



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
[Cityofclvnmv.gov](http://Cityofclvnmv.gov)

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 28, 2021 5:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Mayor Robertson called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at 5:00 P.M.; led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Ernie Flangas
- Councilman Kurt Carson
- Councilman Ed Spear
- Councilman Jim Alworth
- Councilwoman Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper

City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:

- City Treasurer-HR Director Janette Trask
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb
- Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Engineer BJ Almberg
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Municipal Court Judge Mike Coster (Zoom)

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following persons attended via video conference: Geri Wopschall, and Caroline McIntosh.

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: October 28, 2021

Print name below

Kyle Horvath  
Lindsey Wantas  
George Chachas  
Alfonso  
Gregory Rivero  
Eric Miller  
Teri Wopschall

Print name below

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marietta Henry stated I live at 2375 Iron Drive. I am the Vice Chairman of the Tourism and Recreation Board. I am here regarding item three under New Business regarding approval to move forward with an increase to the percentage collected by the City of Ely from Transient Lodging Tax. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board reinvests over half of the room tax collected immediately back into the community in addition to the \$703,000.00 in distributions right off the top to the City, the train, the Golf Course, and the State of which the City and the Nevada Northern Railroad receive a lion share of the room tax. The City of Ely received \$315,000.00 in fiscal year 2021 and Nevada Northern Railway received \$285,000.00 in fiscal year 2021. I am most proud of the community-based programs, including our local grant program, which distributes an additional \$195,000.00 to the community via aid to organizations, capital improvements, and outdoor recreation. We also invest \$107,000.00 into community-based line items that benefit the City and the Community in public art, historic asset preservation, White Pine Mainstreet, White Pine Public Museum, and new event incubation. I am also proud of the marketing service we provide through posters, brochures, social media, press releases, photography, and video services. Between the grant program and the marketing services White Pine County Tourism and Recreation benefits over 150 businesses, organizations, attractions, and events. We are proud of the work we do for the community and consider ourselves a great partner for the City of Ely. If there are ways we can work together to further the City of Ely more, we are always willing to come to the table and discuss that.

White Pine County Director of Tourism Kyle Horvath stated regarding item 8B-3 moving forward with taking more money from tourism, I think this was a surprise to everybody to see this on the agenda. I take this as a great opportunity to celebrate what tourism has contributed to this community. White Pine County Tourism has been a great partner to the City of Ely. In addition to the monetary benefit in room tax distribution we have partnered on bathroom renovations at Broadbent Park, bleacher repainting for Independence Day, and the Traveling Vietnam Wall. We conducted the survey for the Broadbent Park renovations and letters of support for all the City project that you have asked for and the OHV brochure to name a few. When I took this position four years ago, I was very excited to have the opportunity to carry on the rich tourism history that was set forth by my predecessor. I looked forward to playing a role in developing this community and I think my team and I have. At sixty five percent occupancy, tourism is estimated to bring in \$60 million in taxable sales annually from overnight visitors alone. With Ely having most of the economic activity it is a huge economic engine for the City. Of the \$1.9 million collected in room tax in fiscal year 2021 \$1 million was distributed directly back into the community; of that \$703,000.00 was distributed to the City of Ely, Nevada Northern Railway, the Golf Course, and Travel Nevada. Five years ago, the City of Ely increased the room tax to 13.5% which is one of the highest in the State. It also increased its percentage take-in to two and a half points; that equates to 18.5% of all room tax collected goes directly back to your guys budget. It is higher than the City of Las Vegas, City of Reno, and City of Carson City. In fiscal year 2017-2018 we cut a check for \$158,000.00 and in fiscal year 2020-2021 it was \$315,000.000. That is a \$157,000.00 increase since I have been here, and it is also three times the amount the City of Sparks receives out of their Transient Occupancy Tax. The Nevada Northern Railway did receive \$285,000.00 last year and we are on record pace this year, so they expect to receive more in this fiscal year that we are currently in. We do have an amazingly impactful local grant program set forth by my predecessor and because of the Aid to Organization Grant, the Capital Improvement Grant, and the Outdoor Recreation Grant we distribute \$195,000.00 annually to local organizations and events. As Marietta said, we also distribute \$107,000.00 in community-based line items such as public art, historic asset preservation, Mainstreet, the Public Museum, and new event incubation. Divesting from tourism now is going to take away from those community programs and that community support. The remaining budget is operational expenses such as utilities, payroll, and it is also the marketing we do for this community; the promotion of all the attractions and events, the designing of the posters and brochures, social media, traditional marketing, printing, video, photography, and press releases just to name a few. This year we have worked with 150 local businesses, organizations, and attractions and I have to say I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished for this community. If there is anything we are missing, I would look forward to working with you to move the City forward.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 8B-3 you are to consider moving forward with an increase to the percentage collected by the City of Ely from Transient Lodging Tax. The City needs to live within its means. You are not effectively accounting for the revenue you receive

