

CITY OF CROUCH
Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City Council
Wednesday September 13, 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- absent- if
needed by phone

Open Regular Council Meeting 6:34PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing to Amend Budget FY 2023

Open Public Hearing-6:34PM

Hear Testimony- There was no opposition nor testimony.

Close Public Hearing-6:36PM

- **Consent Agenda**
 - Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 9th, 2023
 - Review of Payables & Financials
 - (*) Approve Consent Agenda- Member CS made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Member SM Second the Motion. Motion Passed
- **Water Issues**
 - (*) Water Master Report-Water Master was absent, no water report.
- **New Business**
 - (*) Idaho Power-scheduled power outage for Crouch in September- Paris came in and spoke to Council regarding the extended power outage that will occur on September 28 & 29. It will begin at 9:00PM and end the next day at 7:00AM (approx.10 hours). 3300 meters will be affected. It will mainly affect the area North of Crouch. This is not related to Fire Mitigation. They have notified customers and will call them in advance, an ad will be placed in The Idaho World as well. The City of Crouch should not be affected. It was suggested that notice should be placed on Facebook. The Boise County Sheriff requested electronic notification. Mayor asked that electronic notification be sent to our office.
 - (*) Salary discussion- Council very briefly discussed employee salaries. They agreed on \$18.50 per hour, to keep good employees. Lots of effort has been put into time and training of our employees and we like them. Member McAninch put in that he would like

to somehow get paid time off for our clerk. Member McAninch was suggesting 40 hours a year. This is about taking care of our people. Mayor had spoken to Geoff and will get back with him.

- (*) Amended Budget FY2023- This Amended Budget was just due to housekeeping changes. Member SM made the Motion to approve the Amended Budget, Member CS Seconded, All-YES. Motion Passed.
- (*) Treasurer attending ICCTFOA Conference- Steve had never attended this conference but the Clerk had said it was a good one to attend. He obtained a good agenda; it had good classes that will be helpful for Steve with the way our city functions here in Idaho. He will not be staying over night but will drive back and forth for the 3 days. Hotels are expensive. The cost is \$275. Mayor approved this. Concern was also brought up about mileage. The clerk said they were paid for mileage when attending in the past. Steve will keep track of mileage; Mayor agrees and will speak with Geoff.

- **Old Business**

- (*) Businesses meeting on Old Crouch Rd Survey-The business owners did not get together, that all fell through. Mayor said maybe we could try again in the next few weeks. Member McAninch said that business owner Steve Fitz, Old Crouch Merc, had some survey work done. This could be an opportunity to find the middle of Old Crouch Rd and Market Street. It is not a recorded easement, just a possible way to determine the center of the road and obtain a topographical map as well. This basically sounds like what we wanted to do. The City does not want to take over the road. A couple hundred dollars to set the points and an estimated \$500 to do the map, then let business owners look at it to see if they are happy with it. Mr. Fitz was going to go ahead and do it. If the Council didn't approve that then it was on him. They believe it was done today. It looked like some work was being done there. Eric Ballou, Garden Valley Smiles, said he just spent a few thousand dollars to get Lot Lines Adjusted, because he wants to build on the back of his property. He asked why the city doesn't want to take care of the road like any other city or county does? Why is it put on the business owners? What is the history of it all? First of all, Old Crouch Road is a road but not a road. It is a Prescriptive Easement. It is all private property that people use as a throughfare. Dr. Ballou spoke of the surrounding businesses and the different sizes of property they own. It's not really fair to have larger businesses pay for all the snow removal from the street. The Mayor explained that himself and our attorney sat down with Clay Tucker, commissioner. He basically said they do not want anything to do with the road if and or less the City took it as its own, the pitched in money to take care of it. This is due to the fact that we do not have a road department. Trying to fund all of that is a lot! The county does not plow Old Crouch Road. Most businesses use Paul Shepherd. He knows how to plow the most effective and correct way. Mike Hefner explained at one time the County did drop their blade and plowed the road. This caused a problem. The snow that was plowed blocked all the vehicles at the sides of the road. This is why when you have one entity doing the plowing, it is done in the correct order. There are no berms of snow and it's all removed from downtown. This was the best option, but some people thought they could save money and do their own thing. It went from 9 businesses to 4 and then just dissolved and everyone did their own thing. The city does not want ownership of the road. They were hoping to get the County to help with it. The County does not want to do that. Even if we spent thousands and presented a survey, it did not appear to make any difference at all. Tim Fritzley suggested speaking to Ron Twilegar, chairman of the Boise County Commissioners. Mayor said he would be happy to meet with him. When maintenance needs to be done on Old Crouch Road, who does it? The City has pitched in, and private business owners have as well, Steve Fitz for example. This isn't really fair. A

majority of the traffic that comes through here goes right through and over the bridge. It's not just a roadway for our local businesses, it's for people on Anderson Creek, the Library, and the park as well. The county maintains the road over the bridge and past the park. A question was asked where Old Crouch Road ends, at Middlefork Rd. in Crouch. Question, then why doesn't the county plow it? Because it's a privately owned road by businesses.

Steve Raddigan had sent an email out to Council members from Tom, regarding a survey that was done on Old Crouch Road, before the bridge was replaced. The information from that survey could not be used by us. Dr. Ballou has a survey from his property that will be useful. Tim Fritzley was under the understanding that the county should be maintaining this road. Maybe back in the 70's the county got mad and refused to take care of it anymore. Mike Hefner said not necessarily. Old Crouch Road did not always run through Crouch. It turned left just off the bridge and went through the trailer court and went to where Thor's property is now in Pine Grove. That property was given back to the property owners in 2006 because it was abandoned. It was decided they did not want to go that way and wanted to use the road through Crouch. You need to be careful when dealing with the County or State due to they have their standards regarding roads width etc. Old Crouch Road cannot adhere to some of those requirements per Mike Hefner. When the bridge was designed the speed limit was to be 35 MPH. Thanks to Mike as he brought it to the city and asked if they knew what was going to happen here? Five days later the city met with the commissioners. The commissioners did not want to back down on this (35mph), but the city said they were never informed about what was being proposed in the first place.

The business owners and City Council can bring our issue with the road to the BC Commissioners. Last meeting Council had spoken about all the business owners getting together and deciding on where the center of the road should run. Getting opinions from all concerned. If the city and owners could help each other with repairs, it would work out well. Dr Ballou asked if we really need a study to establish a center line. No, it sounds like Steve Fitz is helping with his survey although it's not a full study, it's a start to get his opinion of center of the road. Snow plowing again by the county was brought up. It works out so much better to have one entity doing the plowing. If you get more than one entity and they are not working together, where some snow may have been removed, more could end up back in that cleared area. Kim Bosse reminded us of how it used to be done. Everyone chipped in with the plowing and paid for their amount of property. This would work if Two Rivers would cooperate but they won't. They do their own thing with piles and melting which becomes a problem. Mike Hefner is still looking for the survey that was done a long time ago. He saved everything he said. There was a suggestion about mandating a downtown business district which would include those businesses along Old Crouch Road and kind of force them into a maintenance agreement. This would prevent any business from dropping out . Geoff had not gotten back on that yet.

Question from Steve Raddigan, does the city want to pay Steve Fitz for the survey he had done? Council members would like to look at the information first to see what benefit it may be. All of the businesses will have to agree about a center line placement. Can not just be one person's opinion. We will decide at the next meeting whether Council will be paying Steve Fitz or not. Place on agenda. Kim asked if the businesses would contribute to a survey? Mayor said some will and some won't. It would not be fair to those who would contribute. A survey could still be disputed if someone did not like it. Dr. Ballou asked if he needed to get zoning to add a breakroom and deck and an ice cream shop. He would like to clean up the area and have a place for kids to go. If he is zoned business (which he is) he would be ok with doing this.

- **Scheduled Delegations** (*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report- Kim said they got the attic all sorted and are continuing to log everything on the computer and starting to make folders which they will put in the Museum draw in the filing cabinet. Some people are having an issue with changing the face of the Tucker building with the handicap ramp. Question was asked to Kim if we really need to have a ramp? Yes, by law we do. They were thinking of putting it on the back side of the Tucker Building. A wheelchair will not fit through the doorway so all a person could do is look in the door. There has to be good access to the ADA approved ramp. Kim said there is concrete around one side of the building. There are lawyers who go around checking on these things. Kim said they will still check into everything. They have had a board member who has been out of town, so they haven't always had a quorum, so they turn it into a work party. Clay Smith, Council member has been helping a lot! Tim Fritzley said if a building was built before ADA specifications it doesn't need to be compliant. If it is a Public building, it does have to be! It must have one ADA access.
- **Unscheduled Delegations**
- (*) Clerk Report-Will place ad in the Idaho World for snow plowing. Bikes are being exchanged. Flagpole needs a little work. Place ad for a web designer for city website. Mike will be appointed to Council in Jan.
- (*) Treasurers Report-In file
- Adjournment-7:35PM

Next Regular Council Meeting is October 11th, 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