

CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2430
Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 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 5:00P.M.; Harry Rhea offered invocation. Mayor Robertson 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
- Councilwoman Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper
(Following appointment)

Members absent:

- Councilman Jim Alworth

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 Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb
- Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Building Official Lee Walker
- City Engineer BJ Almberg
- City Police Chief 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, Donna Bath, Caroline McIntosh, Linda Davies, Wyatt Cox, Shain Manuele, Municipal Judge Coster, Neal Freitas, and Allan Wise.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: July 8, 2021

<u>Print name below</u>	<u>Print name below</u>
<u>Linda Darbidge</u>	_____
<u>MARY KERNER</u>	_____
<u>Addy Kernes</u>	_____
<u>Allan Wise</u>	_____
<u>JERRI Lynn Harper</u>	_____
<u>Jean Cassett</u>	_____
<u>SHADRACH ROBERTSON</u>	_____
<u>George Chachas</u>	_____
<u>Kay McMurray</u>	_____
<u>Mark Cassett</u>	_____

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Derbidge stated I would like to comment on the agenda item 3-1; selection to fill Ely City Council seat 5. It appears that rumors have been circulating concerning one or more of the candidates for the position; because Ely is small rumors can be very damaging. The City Council should have realized after the last candidate that stereotyping candidates is not a good thing. My hope is the Mayor and the Council members will disregard rumors and gossip and vote for the candidate that is most qualified.

George Chachas stated on agenda item 3-1 you are to consider selecting an individual to fill the vacant City Council Seat 5. At an earlier meeting I had asked to be considered and turned in my request. On your agenda today, you have two names, neither of which have an application in today's packet, or a sponsor listed. I have not found a contractor to help remediate my property at 710 Avenue G. I talked to the Building Inspector and asked him to allow me to take care of the problem the same way the Community Choir was allowed to; he agreed, and I asked him for a permit and something in writing prior to proceeding. I have not received anything yet and have made numerous attempts. I want to make it clear to the Council that I am taking steps to comply. On your agenda item 11-2 you are to consider the renewal of the lease between the Ely Municipal Water and Sewer Department and White Pine County for thirty years. This item needs to be denied until it is proven that they have paid for the 111 million gallons or more of water that was used. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns with the billing on his properties and the sewer connection for his property located on Great Basin Boulevard.

Wyatt Cox with KELY Radio Station stated I want to congratulate the individuals at the Bristlecone Tribune. It is a challenge to operate any media these days especially media that is not connected to the internet. I wish them the best of luck.

Allan Wise with Great Basin Service Club stated we would like to ask the City Council a favor. The next time you have Mr. Bassett here doing his report for the railroad, why don't you ask him why they have not donated to the fireworks fund since 2007. That is the year we moved to the Golf Course, and since then they have not donated a dime. The railroad cars are full when they go out and they are making lots of money. They need to support a project that they are making a lot of revenue off. We struggle every year to break even. They used to pay when we were at the industrial park but were offended when we moved to the Golf Course as they thought we were going to burn their buildings down. We feel they need to kick in their fair share. Ms. Derbidge called me at home yesterday asking me what I thought of Ms. Williams-Harper and I told her some negative things as I don't approve of her getting this position. Ms. Derbidge told me they were trying to get people to call Mr. Spear to convince him she needs to be on the Council. I then again told her I would not support her as I have seen to many things go wrong and what she has done out at the school. There are better opportunities for this city to progress and grow.

Shadrach Robertson stated in response to the last public comment, I was an employee at the Ely Learning Bridge Charter School. Having firsthand knowledge of the candidate speaks more true and to the point of Dr. Williams-Harper's appointment. She led the Ely Learning Bridge Charter School through the pandemic with absolute aplomb. She has been nothing but supportive and encouraging to my professional and academic development. She is a consummate professional and anyone speaking ill about her obviously does not know her. I worked with her for a solid eleven months over the last year. She is a close personal friend of mine, as well as being a professional mentor and I whole heartedly, fully endorse her as a councilwoman.

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

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Selection to fill Ely City Council Seat 5; Nominees for seat: Jeremy Lilly, Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper.

Councilman Carson stated Jeremy Lilly has withdrawn his name.

Mayor Robertson stated Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper will now address the Council. As a reminder, the way this works is the remaining four Council Members and the Mayor make up the committee to vote on and select a replacement for the empty seat. Councilman Alworth is not here tonight, so it will be the other three Council Members and myself who have a vote. You may ask the candidate questions. She is my nominee.

I chose to nominate Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper for a slew of reasons which we will get into after we hear from her.

Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper stated good evening gentlemen, it is my pleasure and privilege to be here with you this evening. I am the Charter School Administrator and am very proud to be here and work with the young people in our community. I am very proud of the experiences and education that I have, and have brought me to this point and would make me eligible to be a part of this Council, to be a learner if I join the Council and to also give what I know and what I have done and the things I have been involved in. It is probably better if you all ask me questions as I am not sure what you would like to hear.

