



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
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## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 8, 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.; Harry Rhea offered invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Kurt Carson (Zoom)
- Councilman Ed Spear
- Councilman Jim Alworth
- Councilwoman Michelle Beecher

Members absent:

- Councilman Ernie Flangas

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

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Treasurer-HR Director Janette Trask
- City Attorney Shain Manuele
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Building Official Lee Walker
- City Engineer BJ Almberg
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod

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, Marietta Henry, Chris Stanko, Robert Kluck, and Maureen Otzelberger.

### City Council ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: 4-8-2021

**Print name below** \_\_\_\_\_

Bunny Hill \_\_\_\_\_

George Chodras \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Wilson \_\_\_\_\_

Holly Wilson \_\_\_\_\_

Rick Hasler \_\_\_\_\_

Don Woodruff \_\_\_\_\_

John O'Halloran \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Stutz \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Long \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Bybee \_\_\_\_\_

Karin Robb \_\_\_\_\_

Stan Roberts \_\_\_\_\_

**Print name below** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Golf Professional Randy Long stated on the County side the Golf Course is the City's facility and we lease it. I feel we have done a great job of maintaining the facility the best we can by purchasing new carts, sheds, and taking care of all the maintenance. We were completely self-sufficient with our own wells and survived on our own merit as an enterprise fund and did not hit the taxpayers since I have been here since 2004. I hope you also see it that way to maintain your facility.

White Pine County Commissioner Richard Howe stated I am a very active member of the Ely Golf Course, retired, and use the Golf Course almost every day in the summertime. I have friends that are ninety years old and younger friends that use the Golf Course. The Golf Course is an asset to Ely. It is a part of our community like the softball fields, the pool, and everything else that enhances the quality of life in White Pine County. The County has maintained the water issue, the buildings, and the employees. By overcharging and possibly destroying the quality of life that we have here in White Pine County and our ability to utilize the Golf Course, many people probably won't live here anymore because that is what they do. The Golf Course is not out there to make money for any entity, but strictly there to provide enjoyment and exercise. I play with a man that is 92 years old and the older people have played golf on that course for over fifty years. It keeps their mind and body active and healthy. It is important to see the importance of the Golf Course and utilizing water fees and raising them to supplement or make income is not what it is all about. It is somewhere to go like the library to benefit all citizens of the County and doing that sometimes we have to pay a little more and don't make any money. A week and a half ago I played out there and there was no water running and there were cracks in the greens, and it needs water. The County cannot absorb that much cost but the City and County working together have maintained the Golf Course and the facility for all of the residents for White Pine County for decades and I hope it resumes and stays that way for many more.

Michael Kneese stated I am a 30-year resident of White Pine County and a strong user of the Golf Course until I had a shoulder operation. The last two years is the only two out of thirty I have been off the Golf Course. I have seen the Golf Course go through a lot of changes. The pumps used to cost about \$15,000.00, then it was decided to drill a new well and with this change you are not going to have to pay a water bill and then the Council turns around and stated the Council is proposing to raise the bill to approximately \$48,000.00; that is \$33,000.00 more than what we were paying five or six year ago. These are hard times for everybody, but I don't see how we can expect the Golf Course to put out that kind of money. It is on the same water line and all you are doing is pumping it.

Kevin Robinson stated I am a member of the Golf Advisory Board and have been for several years and volunteer time since the time I started playing at fourteen years old. The Golf Course literally saved my life; I was a little bit of a juvenile delinquent. I was taken there at 7:30 in the morning and picked up at 6:00 at night. I believe it has an impact on the youth in our community. The Golf Course is called out as an elitist opportunity or project, and it is not; it is open to everyone. A single mom with three kids can have a young man grow up out there and learn to be a quality piece of this community; let's not take that away from our youth. It is the only entity in the County or City organizations that must support itself. We do get assistance and I will be the first to admit back in 2011 when this arrangement was made it was such a benefit. We understand we have to pay our way, but don't kill us because it will. I think the statements that have been made about the facility going away; let's keep in mind whose facility that is. It becomes a liability for this entity right here if we go away. That is not a threat, but it is something you have to consider. You don't want your expenses to rise. We are offering an input of income back to the municipality. If we become successful, you are successful.