now. The Council turned down a proposal from rPlus Energies that would have given you \$700.00 a day just to cross the railroad tracks and possibly supply you with the information you were seeking. The Railroad does not operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law and they receive between \$300,000.00 and \$400,000.00 in room tax money. On your agenda item 8B-4 you are to consider one-way traffic on Mill and Murry Street. I would like to know if the residents living on that street petitioned for that option; if not then the item should be dropped. On your agenda item 8B-5 you are to consider solutions for traffic visibility on the corner of Aultman and Mill Street, but you have the same concern on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Aultman Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Aultman Street. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the rumor of embezzlement at the Railroad; selective enforcement; lack of access to his property on Great Basin Boulevard; lack of water and sewer connections on his property on Great Basin Boulevard; and his request for parking permits for businesses on Great Basin Boulevard.

Terri Borghoff stated I live at 994 Murry Street. Regarding your agenda items 4 under New Business; I am personally against the one way on Murry and Mill Street, but at the very least could you table it until our street is paved? I don't see the need for it as I drive up and down Ogden, Ely, and Fay Avenue on a regular basis and we have the same problem as they do with the narrow street. I don't think our town is populated enough to make this a huge problem.

### **3. Mayor – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Agenda, including removal of agenda items.**

Councilman Carson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **➤ CITY MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

City Municipal Judge Coster stated we have started moving to the new building and there are some technical issues being worked out. It is unclear if we will recommence court on Tuesday in the new building as we had planned or be delayed. We will keep everyone posted on the process of our move.

#### **➤ CITY FIRE CHIEF**

City Fire Chief Stork stated the worker we have out on SIS leave did stop in this last week and he is confident he is going to have to have a back surgery. I don't see him returning to work until February or March at the earliest. I know the overtime has been an issue and right now I have no other option than to keep backfilling his shifts. Our open position is advertised at Truckee Meadows Community College, The Fire Academy, Fire Marshall's Office, and Job Connect and we have had zero applicants. We are still trying to get some applicants and I do have one prospect that is currently in the Volunteers. I will get with Janette on Monday and brainstorm other places to advertise. The problem we have had in the past is we advertised on Indeed and other similar sites and we got applicants from New Jersey and they have no intent of moving out here to Ely. Those sites are expensive, and I am not sure that is money well spent.

#### **➤ CITY CLERK**

Administrative Assistant Cobb read the following report into the record:



## **CITY OF ELY**

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
Fax (775) 289-1463

### **REPORT**

**DATE:** October 26, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor Robertson and City Council Members  
**FROM:** City Clerk Jennifer Lee

### **COMPLAINTS**

Administrative Assistant Cobb and I, assisted by Public Works Supervisor Cracraft, continue to manage the 85 complaints my office has received this year; to date we have sent 62 letters, received 38 responses and 51 property owners have complied.

### **DONATIONS**

The Nevada Northern Railway Foundation donated \$500.00 towards the security and beautification of Jack Caylor Park.

### **GRANTS**

- Last Friday, the Governor's Office of Economic Development judged our Parker Avenue Sewer and Bell Avenue Water projects CDBG eligible, so those applications can now be approved for final submission at the November 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting;
- Final work on the SNPLMA Round 19 grant application for Broadbent Park's redesign is being completed this week for submission by White Pine County next Friday; and
- I am still working with a BLM grants officer in Reno on the City's Green Up application.

### **TRAINING**

I attended POOL PACT's annual HR Conference in Reno with City Treasurer Trask last week; presentations of particular interest to me included cybersecurity and best planning practices.

### **BROADBAND**

I virtually attended the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) Broadband 102 Training yesterday.

## ➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer AlMBERG stated yesterday our guy that deals with our SCADA program was in town and has our Terrace well running and we will get it running in auto very soon; I believe it will keep our Murry boosters from ever coming on in the winter and will give them a needed break. We are compiling some information Jennifer had requested on our water usage for our negotiations with the RNMC. We were requested to compile cost estimates for projects that will be considered with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding the City will be receiving; we coordinated with Mike and Carl and just turned those estimates back into City Hall today to go in front of the Budget Committee when they meet again. One item that is not on there: Jennifer wanted us to look into the cost of getting the City on meters so we will look into that and get that cost estimate submitted. On Murry Street they are pouring more curb and gutter today. The weather on Monday delayed them a little bit, but I anticipate it will dry out through the week and they will haul in more materials throughout the week.

Mayor Robertson asked is there deadline for paving still tomorrow or will it be Monday?

City Engineer AlMBERG stated I believe the extension they were given was to complete the concrete work in thirty days and the paving was supposed to be done by tomorrow; weather pending.

## **5. REPORTS**

### ➤ **COUNCILMAN FLANGAS**

Councilman Flangas stated I would like to let the Council know a week from Friday at 1:00 p.m. will be former Mayor Etcheverry wife's funeral here in Ely. Mr. Etcheverry served as Mayor of the City of Ely for over three terms. I would like to recognize the good work he did in our community and the service he did serving as the chairman of the Nevada League of Cities for many years. I think it would be a compliment from us if we sent a card or attended the funeral.

### ➤ **COUNCILMAN SPEAR**

Councilman Spear stated I attended a table workshop with Fire Chief Stork, and he did an impeccable job; if he would have not brought the stuff to do the drill it would not have happened. Fire Chief Stork was on top of things and it was amazing the work he did.

➤ **COUNCILMAN ALWORTH**

Councilman Alworth stated last week the Mayor and I met with a representative from NORESKO. It is a company that is involved in new technology. They are working with the school district right now and gave us a good sales pitch on building modifications regarding energy saving. We gave the representative information on the solar panels at the fire house including the electric and heating. They had big influence in wastewater treatment plant operations. We are already into a process of LED lighting, which is working out well, but they have other ideas of how to cut down on lighting. For instance, when you walk in or out of a room there are sensors, so the lights go on and off. It is all about the little things that add up to big things so it was a well-received meeting and we will get more information as it develops. White Pine County has also contacted this representative regarding their building plans for input.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I am glad to see that Jennifer enjoyed the information she received on cyber security. I know you have heard me say how important I think this is. I will collaborate with Jennifer on the information she has received along with the information that I received at League of Cities. I know we are small and we think those things can't happen to us, but if some kind of cyber issue were to happen, it would hurt our City and I think we need to pay attention to it in the near future.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated I attended the grand opening of the new County Justice Center on Wednesday with Councilman Spear and as you recall the City did donate some land to the County for that so they could secure USDA Funding; it wasn't mentioned, but I think it was an admirable thing the City did. We are proud to participate with the County on this; it is a beautiful facility and Judge Coster and the ladies at the Municipal Court have better accommodations now. We also had the Attorney General from the State here last night and this morning. I toured him, with his staff, around Ely and caught up with the attorney on the opioid lawsuit.

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ONLY OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL.**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Alworth disclosed I am a past member of the Ely Volunteer Fire Department, and I have looked at the bills and see no conflicts with voting on them.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 8A-1 Minutes and 8A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Alworth Second by: Councilman Spear Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
  - September 23, 2021
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
  - October 14, 2021
  - October 18, 2021

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. Mayor Robertson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Reappointment of Municipal Utilities Board member Dale Derbidge with term through December 31, 2025.

Mayor Robertson stated his term is up the end of December and he has expressed willingness to be reappointed.

Councilman Carson moved to reappoint Dale Derbidge as a member to the Municipal Utilities Board with a term through December 31, 2025. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously



3. Councilman Flangas - Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to move forward with an increase to the percentage collected by the City of Ely from Transient Lodging Tax.