Mayor Robertson asked would you mind discussing some of your past administrative experience.

Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper stated yes, this year will be my 41st year as an educator. The last thirty-four of them have been as an administrator. I have been an assistant principal, a dean of students, a principal, a middle school principal, a high school principal, and a superintendent of four different school districts. I have had the opportunity to be involved with building schools from the ground up working with policies and boards. I have been a presenter at the state level. I have been awarded for my work in leadership in dealing with some difficult situations along with other colleagues. I firmly believe we all went to school; we all had a teacher and I feel what I have chosen to do with my life is at the root of why everyone is sitting here. Having an education is very important as all of you have; it is the reason you are all sitting here and that you are able to make decisions for the City. I feel having an extensive background in administration, and a Doctorate in leadership, organization, and change management make me eligible. I am very proud of the fact that I was at a crossroads in trying to decide if I wanted to finish my Doctorate or if educational law was what I wanted to do. I did do a year of law school which was very helpful in my role as a school administrator. You have a very difficult job with people pulling you every which way because people want different things.

Mayor Robertson stated one of the reasons I chose to nominate Dr. Williams-Harper was I saw her involvement here in our community. Could you discuss some of the organizations you are a member of here locally?

Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper stated one of the wonderful things of being a superintendent for so many years is you become a part of organizations and you learn that is part of your job and how you learn the community. I have been a Rotarian, a Lion's Club Member, and a Kiwanis Member for at least twenty years. I understand the importance of those civic organizations and what they do for a city. People in those organizations donate their time and talents not looking for anything in return, but wanting to be proud of the community they live in.

Mayor Robertson asked you are also a member of our Chamber of Commerce?

Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper stated Yes, I am on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Flangas stated I have worked with her a couple of times on the Chamber of Commerce projects and appreciate her knowledge.

Mayor Robertson stated one of the other reasons for my nomination and my excitement of her accepting when I was talking with her was I believe a variety of backgrounds and life experiences on the board makes for better discussion and makes us a more professional entity and I think makes city government runs better. We have a lot of different entities that we interact with and having varied experience from Mr. Spear, Mr. Carson, Mr. Alworth, and Mr. Flangas have served us well as they come from very different backgrounds and having someone with her professional acumen, education, and experience, I think could only add to that. We have had a lot of great people over the years serve in our community and I think she would fit among those.

Councilman Spear stated I researched her as much as I would any candidate and what I found on the internet I wasn't very happy with. One of the articles was about Albion School District and Flint School District. I have some grave concerns; you know what I am talking about. There have been some people calling me trying to change my mind,

but I haven't totally made my mind up one way or the other. The things on the internet may not all be true, but it does really concern me with this type of position. However, I do like people that are involved in communities, as my whole life I have been involved in the community. I just wanted to tell you my concerns and would appreciate sitting down with you sometime. We have a long way to go here in Ely with some tough projects, but have some great programs to help with them. I will support whatever the Council decides.

Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper stated I thank you very much for doing your homework. Being a superintendent as an educator is one of the most difficult jobs you will ever do because you are to please the community. As a superintendent, my job has always been first and foremost to make sure we have a strong educational community and lots of things have to happen. I have dealt with millions and millions of dollars running a school district. I have dealt with very large boards depending on the size of the school district. It has not always been easy as some board members have not always been there for the right reasons or if a board member doesn't agree with me, you see some of the things that you see and you are absolutely right. You have a one-sided dimension of what is going on and at any time if you would like to hear another version of what you see I would be more than happy to talk with you.

Mayor Robertson stated I believe you, Mr. Spear, have also had experience dealing with boards that didn't agree over the years.

Councilman Spear stated yes, it has been there.

Mayor Robertson moved to select Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper to fill Ely City Council Seat 5 for the remainder of the term ending in November 2022. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. SWEARING IN NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICER BY CITY CLERK

1. Council Member Seat 5 – Term, pursuant to the passage of Assembly Bill No. 50, until City elections are held in November 2022.

City Clerk Lee swore in Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper to fill Ely City Council Seat 5 for the remainder of the term ending in November 2022.

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

1. Mayor – Council Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Selection of one City Council Member to serve as Mayor Pro Tem, per City Code 1-5-3.

Mayor Robertson stated with the departure of Ms. Beecher we are without a Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Carson moved to nominate Councilwoman Williams Harper to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

7. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY POLICE CHIEF

City Police Chief Henriod stated congratulations and welcome aboard. Councilwoman Williams-Harper, I look forward to working with you. Just to let you know, July 21st and 22nd we will be hosting the Sheriffs and Chiefs Meeting here in Ely. You will see about sixty to seventy police chiefs, sheriffs, and law enforcement leaders from around Nevada in and about your community so don't be alarmed with all the cars. This is our annual training that we do here.

