



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
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ELY CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

June 29, 2021 1:30 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 **1:30 P.M.** Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson
Councilman Ernie Flangas
Councilman Ed Spear
Councilman Jim Alworth
Councilwoman Michelle Beecher

Members absent:

Councilman Kurt Carson

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 (Zoom)
Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Fire Chief Pat Stork

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: Bodie Golla

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: June 29, 2021

Print name below

George Chachas

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns with public information not provided; RV's on property and if there has been proper permitting; wanting to rent his property but unable to obtain proper permitting; and the concern of the bleachers at Broadbent Park and the need to keep them with the redesign.

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

1. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Determination whether City of Ely employees will cost share 50% in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) contribution rate, pursuant to NRS 286.421 (3), through in lieu of equivalent basic salary increases OR by reduction of salary.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated because the City of Ely is a non-choice agency, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) believes that employees and employers should contribute to the retirement. The way non-choice agency employees contribute is by having lower wages and when they retire, they factor that in and they raise their wages up to somebody's comparable contribution of an employee doing the employee/employer contribution. When the rates go up every two years it is expected the employee's share in that in two ways in non-choice agencies. It is half of whatever the percentage it goes up; for the regular employees it is .25 and for the Fire Department employees it is .75. They have a choice by either having their hourly wages lowered by that percentage or the employer will pay it and consider it a raise to the employee, even though they will not see a raise to their salary. It will just mean that we are not going to reduce their salary, but we are going to pick up the cost and pay it on the employee's behalf. The cost to the City if we do the in lieu of raise for everybody is just over \$7,100.00 for the year, this is for all employees and not just those in the Union. It can be brought up at negotiations, but it doesn't have to. I asked the Union if they were aware the rates were going up and the representative said yes.

Councilwoman Beecher asked by statute it does not have to be in Union negotiations?

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated no.

Councilwoman Beecher stated this did make me real nervous and I did talk to Shain about it. I feel if we are going to increase costs to the employee, it should be agreed upon in those negotiations.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated there are a part of the employees that are not in the Union and it affects all employees. When I found out the rates were going up, I put it in the budget so right now it is budgeted for the City to pay it. However, it is the Council's choice if you want to do in lieu of raise or a salary reduction.

Councilman Spear stated my opinion is the City should absorb it and do in lieu of a raise for the employees; we can afford to do it.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated as an example it would cost the City \$166.70 a year to contribute my portion of the increase for the year. One time in my lifetime at the City rates have decreased. You do understand if the rate is ever reduced, we have to raise their wages by the half of percentage, but normally it is always going to be an increase.

Councilman Spear moved City of Ely employees will cost share 50% in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) contribution rate through in lieu of equivalent basic salary increases. Councilwoman Beecher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Michelle Beecher's resignation as a Member of the Ely City Council, Seat 5 effective July 1, 2021.

Councilwoman Beecher stated I hate to leave because I feel like we just got started, but the house we ended up purchasing due to our growing family is outside of city limits.

Mayor Robertson stated we do appreciate your service and thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Councilman Spear moved to accept Michelle Beecher's resignation as a Member of the Ely City Council, Seat 5 effective July 1, 2021. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Retroactive approval for City Clerk to post announcement that individuals interested in being nominated for appointment to Seat 5 on the Ely City Council, which will be filled at the next regular meeting July 8, 2021, must contact Mayor Robertson or a City Council Member by noon July 1, 2021; nominated candidates' names will be listed on the July 8, 2021 Ely City Council agenda.

City Attorney Manuele stated the process under NRS 266.225 doesn't set forth any formal process, but the process we have chosen to utilize is a notification and announcement in the paper with each of your contact information. The public notice has Mayor Robertson, Councilman Flangas, Councilman Carson, Councilman Spear, and Councilman Alworth listed with each of their contact information. Individuals seeking a nomination would contact one of the members of the Council and each of you will have an opportunity to select one person to be proposed at the July 8, 2021 meeting. We will have five people potentially if each person has a nomination to be presented at the July 8, 2021 meeting where the Council will be able to look at those nominations and make a decision at that time.

Councilman Alworth asked what qualifies someone with bona fide proof of residency for one year?

City Attorney Manuele stated the only real requirement is a being a resident of the City of Ely for the previous one year. The individual would need to show that they have been a resident for one year. We could utilize the proof through a driver's license if it was issued over a year ago or some type of utility bill. It is the only requirement set forth in the NRS that the person must be an actual resident of the City of Ely for at least one year prior.

Mayor Robertson asked they also have to be 18, right?

City Attorney Manuele stated yes.

Councilwoman Beecher moved to retroactively approve for City Clerk to post an announcement that individuals interested in being nominated for appointment to Seat 5 on the Ely City Council, which will be filled at the next regular meeting July 8, 2021, must contact Mayor Robertson or a City Council Member by noon July 1, 2021; nominated candidates' names will be listed on the July 8, 2021 Ely City Council agenda. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns with weed clean-up on Aultman concerning weeds; streetlights being out; the guardrail not yet replaced at Veterans Park; the rumor of embezzlement at the Railroad; and the need for the Railroad to be under the oversight of the City and operate under the Open Meeting Law. I have been to the City nine different times and talked to the Building Official, Lee Walker, for a permit on my motel and asked for the equal consideration that was given to the Community Choir. I have no permit, handyman, or contractor and I can take care of the problem if you will allow me to do so. I am not going to do a full restoration, because I don't have the money. I am still waiting for contractors to contact me and I told Lee if he can give me the contractor information that took the asbestos out of the old Ruby Hotel I would get a hold of that contractor and ask him for a quote. I am willing to do what I can.

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

Councilwoman Beecher moved to adjourn the Special meeting of the Ely City Council at 1:55 p.m. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


ATTEST


MAYOR