George Chachas stated the water needs at the Golf Course should not be up for discussion until they pay their bill in full at the same rate as other businesses. They were not billed properly due to duct tape being found in the water meter. The meter was intentionally sabotaged, and they need to pay the average use when the meter was functioning properly. Federal law mandates and states you cannot discriminate in any federally-funded or assisted utility. The County Golf Course is looking for a sweetheart deal. Golf is a luxury, not a necessity. I want to ask, have they paid for the 111 million gallons of water or was the service cut off? Your auditors have always stated you need to show the true cost of doing business. I am not against the Golf Course, but it is like anything else; you have to show the true cost of doing business. I requested

a copy of the PORTER Group report that Councilman Alworth had at the last meeting to talk about their progress; it was not provided, and I am requesting that again. On your agenda item 8B-1 you are to consider the possible appointment of Bunny Hill to the Animal Control Advisory Board. She is not a City resident and you need to advertise for someone that lives within the City. Mr. Chachas mentioned ongoing concerns of soliciting a new newspaper and selective enforcement of codes within the City.

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

Councilman Spear moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Beecher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

➤ **CITY FIRE CHIEF**

City Fire Chief Stork stated the County received a load of contaminated fuel. Unfortunately, we received the effects of that in four pieces of apparatus. We have one that is out of service and waiting on parts which will hopefully be up tomorrow or Saturday. District Chief North is going to bring another ambulance, so it will be available if something comes up. It will be an ongoing process of eliminating the contaminated fuel out of the other pieces of equipment. As soon as we were made aware of it, I notified the County and samples have been sent to see what was in the fuel.

➤ **CITY POLICE CHIEF**

City Police Chief Henriod stated unfortunately the first report sent out had wrong date ranges, but an amended copy was sent out. These reports are for all City calls including residents and non-residents.

Mayor Robertson asked is everything going good with the coordination between Q & D and your office with traffic shutdowns?

City Police Chief Henriod stated yes, they are. We have been working there quite heavily and hopefully they notice our presence. We have written quite a few citations for the construction zone and the problem areas are those coming off Great Basin Boulevard going in the northern direction and not complying with the speed limit change.

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated Monday we received notice that the City has been awarded the CDBG Grant for the third phase of Murry Street. POOL PACT also notified us a few weeks ago that municipalities with more than eleven employees have to have a safety committee which needs to have quarterly meetings; I have asked Public Works Supervisor Cracraft to head that up and we are getting our safety plan in place working with POOL PACT.

➤ **CITY TREASURER/HR DIRECTOR**

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated we have had some unexpected costs on the armory and where I have found the money to pay for it is out of the Redevelopment Fund; I will have to augment to finish it because we do have the funds available to augment. I will be getting the budget fine-tuned and sent off; the RSVP funding is included from the last meeting in the upcoming budget.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated the heating system in the armory is not working properly and we have a company coming to look at it as it is all computerized. They will bring computers and show us how to work them and that will be stationed in my office. As of right now, I have to go over and manually turn them on and off every two hours. The electrical heating did not work properly.

Mayor Robertson asked when will all of it be rectified?

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated the company is called Envision out of Las Vegas and I don't have a date of when the work will be completed.

Councilman Alworth asked how much money will these repairs cost?

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated right now it is estimated at \$63,000.00. The water system pipes broke, the boiler is having problems, and the sprinkler system water pipes broke. It is quite extensive.

Councilman Alworth stated if I understand correctly City Treasurer, the money for the repairs is coming from the Redevelopment Fund because the Armory is in a Redevelopment District.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated correct.

Mayor Robertson asked how does that work when the checks come in for the rent?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated that money goes into the General Fund as revenue. It won't go back into the Redevelopment Fund because the Redevelopment Fund is based off the property taxes. This is basically us upgrading the building to make it rentable.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Alberg stated we have been pretty tied up and busy with getting the documentation together for the PORTER Group on earmarked items that the City is trying to accomplish. We are making some last-minute modifications and should have those exhibits together for them tomorrow and have a conference call with the PORTER Group tomorrow at 10:00 A.M. We have also been very busy with the Aultman Street Construction and that project is going very well. The Murry Street project is going well as they are installing the second manhole and moving right along. There are sidewalls collapsing, so that is slowing down their work a bit.

➤ **CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL**

City Building Official Walker stated as of right now I am still preceding with all my training with the ICC and plan to take the Residential Inspector Certification test next week. I have been shadowing Brad Christensen, doing lots of inspections, 22 building permits, and a couple of stop orders in which the people complied and came in to take care of the fees and get proper permitting.