Councilman Flangas stated the reason for this being on the agenda is the City doesn't receive proper funds from taxation on property taxes. The County gives us a token amount. We have parts of the City going downhill due to lack of funds to develop and to encourage new businesses and tourism in our community. I look at the fact that tourists travel on our roads, use our parks, and facilities. Therefore, I would like to see if between the Tourism and Recreation Board and the City of Ely we can beautify the City in more way than one. I think it is the responsibility of the City to do something with funding to encourage new businesses and encourage tenants to rent open buildings. Unfortunately, there are not too many places you can obtain this kind of money to do these projects. The State Law allows us as a city to acquire funds from the Tourism and Recreation Board to accomplish some of the needs in this community. I was the Chairman of the Tourism and Recreation Board for many years, I know what the funds are and I know how they are spent. When I left the Tourism and Recreation Board there was well over \$1 million in the fund and that was to enlarge and improve the community. I am asking for more of that money that will benefit the community and them as well.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated with all due respect Ernie I appreciate what you are doing, but the first I heard of it was seeing it on the agenda. I think before we go this route we need to look at what money we have coming in and what we could use towards that. I have never had it brought before the Budget Committee to see if we could do some of these projects with the funding we get now.

Mayor Robertson asked these funds go right into the Capital Fund?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated it does go into the Capital Fund, but this year we also have some going into the General Fund to support some of the Capital Projects.

Councilman Carson stated correct me if I am wrong, but I do believe we have a mechanism to clean up downtown with the Mainstreet Program and they are working diligently on cleaning things up.

Councilman Flangas stated I haven't seen anything except for some signs.

Councilman Carson stated they have taken down some signs, painted buildings, and picked up trash on private property; maybe you should reach out to them.

Councilman Flangas stated are you saying our streets don't need any help?

Councilman Carson stated I would talk to Councilman Alworth on that as he is in charge of the road department.

Councilman Alworth stated Ernie I appreciate your comments, but once again this is a blindside. When the people in the audience came here tonight, they had hard facts and numbers on where the money is going and you are just grasping at a wish. Maybe you have not read in the paper what the Regional Transportation Commission has done in this community in the last three years; it has been a lot. We are in line for a \$5.9 million grant to beautify Broadbent Park. As for the messes on the street, we have a nuisance/abatement ordinance cleaning the City up. Jennifer just reported there have been eighty-five complaints turned in we are working on and it is working. The Mainstreet Committee is not just in Ely, Nevada; there is one in Baker, McGill and Lund. Once again like the City Treasurer mentioned, have you gone in to see how much money is budgeted? Tell me how much money is budgeted this year in the General Fund out of Tourism and Recreation.

Councilman Flangas stated I am not asking for their entire budget. I am asking for a very small amount. We have an area for Mainstreet America and I have never seen anyone sit at that desk. The only thing I have seen that is visible is the little signs they have put up. I am not criticizing as it takes money to do these projects.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I am standing in the gap and understand where everyone is coming from. I know as a council person it would help if Janette could bring me up to speed where all the money goes and what we are doing so I can have an intelligent conversation. I believe further conversation wouldn't hurt to see what suggestions someone may have.

Councilman Alworth stated the Tourism and Recreation Board they distributed their 2021 City of Ely Transient Lodging Tax January through September and if you look at the amount of money coming in, I would say that a lot of people are coming to this fine city of ours. The last month is the highest it has been in the last months at \$219,723.00 and the City of Ely gets forty-five percent of that. The four main collectors of that are the City of Ely, the Railroad, Taxation, and the Golf Course. The forty-five percent is not coming out of our pockets, the tourists are paying this, and I think that is a pretty healthy amount. The City Treasurer has it budgeted, and people need to get more involved with our finances who are in these seats right here to get a better understanding of what is going on. When Ernie stated the City is going downhill, I don't like that being said. There are people coming to town and we have the numbers to prove it. I appreciate your comments but get your numbers and facts together before you come here with your wish list. If you have a project XYZ, and state you need \$50,000.27 that is what you have to come with. I am looking at the budget with the Treasurer all the time. I would need more information for me to do anything on this.

Councilman Carson asked how much money are you asking for?

Councilman Flangas stated I haven't set an amount. Right now, the City gets two and a half percent and I would like to see that increased by a three and a half percent for 6% total; six percent of a budget is not all that much. We are going to need money as our cemetery is getting to the point we are going to have to enlarge or go somewhere else. Where are the funds going to come from to buy that land and develop it? We are not getting our proper taxation dollars from the County and I don't see where else we can get more money.