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated I wanted to report to the Council that the Governor's Finance Office has received the City of Ely's request for the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus local fiscal relief fund allocation in the amount of \$5,364,518.06. The city received \$1,200.00 from Maddie's fund for the recent adoption days. There were six animals adopted out and that check paid for the adoption fees.

➤ **CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to congratulate you on all the running around and hard work on the parks over the 4th of July that you and your crew did, it was alot.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer AlMBERG stated welcome aboard Councilwoman Williams-Harper; I am sure you will do great. The City hired a temporary summer employee who is working out of our office and doing the collection of the GIS system. He started about a week and a half ago and he is doing a great job. This is something we have been trying to get going for a while and this is the first step. He is currently working on Campton between Great Basin Boulevard and Murry Street and we will keep moving him around the community to collect. We are working with the landfill on permits that are due in mid-September. We have all the paperwork done and just need to do a new footprint exhibit to go with it. I had a meeting with NDOT last week talking about their future phases of the Aultman Street project. One of the things that came up out of that meeting is they want us to go back and start putting together costs associated with completing out this project as far as city utilities are concerned and use the unit costs that we just recently had on this project, which are the most current ones we have in the area. We are compiling that and getting that back to them to figure out how to complete the future phases.

➤ **BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Building Official Walker read the following from his report.

The Building Department has issued 25 permits for the month of June. 15 have been issued for the City of Ely and 10 for White Pine County. Still shadowing Brad when we schedule him for Plan Reviews, Finding of Facts, and Commercial Inspections. With the number of inspections going on this summer, it has been very difficult to schedule my Residential Certification test. I do plan to take the test in July. Following that test, I have decided the next test will be Plans Examiner Certification followed by Commercial Certification.

9. REPORTS

➤ **COUNCILMAN FLANGAS**

Councilman Flangas stated the 4th of July was wonderful and a lot of hard work went into it. It was mentioned that there were close to 8,000 people watching the parade on main street and that is more than our population, so they had to come from somewhere. One thing that troubles me is our community didn't look that good to our out-of-towners and I think it is about time we take a good look at what we can do to make our community look better and improve our business factor. We can take a look at some of the unused buildings, demanding that they take care of them and keep the garbage cleaned up. The Vietnam Wall was a great attraction and we should be very proud of the activities we did have.

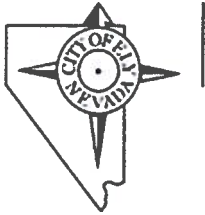
➤ **MAYOR**

Mayor Robertson stated I would just like to again congratulate everyone along with Councilman Flangas and certainly our Public Works and everyone that volunteered. The weekend was well pulled off. There were a lot of people that showed up to clean up their stuff and I know it wasn't all cleaned up, but they certainly put in a herculean effort at the park with the grandstands, the bonfire, and other areas. The town was packed, and every venue was well utilized. We had a lot of people in town, including the Lieutenant Governor; she toured the Railroad and was in the parade with our Boys and Girls Club, which I thought was fantastic. We had a lot of participation and support from the State, the local community, alumni, and all sorts of people; it was really nice to see.

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

1. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – City Engineer AlMBERG – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Consideration of citizen comments regarding eligible activities the City of Ely should apply for under the State CDBG program.

City Engineer AlMBERG reviewed the information below and stated CDGB is something that annually comes out for different grants that are available. During this time, we have public hearings to get input from the public on projects that may be viable for this type of funding. The funding is available for many things. We have used our funding for water and sewer infrastructure improvements. There is plenty of items of dealing with blight. CDBG is available only in low to moderate income (LMI) areas. I don't have an exhibit of where those LMI areas are, but what we are doing tonight is getting input for potential projects the public might have. Then based on those projects, we can see what we can get approved as far as being CDBG eligible to participate and apply for that funding. The Council will vote on the top two projects to apply for the funding.



CITY OF ELY

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

The City of Ely is asking the public for
2022-2023 CDBG Project Ideas &
Public Input on Past or Potential Projects
PLEASE CONTACT

B.J. AlMBERG
City Engineer
Basin Engineering
1070 E. Aultman St.
Ely, Nevada 89301
(775) 289-9800
alMBERG@basineng.com

As a city government eligible to submit a 2022-2023 CDBG application,
the City of Ely will offer assistance to other entities interested in submitting an
application that are not familiar with the CDBG application process.
Other entities seeking funding must work with an eligible city or county to secure
sponsorship of a project.

Potential projects, with estimated funding amounts and beneficiaries,
will be discussed at
the August 12, 2021 City Council meeting.

Ely City Council – