Difficult decision to make. It was designed to be affordable for the community to use.

Water fund money that was given to us by ARPA COVID money, \$39,395, must be used by the end of 2024. It is still in the bank. The Well Head protection, mixer, meters. these would be good uses. Mayor will try to get rough estimated for these projects. Council approved Steve R. putting these funds in the water account to use.

Steve put \$11,500 into the street fund to allow for the survey. Steve R. asked us to move \$25,000 from the LOT fund, on paper only, to the Street Fund, in case we should run short. It would only be on paper. This would be our buffer in case there are expenses for the survey that we are not aware of yet. Council approved this move. The water system continues to be a burden on the City. By 2025-2026 we will be in the hole in the water system. Member SM suggested having a meeting with Geoff and his water specialist regarding our water system.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Street Survey update- Street Survey meeting 7/20/2023 at 10:00 AM

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim Bosse handed out a diagram of the ramp to be built at The Museum-Tucker Building. Matt Sanders is donating his labor and materials to build a handicap assessable ramp. It will meet all ADA specifications. The stairs will be no longer be there. The header above the porch will be shored up and replaced. The Mayor was concerned about the snow in the Winter. The Museum is closed in the Winter. It was suggested that plastic be laid down to keep the snow from covering the wooden porch to protect it. Steve R. said since the Museum is separate from the city, they should have their budget separate from the City. SR will go ahead and combine in our budget hearing. Kim will get their bank information to SR.

- **Unscheduled Delegations-** Council received a letter from the Ford's about the mess left after the 4th of July parade. There were hundreds of water balloon pieces all over the ground. The birds eat them and it is very harmful to them. It is a big job to try and clean all of that up. Kraig

Wees said he has four teenage boys coming tomorrow to help clean it up. The Mayor suggested having a clean-up breakfast next year, possibly at Calvary Chapel. Kim suggested having Community Service people do this as well. Maybe next year have water guns instead of water balloons?

- **(*) Clerk Report-** Mike Uhl had asked me to see if we could repaint the Community Hall door red. Mayor asked Mike Hefner if he had any paint we could use. He said they have a few mismatched paints. Mayor said he would be willing to do it. The clerk had a suggestion for a business appreciation day to thank the businesses for all they do and for their contribution to the LOT. Mayor said he would be glad to make a radio announcement, maybe an announcement in the Idaho World. He asked the clerk to get some ideas. The Ford's had also asked if there is anything we can do about the burned out home just off Middlefork Rd. by their home. Kraig Wees said he believed it was just sold. He will try to find out who bought it. The Mayor said he would be willing to call them and talk to them. The City could clean it up and put a lien on it. Mayor will discuss it with the new owners first and see what they are going to do with the property. Mayor asked clerk to get a Thank You card to send to Radarsigns for all their help with our speed limit signs and donating the smiley face.
- **(*) Treasurers Report- In file**
- **Adjournment 7:48PM**

Next Regular Council Meeting is August 9th, 2023 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