Councilman Alworth stated did you read the City Engineers Report on the cemetery? We have ninety-one years out there with eighteen burials a year.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to point out that for some of these park projects we can use the American Rescue Plan Act Funding and those are cost estimates coming from the City Engineers Office for the Budget Committee meeting in November.

Councilman Spear stated I have been quiet on this as I understand the NRS and I know exactly what the room tax can go to. I know the percentages and probably know them better than anyone in this room because I follow them. The NRS states that room tax can be used for anything the general fund revenue is used for. I listen to Ernie and his good ideas to clean up things, but my main concern is this community does not have funding to maintain our infrastructure. We were looking at a program last meeting where they are looking at 2,218 employees at the peak and I can't imagine the impact it is going to have on our landfill and on our wastewater treatment plant; there has been no mitigation done for that. If we do move forward with an increase to the room tax, we need to plan how it will be spent and if it was supposed to go into the Capital Funds; many times that is how we have met our match on grant funding. It is being used for that, but is it enough? That is where I think Ernie is coming from. If the Council does agree on an increase, there needs to be due notice to the Tourism and Recreation Board so they can plan budgeting and have a hearing on it. I do believe the City of Fallon collects every penny of the room tax and then distributes it and that is far more than the City of Ely gets. When you say we are the highest in the State, that is a misconception and not true. Fallon takes one hundred percent of their room tax and then funds their community center and other projects from that.

Mayor Robertson stated I believe the Tourism Director is saying our 13.5% rate that people pay for the room tax.

Councilman Spear stated he specifically said that Ely gets more than Sparks.

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board Director Kyle Horvath stated I share all the concerns expressed by Councilman Flangas. I struggle with the blight and the empty buildings. I see tourism as a development tool and that it is not just fun and games. We are creating quality of life for the citizens, trying to increase the businesses that want to move downtown, and people that want to move into the community; because of that you are going to see revenues increase. As our community grows, not only will your tourism dividend grow but your taxable stuff will grow. Another community that takes the majority of their taxable is Elko. Elko had some problems during COVID because their tourism went down significantly. Their conventions went down to almost nothing and because of that, the City of Elko struggled. Tourism is a safety net and diversity. It is not an answer to everybody's problems. When all your eggs are in one basket you are not safe because tourism can ebb and flow. We weathered the COVID storm well and that is why you saw everyone's revenue go up during COVID because we played it correctly. Something could happen where tourism goes away for a while and if the City is truly banking on the money it is bringing in through tourism, that scares me, and I don't think that is a safe way of going at it. I agree as a citizen and homeowner that infrastructure needs to be addressed and the streets need to be cleaned up. I see tourism as a partner in this and hope to make \$60 million out of the \$900,000.00 I have to play with after everything is distributed. I would just hope that when you use the money from tourism, I hope you are getting the same return on investment for the citizens of this community that I am for you guys. Fallon did well because they have a strong city government. Elko did not fare as well and they had the same model.

Councilman Spear stated it goes a lot deeper than that and I think we are getting way off course here. I can share with you that the City of Ely is the only city in the entire State of Nevada that one hundred percent of the property taxes goes to White Pine County. We are locked into a County that has been bleeding the residents dry. Infrastructure is a problem and we are going to have to address this, whether or not it is room tax, today or tomorrow.

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board Director Kyle Horvath stated I understand your frustration and I want to note that you have an investment that is paying dividends and you usually don't draw off of the principal to continue to get those dividends. I am here to work with you guys to figure this all out because we are on the same team and share the same concerns.

Mayor Robertson stated this item will die for a lack of motion.

1. Mayor Robertson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Appointment of Municipal Utilities Board member with term through December 31, 2022; Nominee for seat: Sherrie Marquez.

Mayor Robertson stated Sherrie has been working at Mount Wheeler Power for years and is involved in utility billing and I think she would bring a lot of good information and experience to the Municipal Utilities Board; for that reason, I would like to nominate her.

Councilman Spear moved to appoint Sherrie Marquez to the Municipal Utilities Board as a member with a term through December 31, 2022. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **6. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.**

1. Councilman Alworth – Discussion Only– Approval to install YIELD signs on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue L intersection.

Bill Miller stated I just want to state that I approve this agenda item and thank Councilman Alworth for placing it on the agenda. I brought this forward a few weeks ago and thank the Sheriff and his staff for doing the traffic study. I hope you will move forward with placing YIELD signs at this intersection. I think placing YIELD signs at this intersection will at least get people to take a glance to make sure nobody is coming in



the opposite direction. It is located within one block of one school and about three blocks from another school and I would say approximately eighty-five percent of vehicles traveling on this road have a child with them, so safety is a factor.

## **7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

1. Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to install YIELD signs on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue L intersection.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to thank the Sheriff for giving us this survey and good report.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the installation of YIELD signs on the 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue L intersection. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **B. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

4. Councilman Flangas – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to move forward with discussion on establishing one-way traffic on Mill Street and Murry Street.

Councilman Flangas stated I have had some calls with the work being done on Murry Street; it has been brought up looking at Mill and Murry Streets as being one-way streets. I am not in favor of Mill Street being a one-way, but I believe a traffic study should be conducted. Mill Street is one of the busiest streets in town and when there is traffic going both ways and cars parked on both sides of the street, it is a hindrance. Murry Street is quite narrow and consequently most of the automobiles are parked on the sidewalk instead of the street and this change would give them the right to park on both sides of the street. I am not saying we need to make a ruling today; it was something I brought up because people contacted me that live on those streets.

Councilman Spear stated back when U.S. Highway 6 became formally Mill Street; we did the resurfacing and NDOT put in the curb and gutter; this was brought up during some of those hearings about one-way streets and we were chastised dearly for it. I have lived and spent my entire life on Mill Street where the two streets come together; and it is a problem and has always been a problem. The lady in the audience I agree with in that we have some real narrow streets in Central Ely as well and they are nightmares with all the cars parked and traffic. I think we need a public hearing to discuss this further. I think having traffic flow south on Mill and north on Murry would not be a bad idea and help people with parking. To consider this right now with the mess that is up there is not feasible and I think we are looking at a couple years. I think we need better signage for semi traffic coming in as well. I think it is premature to continue with this item right now.

Mayor Robertson stated I would recommend to the Council that it be tabled until the project on Murry Street is finished. I would also like to add that it is not the City's responsibility to provide street parking for individuals. If you own a home, your responsibility is to provide parking on your property for your vehicles and if you have too many vehicles, I don't think that should be the City's issue. I think a one-way street would be addressing a parking issue for property owners.

Councilman Spear moved to table this item until all three phases of construction are complete. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Flangas – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to move forward with discussion on solutions for traffic visibility on the corner of Mill Street and Aultman Street.

Mayor Robertson stated there has been a car parked there by KRM Auto and there is a visibility issue when a car is parked there.

Councilman Flangas stated there is always a vehicle parked on the west side of the intersection and if traffic is coming down the street, you can't see it coming.

Mayor Robertson stated this is a State highway, so I would recommend engaging our District Engineer and see if he has input.

Councilman Spear stated one of the things I noticed is Taproot is doing a great business; people are parking in the red NO PARKING parking zone to run in and get their drinks.

City Engineer Almberg stated it is a State highway and I think the solution needs to go through the State highway. One of the things that I think is going to happen with phase III is they are going to put bulb-outs at the corners and the reason for those bulb-outs is to get people closer to where they can see. These bulb-outs will make it a shorter distance for a pedestrian to cross as well.

Councilman Spear asked we are estimating two years before that is completed.

City Engineer Almberg stated that is correct and that is the long-term solution. In the interim, I think we should reach out to the District Engineer and see what his thoughts are.

Councilman Spear stated I would like to be very curt when we do that because I see the State took away the parking that Wild West Grooming had, and they have no other parking. KRM is also doing good business and we don't want to take away their parking; this is a double edge sword.

City Engineer Almberg stated I agree it is a double edge sword. Like the Mayor said, is it not the City's responsibility to provide parking for private residents and businesses. You have property owners right downtown that are thriving and have taken it upon themselves to provide parking behind their business. We can't always solve every individual's or business's needs for parking by keeping them on the street.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to direct City Engineer Almberg to reach out to the NDOT District Engineer on solutions for visibility on the corner of Aultman Street and Mill Street. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth – Discussion Only – Update on PORTER Group efforts on behalf of the City of Ely.

Councilman Spear stated things are stagnant at this time.

Mayor Robertson stated we have talked about having the PORTER Group help us in lobbying for some of the State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Capital Projects.

