

CITY OF CROUCH

Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City Council

September 11, 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- Resigned
Shawna Martin
Mike Hefner

Staff

Treasurer-Steve Raddigan-Absent on fires
Water Master- George Simpson-absent
City Clerk- Bonnie Horsewood
City Attorney-Geoff Schroader-phone if needed

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:31PM

Pledge of Allegiance

• **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of August 14th, 2024
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (*) Approve Consent Agenda-Member SM made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member SWM second the Motion. All Yes, Motion passed.

• **Water Issues**

- (*) Water Master Report -We received a Water Line Service Survey from our Watermaster. The Mayor will be calling George to see what he is thinking with this survey. As far as is it now we do not have any plans to grow the water system. We have a few people on the wait list right now. The LOT hasn't really brought a ton of money in to be able to really look at expanding the water like we maybe hope that it would, although we are only a few years into it but still the wait list is around a half a dozen households, which would almost be doubling what we already have hooked up. It would cost a lot to expand at this point so the Mayor will be in contact with George. There is no water update as things seem to be going well. Member MH asked if we had a pre-existing survey to this one. No but the Mayor thought we had suggested a survey in general with regards of what to do with the LOT money years ago, water was an item that was brought up with no specifics. This survey is new.

• **New Business**

- (*) Employee Raise Discussion/Decision- The Mayor conveyed that with the inflation rate going up the last few years, he did not think this was quite the fairest proposal. At the very minimum we should at least do something here. Social Security has only allowed a 3.2% increase for living adjustment for 2023. We know inflation has been up to between 7-9%. That's not including just generic costs of specific items. This is a Council decision but as Mayor he suggests looking into this, having a discussion and

hopefully have an action about doing something for our staff so we can keep them and keep them competitive, so we do not have turnover. It does take awhile to get people. This is an action item so it can be voted on by Council the motion was not added to the narrative, clerk error. Member MH thought this had been talked about at the Budget Hearing meeting. It was and had been budgeted to \$20 an hour. This requires an approval if Council wants to approve \$20 an hour. Member SM asked the Mayor if he was advocating for that amount. This is an 8% increase so the Mayor felt that is about where it should be as a minimum. The Mayor would be happy with that and keep this on the table maybe every six months to a year at least, bring this back and look at the economy in general so we can stay competitive. The Mayor asked Bonnie how long it took for her to feel cohesive with the job. Her reply was about two years. Mayor added that the clerk is not always dealing with the nicest people either which has chased a couple people out when they worked here. The Mayor advised that if Steve R. is ever gone and she needed help, I can always call him, and he will come down and step in. This is something we need to be aware of. The Mayor said compensating is the biggest thing we can do to show them that we do care about them, and we want to protect them. The question was asked if we have cameras, yes, we do now, and the Mayor has been working out at the gym a lot! People tend to be less angry at a man, this not meaning to be a sexist statement at all. The Mayor has seen this with his wife when he steps in people are suddenly nice! Council had no issue with the raise, implementing it to start as of September 1, 2024. Member SM made the Motion to increase employees salary to \$20 an hour starting September 1, 2024. Member MH second the Motion. All: Yes, Motion passed.

- (*) Impact Fee Ordinance #2024-01 3rd Reading
- (*) Snow removal bids- Paul Shepherd had reached out to do our snow removal, offering a 3–5-year contract if Council would like, with adjustments per fuel costs etc. Every year an ad is placed in the paper, but we never get any other bids except from Paul. The issue was brought up that we may have to put an ad in the paper every year for this, so everyone has the opportunity to bid. The Mayor will speak to Geoff about this, agenda item for the next meeting.
- (*) Roofing for City Hall bids- Council had the bids from LaFever and NXT LVL. Rickey from NXT LVL had approached the Mayor and asked if he could look at the roof on City Hall and Community Hall. The Mayor gave him approval to check the roofs out. He did take pictures of the damage to both buildings. Rickey did not meet with the insurance adjuster. Member MH asked if we had received one check or two. The clerk said just one. ICRMP just combined both buildings on one check. Member MH said there is a lot of difference between the bid from LaFever \$130,000 and NXT LVL \$77,000. Council agreed there was a big difference. This issue was basically a no brainer. The Mayor said he would like to go with NXT LVL just because of all the work Rickey did and due to the fact that his bid is a lot less. They have reroofed quite a few homes and businesses here in Crouch and surrounding areas. The City would only have to add around \$2000 to the bid to cover the work unless they should find more damage, then that damage would be documented and possibly another check would come from ICRMP. Per the bid he will replace any rotten wood and then we will contact our insurance. Member SM noticed that the ice and water barrier was not on the bid. It is expensive but necessary. LaFever did have a synthetic one. Member SWM made the Motion to accept the bid from NXT LVL Roofing for City Hall. Member MH second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion for City Hall roof Passed.

- (*) Roofing for Community Hall bids- Member SWM made the Motion to accept the bid from NXT LVL for Community Hall. Member MH second the Motion. All: Yes. Motion for Community Hall roof Passed.
- **Old Business**
 - (*) Community Emergency Preparedness update- Bonnie did print up some flyers for this. Dawna used handed some out and the remainder are here at City Hall. Currently Member SM said that FB and GV Happenings is where people are going for information in case we should have to evacuate. There is a lot of good information in the flyers. Mayor asked how people who are not on FB are informed. Member SM said Dawna Booth was hoping we had a website to put this information on. Member SM said this is something we may need to discuss. Kim Bosse said she thought Boise County had something like that.
 - (*) Update on Well Property- Fencing area/material price update- We do have the power pole, waiting on Jeff Crow. Jeff has been over at the well site. Chris Holt wants the pole put in a different spot but due to the length of the powerlines, it is better to put it in the same spot. If we change it, then we are into new lines and conduit etc. When this is all getting done, the electrician, State inspector and Idaho Power all have to be there, so it's a matter of timing as well. Dig Line needs to come out and check for lines before the pole can be set too. Mayor asked if we had an estimate on fencing. Member MH said that he was waiting due to the Mayor was going to speak with Geoff about downsizing the area of that property. If we get that Member MH said it will be easy to put that together. For the blocks to protect the wellhead, Council agreed that Shepherd's cost of \$500 to pick up, deliver and place the blocks was a good deal, so to go ahead and get that done.
- **Scheduled Delegations**
 - (*) Jennifer Schmitt Old Crouch Merc & Country Store Fall Celebration- They will be doing a fall festival on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of October. She would like to block off the road between Community Hall and City Hall for vendors and music. People would have to drive between the Community Hall and the Trading post. Old Crouch Rd would remain open. She is working on getting around 40 vendors and 7 food trucks for Friday and Saturday night. She is planning a city-wide scavenger hunt. The businesses seem to want to be involved with this since it will bring people into their business looking for either an item or taking a picture of something in said business. Dr Ballou is doing a kids bouncy house, face painting and free hotdogs-Friday night. There will be a pumpkin carving contest- she is getting 150 pumpkins and if they buy a pumpkin from them for \$10 you will be entered into that contest. They have spoken to Parks and Rec about having kids games in the park, and they spoke to Greg and Gerold to having kids games here at the pavilion behind City Hall, if they get enough volunteers to help. She is just trying to get people up here just to have some fun! Mayor asked what they would need from us. She just needed permission to use the street in front of City Hall and in front of the Tucker Building. They will have porta potties and a dumpster with Gilly's help. They are also going to sell beer and wine so they will be opened late. There is going to be an old-fashioned cake walk. This brought smiles and laughter from the Council and people attending the meeting here. They have 20-25 people baking cakes and all the proceeds from that will go to the Senior Center. They are charging the regular vendors \$100 for the whole weekend to cover the music and potties etc. but no charge for the food vendors. Next year they would like to make it bigger with maybe a carnival, pony rides and a petting zoo, just trying to get the whole community involved. They would like to do a chili cook off for Halloween too. The City could help by just promoting this event. Max will be doing a spike ball tournament on that Saturday in the park at 11:00. Jennifer is hoping that this will be an annual celebration

here. More plans for next year. They have had a great response from the businesses here! Member MH asked how late they would be going. Friday 5:00-9:00, Saturday 9:00-9:00 and Sunday 9:00-5:00. Some vendors will only be on Friday & Saturday. Sunday may be slower. This is A LOT OF WORK! They need volunteers for the kids games, the more they have the more they can play. The Mayor recommended reaching out to Janel Shanahan, the front desk person, at the school. She has been at the school quite a while and knows a lot of people and families. The Mayor may be able to volunteer. Member SM mentioned having a dunk tank! Mayor said he will not do that although they could make some money because everyone wants to dunk the Mayor (laughter)! Jennifer has posted flyers around town for this event. Member MH mentioned that is the opening weekend of Elk season. Council and the Mayor are super excited about this event! They are working on getting bands so people can dance. The Mayor suggested a Polka Band (laughter)! Jennifer is going to try to have a Jeep, ATV's/side by sides parade for Christmas.

- - (*) Road Committee Report
 - (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim said they did get a bid from Fair N Square for the ADA ramp of \$5040 for the back of the building. The board wanted to leave the front of the Tucker Building the way it is. This will allow people in a wheelchair to see inside of the building from the door. The wheelchairs will not fit through the door. If a person were able to use a walker they could wheel up to the door and proceed with a walker, a much shorter walk for them. They may run into a problem due to the ramp is 22' long and Kim is afraid that the property line will not give them enough room. They do not want to go onto the store's property. She has not heard back from Fair N Square about placing the ramp in a different spot so she will try and get some other bids. Tracey Raddigan suggested contacting Kyle Davis. The Mayor supplied Kim with Kyle's phone number. Kim had a concern about who owns the Tucker Building. Does the City own it? She was going to see if they could get a grant but if the City owns it the Museum may not be able to get a grant. No one was sure who owns the Tucker Building. The Mayor will put it on his list of questions for Geoff. The ramp project is not going to happen right away anyway so there is time. Kim just needs to know so she can see if they can even apply for a grant or not. The question is who has legal jurisdiction of the building. One other item is that Lorraine Bollinger is going to have nonprofit colored pencil classes next year. Lorraine was looking to do classes at the real estate office's conference room, but it is not big enough. There would be six classes for six Saturday's. Kim was wondering if the Council would be willing to donate the Community Hall for these classes. Other suggestions were the Senior Center if Community Hall is not available. City Hall is too small, and someone would have to be here. Bonnie will check the calendar for open days. Kim said the Senior Center would be a great place to have them. Kim also had concerns about the gaps in the wood at the Tucker Building. They have things in there that they need to spend money on preserving and it does not do any good if the wind can come through the wood gaps. Maybe chinking or something. Mayor said to contact Kyle Davis and see what he would suggest. Member MH said Ken Wymer and Jeff Crow chinked his doghouse so there are people up here that do that. Kim said it would be fitting for that time too. At this point they cannot waste the money on preserving things until this is fixed.
- **Unscheduled Delegations**
- (*) Council Member Clayton Smith resigned-position open for new Council Member- The Mayor read the resignation letter from Member Clayton Smith. The Mayor wanted to publicly on behalf of all of us. He put in a lot of time especially on the speed limit signs and the smiley

faces on them which does have a great impact on reducing speeding here. Thank you, Clay, for all of your work! Kim did mention that since Clay was on the Museum board that they will need another volunteer from the Council for their board. This will be a discussion for next month's meeting.

- **(*) Clerk Report-** Cari Shuman had contacted me in quiring about getting the business owners together once a month for cookies and coffee. She had noticed that instead of the business pulling together they are pulling back. Cari is on the Chamber, but she was just wanting to have it at Community Hall. Mayor would be ok, but he thought the Chamber was meeting at the Senior Center. Jennfer said she would love to do this and get to know the other owners. Cari will take charge of the meetings and everything. Mayor said we will waive the fee due to this is in interest of the community. I will let Cari know and the Mayor asked me to let him know because he would like to attend as well. Mayor let the Council know he is coaching the soccer so he will be using Community Hall for practice due to the smokey conditions we have been having. The clerk asked if the Mayor wanted me to put an ad in the Idaho World for a City Council member opening. He said I do not have to. He will start talking to people they know and had a suggestion to speak to the Fire Chief as if he isn't busy enough. He lives in Crouch and could provide good information. Mayor will speak to Paul Cleveland or possibly his wife would be interested as well.
- **(*) Treasurers Report-** Submitted
- **Adjournment- 7:36PM**

Next Regular Council Meeting is October 9th, 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