Councilman Alworth asked are you seeing an influx of new homes being built and is anything projected for the future in building or with the price of lumber increasing do you think that will hamper those looking to build?

City Building Official Lee stated yes there are about four or five homes being built right now. The increase in wood prices will probably hinder the building of new homes.

Mayor Robertson passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Beecher.

5. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Beecher reviewed the Nevada Northern Railway March 2021 report appearing below.

**NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



**Nevada Northern Railway Foundation**  
Depot: 1100 Avenue A, Ely, Nevada 89301  
Mailing Address: PO Box 150040, Ely, Nevada 89315  
Voice: (775) 289-2085 • Web: www.nnry.com • E-mail: info@nnry.com

Monthly Operations Report for March 2021

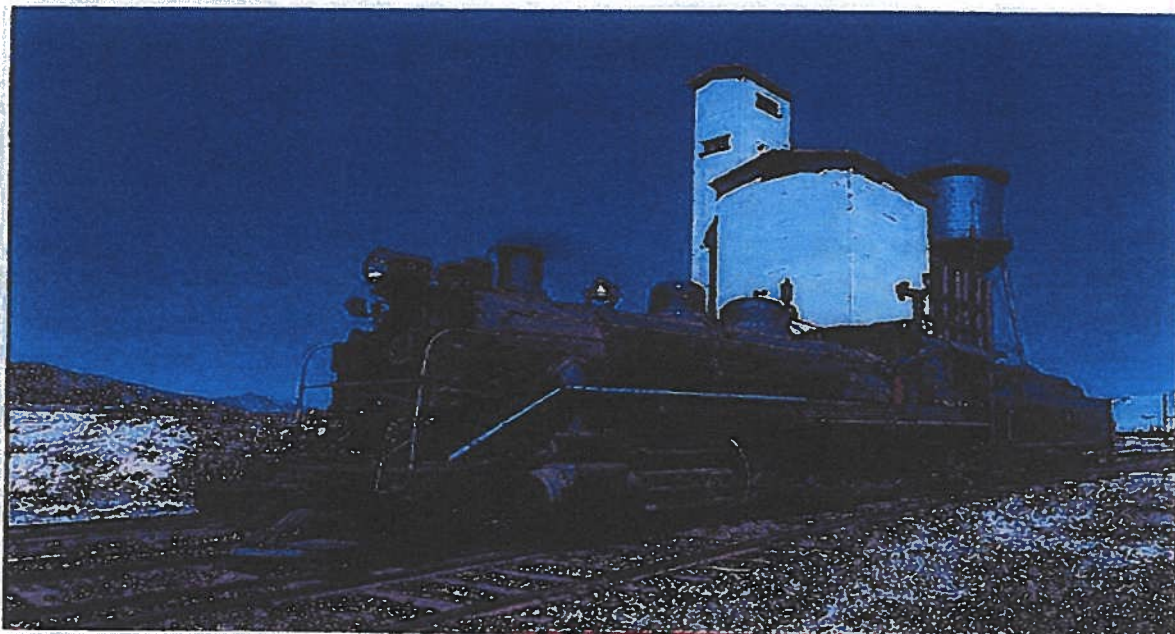
1. COVID-19 – Our 2021 schedule is posted on our website. We are following State guidelines, we are planning on 50% capacity until the State allows us to raise it.
2. Locomotive Status – No change
  - a. Locomotives in service: #93, #105, #109, #204, #310, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs and will be out of service until 2023.
  - c. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #45
  - d. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309, Kennecott 801 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
  - e. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #802, #80 and the military locomotives.
3. Rolling Stock Status – No change
  - a. Passenger equipment in service: #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Coach #5, Baggage Car/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06.
  - b. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
  - c. Caboose in service: #3, #6 and #22 are operational.
  - d. Caboose out service: #5
4. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In March we carried 221 passengers. This is an increase of 12% over 2020 and an increase of 47% over 2019.
  - b. Year to date we have carried 634 passengers. This is an increase of 18% over 2020 and an increase of 21% over 2019.
  - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 312,834 passengers.
6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand. We have 109,866 people who like our Facebook page. We are aggressively posting and doing home grown videos.

Award Winning Destination

- Best Tour in Rural Nevada – 2017
- Nevada State Treasure – 2013 & 2012
- Best Adrenalin Rush in Rural Nevada - 2020
- Best Preservation Effort in the West - Attraction of the Year – 2012
- Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
- Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008
- Best Event in Rural Nevada – The Polar Express – 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2013
- Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

7. Equipment Update:

Locomotive 93 went through her preseason check and passed with flying colors. During the inspection we found out that her whistle is worn out. While we make repairs to her whistle, in its place we put the whistle from the Rotary Snowplow on her. She sounds a lot different now. The last time that whistle was heard was in 1964.



Mayor Pro Tem Beecher passed the gavel back to Mayor Robertson.

**6. REPORTS**

➤ **MAYOR**

Mayor Robertson stated I received a call last night from Councilman Spear regarding a water main break. I did talk to Ed Bartlett right after that with Q & D and they had it all wrapped up by 8:00 P.M; it was an old iron pipe that they uncovered and broke.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Mayoral Appointment of one (1) Animal Control Advisory Board member, with the consent of the Ely City Council, through December 31, 2025 from the following applicants: Bunny Hill

Councilwoman Beecher moved to appoint Bunny Hill as a member of the Animal Control Advisory Board through December 31, 2025. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD.**

1. Councilman Carson – White Pine County Commissioner Shane Bybee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Discussion regarding possible solutions to Golf Course water needs, with possible approval of a course of action.

White Pine County Commissioner Shane Bybee stated this is an ongoing negotiation back and forth to come up with a workable solution for watering the Golf Course with something that helps your budget but doesn't break ours. We are very thankful for the time spent to come up with a solution. What we are hoping is a short-term workable solution and our long-term solution is getting our well back into production to stand independent again. In the interim I would respectfully ask for you to approve the agreement we worked out at the Municipal Utility Board Meeting this morning.

Mayor Robertson stated we certainly appreciate all the work from you and everybody, including the Golf Course Advisory Board. You all have come up with some creative solutions. I just want to speak to some of the comments earlier. This is not a budgeting issue for the City. The Golf Course has been using 10 to 20% of our monthly usage which causes a problem in the sense that we need to provide for fire protection. In especially dry months this is a problem when we hit June and July. It's ethically problematic for the City to be raising rates on our fixed income residents and not have some accountability for that kind of water. Whether or not it is seen that way from the other side I cannot speak to, but we do appreciate you coming to the table on this and making this a responsible decision for the community and this community resource. We appreciate all the work the Golf Course does on this as it is an asset in our community, but we also need to be protecting our natural resource assets as well.

Councilman Alworth stated I have nothing to do with this committee, but I think it is a good idea what they did. I think it was Mike Kneese that stated if the City would not have negotiated it would have been around \$38,000.00 for the watering period but they came up with using the McGill/Ruth rate which on the guesstimated 47.2 million gallons it's around \$18,335.00, as long as there's no overages. What I would recommend to do, after some of the feedback I got from the meeting – this was 47.2 million gallons over seven months – is to reduce it down to six months; that would give you an additional per month 1.1 million gallons and the carryover – like if you don't use your whole allotment and you're 500,000 gallons under your allotment - rolls over. The City Treasurer helped me with a spreadsheet: if you underused 500,000 gallons for three months, you'd have a 'bank account' of 1,500,000 gallons you can use for a dryer period of time. If you go over the allocation, grab a number like 250,000, the overage rate or penalty is \$396.18. For 500,000 gallons, it would be \$792.00. For 750,000 gallons, \$1,200.00 and if you use 1,000,000 gallons it would be \$1,560.00. The 47.2 million gallons came from an engineering best guesstimate at one inch of water over all the Golf Course. Is it going to work? We don't know until we try it. Mike Cracraft, City Public Works Supervisor, will be the daily reading contact to monitor how much is being used and communicate with the County contact.

White Pine County Commissioner Bybee stated that sounds great. Conservation efforts are a lot easier to practice when it is cool and wet, but when it is July and August and grass is turning brown and we are trying to protect the facility it is not so easy. This flexibility is going to work well for us.

Mayor Robertson stated part of this recommendation is they would be working towards a new source of water.

White Pine County Commissioner Bybee stated yes, we are wanting to work towards having the well operational in two years and be independent again.

Councilwoman Beecher stated this is a two-year plan with the ability to revisit the rates if the need should arise?

Councilman Alworth stated the rate is not changing but the usage could be revisited.

Councilwoman Beecher asked what would the County prefer a six- or seven-month agreement?

White Pine Golf Course Professional Randy Long stated say I go over by a 100,000 gallons in the first month and there is nothing in the bank do I get penalized or can I make that up in the following months if I don't use the allocated amount?

Mayor Robertson stated there is nothing in the bank at the start of the year.

Councilwoman Beecher stated there would be a charge if you go over, but if we are giving daily usage reports you can keep an eye on that usage and adjust accordingly.

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated there will be a spreadsheet on usage kept and it can be emailed daily if needed.

White Pine Golf Course Professional Randy Long stated if a line breaks in the night and there is cascading water, that is hard to account for.

Councilman Alworth stated that is why the meter read will be done at 7:00 a.m. and then you will know immediately if your water cycle is in the evening.

Mayor Robertson stated this is the same as all water customers have to do.

City Engineer Almberg stated a six month agreement would work better because we know they are going to use more water in July and August and by doing a calculation from seven months to six months that will increase the monthly usage 1.5 million gallons per month, but still keep them in the 47.2 million gallons overall amount agreed upon.

Mayor Robertson stated I did call several municipalities around the state and did not find one that waters their golf course with chlorinated drinking water and there are reasons for that.

Councilman Alworth stated when Shane Bybee was a councilman and I was the City Clerk, the 111 million gallons that George Chachas continues to mention was back in 2011 when the mine was paying for all the water and we put the pipeline in with a meter that ran to the Golf Course. I was keeping weekly rates and reporting it. It was a reported number, and nobody had to pay for anything. The mine was paying for all the pumping costs and the water went through the meter; there is no money lost anywhere. The mine was paying the electricity, so they could water all day and all night at that time.

White Pine County Commissioner Bybee stated at that time RP-6 and RP-7 were flowing full boar and they were doing a great job keeping the top end of the City. Now they are starting to phase out and the Golf Course Well is becoming more of an asset to you. It is just a matter of time that changed that.

Councilman Spear stated when we funded the second nine holes at the Golf Course, we did that for \$250,000 from the Fair and Recreation Board. It is one of the best assets we could have done for that kind of money and to let it go under would be a crying shame. Up until today, I didn't realize that our well had affected their well and I think this is a mutual deal. If we had not approved all the dewatering and had the mine do this, that well would probably still be pumping down there. I don't know how we can find money to get a new well up and going. Right now, we are putting approximately 7 million gallons down Gleason Creek going nowhere. If you are happy with the agreement, then I am happy with it, but I think we need to be very cognizant of not causing our Golf Course to go by the wayside. I don't golf and have no interest in it, but it does generate quality of life for businesses that want to move into a small community. In order to have key people you must have recreation facilities.

White Pine County Commissioner stated we are going to be diligent on getting our well back up and running in the next two years.

Councilman Spear asked what is the estimated cost to get the well up and running?

City Engineer AlMBERG stated you are probably talking a couple hundred thousand compared to a couple million if it was to be a municipal well because it is for irrigation only. Once you go into a municipal well, the cost skyrockets to be lead free and all the things associated with a municipal well.

Mayor Robertson stated there are other options that could be discussed too like using effluent from our plant or maybe doing other options.

City Engineer AlMBERG stated the only concern I have with using the effluent water from our plant is we have a user that we lease to, so we would be taking it from one lessee to give to the Golf Course to use and I think that would be difficult to do without modifying the lease we currently have. If the Golf Course had been on our system back when the agreement with the mine was made, I doubt the City would have agreed to the 3,000 GPM; we would have realized our demand was much higher than that. Our hands are tied today with our 3,000 GPM agreement with the mine, so this is a benefit to us as a city to get them off our system as it is a big demand that we had not anticipated.

Councilman Alworth stated I inquired with Christiansen Drilling and he told me a price for a 16" well is \$220.00 a foot. The greens are in terrible shape and it is a shame that we lost the Honor Camp because they would go out and cover the greens. This is another impact of COVID-19.

Councilwoman Beecher moved to approve the combination of the Golf Course Water Usage and Rate Proposals to include a 6-month anticipated usage period, with the ability to carry over unused usage from one month to the next, and revisit with a two-year agreement. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members - City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to extend the Will Serve of NDOT's Ely Truck Wash Project NDOT CIR 133 Project Number 73973 from August 2021 to December 2022 due to a delay of the project in 2020.

City Clerk Lee stated NDOT contacted the City regarding their Will Serve because it will expire right after they are able to bid out this contract. The plans are completed and those are in your packet. I believe this project was delayed due to COVID.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the extension of the Will Serve for NDOT's Ely Truck Wash Project from August 2021 to December 2022. Councilwoman Beecher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



3. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,164.72 from 110 W 9th N., Lund, Nevada at the request of the property owner, Joe Masini.

City Clerk Lee stated Mr. Masini paid his landfill fees in full in the amount of \$1,454.00 and he is being billed correctly at \$13.79 a month for residential property; he is requesting the penalties be waived.

Councilwoman Beecher moved to approve the removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,164.72 from 110 W 9<sup>th</sup> N., Lund, Nevada. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion failed for lack of majority with a 2 to 1 vote, Councilman Spear voting Nay.

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

### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

**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.
  - March 11, 2021
  - March 19, 2021
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
  - March 30, 2021

### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Councilman Alworth stated we are still having Monday Zoom calls with the PORTER Group and City Engineer Almberg has been sitting in on those. All our requests are being limited to \$2 million for every project. The meetings are very informative, and we will be meeting with them again tomorrow.

Councilman Spear stated there was a change in priorities and the NDOT project is off the table for now due to focusing on the downtown area.

3. Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Civil Science Infrastructure, Inc. Services Contract to design Broadbent Park Concept Plan for SNPLMA Round 19 grant application.

Councilman Alworth stated this is the same group that did the concept design for Jack Caylor Park that we looked at in the last meeting. They are going to use a drone to go over and design with the wishes from the survey results.

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated Cody that used to work for Sunrise Engineering now works for Civil Science has done over 57 million dollars on SNPLMA projects, has done all the City of Ely projects, and is highly recommended.

Councilwoman Beecher moved to approve the Civil Science Infrastructure, Inc. Services Contract to design Broadbent Park Concept Plan for SNPLMA Round 19 grant application. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Councilwoman Beecher - Discussion/For Possible Action –Approval of support letter for SNPLMA Round 18 grant application to renovate the McGill Depot and open the track to McGill.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the support letter for SNPLMA Round 18 grant application to renovate the McGill Depot and open the track to McGill. Councilwoman Beecher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilwoman Beecher – City Fire Chief Stork – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Open Burning Permit Application.

City Fire Chief Stork stated it is approval for the permits that we discussed and reviewed at the last meeting. The question that I have is we are going to want to put a no-burn policy in effect very soon. Fire Danger is getting high already this year and I wanted to know whether putting a no-burn policy into effect is something that needs to come before the Council or something I can do?

City Attorney Manuele stated I will look into that and report back.

Mayor Robertson asked will this be the same application for those wanting to do bonfires at the high school or such events?

City Fire Chief Stork stated yes. This application is for bonfires at the high school, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, or other events, so we can keep an eye on it and be prepared ahead of time. If people want to burn debris in their yard - as long as there is not a no-burn notice in place - we will check on these applications to make sure tires or such things are not being burned.

Councilman Spear asked how about small fire pits people have in their yards?

City Fire Chief Stork stated there is not really a concern for those as most people usually do not leave them unattended and they are in a controlled environment with a garden hose usually within reach. I don't see us putting a ban on those unless we start to have an issue.

Councilman Spear stated it should be posted in the paper for people to have a garden hose available if they are going to use home fire pits and safety precautions to take.

Mayor Robertson asked is there going to be a cost for these permits?

City Fire Chief Stork stated it was discussed at the last meeting to have no cost attached to the permit.

City Attorney Manuele stated this permit does coincide with the ordinances.

Mayor Robertson stated it would be best if the applications were initiated at City Hall and then the Fire Department will be contacted for the inspection and approval, so that everyone is kept aware of these events.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Open Burning Permit Application. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Councilwoman Beecher – City Fire Chief Stork –Discussion/For Possible Action– Approval of Fireworks Display Application and Permit.

City Fire Chief Stork stated this is the same application from the last meeting for approval to put it into effect. It is going to give us a better idea of who is doing the fireworks show, insurance, and place of show; there will not be a fee on this application.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Fireworks Display Application and Permit. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns with curb/gutter codes not being enforced; ADA codes not being enforced; his public information request for the City Personnel Manual; his public information request for the PORTER Group report, the whereabouts of the 490' 16-inch steel pipe from the Murry Street Project; the rumor of an embezzlement at the Railroad; and the status on Avenue A if that is City property or did the City install a utility on private property. On agenda item 8B-4 regarding the McGill Depot, that should be tabled due to the rumors of embezzlement.

**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 **6:09 p.m.** Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ATTEST**