Councilman Spear stated yes. Our hospital is a patient exporter and I think we need to do something. If you remember on the first go around with Representative Horsford's office, the biggest payout was Nye County; they got \$15.1 million for their hospital. Jim and I will be sitting down with Matt tomorrow morning to discuss if we can do something with a multi-jurisdictional application for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money.

7. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Leavitt Group Insurance Representative –Renewal proposal of healthcare coverage for the City of Ely, December 1, 2021-November 30, 2022.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I recommend we stick with our current plan with the renewal. There were some changes with the deductibles and out-of-pockets going up. It was a thirteen percent increase and I always budget a fifteen percent increase, so this plan is within the budget. With the comparison, I don't feel we can absorb a thirty-five percent increase at this time.

Councilman Alworth asked how many employees go out of network?

Leavitt Group Insurance representative Lindsey Wansless stated out of network is not a big deal. Everyone that I know that goes to Cedar, St. George, Salt Lake City or Las Vegas; they have no problems as Sierra is a Las Vegas based carrier, Salt Lake City is a UHC Network, and Cedar and St. George are Sierra Health Networks, so there should be no problem in being covered.

Councilman Alworth asked do you hear any complaints from our employees?

Leavitt Group Insurance representative Lindsey Wansless stated no and because you are in the fifty-mile radius, if there are complaints, we can usually fight the carrier. Some of the contracts are a little different and that is why you will see on dental plans the single and employee and spouse went down, but employee plus child and family went up. They look at the group you are in and the area of service you are in.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I will get memos out to all the departments regarding open enrollment next Thursday and it will be for thirty days.

Councilman Spear moved to accept the renewal proposal of healthcare coverage for the City of Ely December 1, 2021-November 30, 2022. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approve Budget Committee's recommendation of the American Rescue Plan expenditures, to include, modify or exclude the following:
- Ely Volunteer Fire Department request to increase 7<sup>th</sup> Man Stipend by \$500.00 per month and EMT Stipends by \$50.00 per call, for all categories, for remainder of FY22.
  - Ely Fire Department COVID Supplies Request in the amount of \$273,904.05.
    - Stryker Power Load - \$46,620.40
    - Stryker Power Gurney - \$42,977.58
    - Stryker Stair Chair - \$3,429.60
    - Mobile Rims Communication - \$41,458.14
    - Harris Radios (5) - \$10,046.23
    - Narcotics Safe System for Station - \$5,645.00
    - Online Medical Protocol App - \$600.00
    - EMS Supplies - \$53,099.00
    - PPE (17) sets - \$70,028.10

Councilman Alworth stated I like this breakdown better than what was previously presented.

City Fire Chief Stork stated one of the things that did change on this was I received updated quotes for Harris Radios which were \$5,000.00 instead of \$9,000.00 and cut back on the PPE. These changes are reflected on the current request, but I do have another wish list coming soon.

Councilman Carson moved to approve the Budget Committee's recommendation of the following American Rescue Plan expenditures:

- Ely Volunteer Fire Department request to increase 7<sup>th</sup> Man Stipend by \$500.00 per month and EMT Stipends by \$50.00 per call, for all categories, for remainder of FY22.
  - Ely Fire Department COVID Supplies Request in the amount of \$273,904.05.
- Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Stork stated I am speaking as a private business owner at 753 Aultman. I would like to see 8<sup>th</sup> Street made into a two-way street between Aultman and Clark. When they have the Silver State Shootout, Pumpkin Chunkin, and other events, they close off the street at 8<sup>th</sup>, which they don't get permission from the City to do; as a business owner, the trash pickup couldn't get down the street to pick up my dumpster. I bought two lots out behind my building to make parking lots out of and it is not accessible for my customers to use. I don't know if that is a City Street or a County Street. I do know the County owns Clark Street. When 8<sup>th</sup> Street is closed, it greatly affects my business.

Greg Rivero stated I live at 1040 Mill Street and I want to thank the City employees for last night. We had a major water break on Mill Street and my water was off for a couple of hours. The crew was very pleasant, came to my door, explained to me what happened and they did a great job.

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for a copy of all parking permits required on Great Basin Boulevard; parking for his property at 710 Avenue G.; the curb and gutter installed at his property on Avenue G and Great Basin Boulevard; and selective enforcement on nuisances around the City.

**10. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**

Councilman Alworth moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 6:21 p.m. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST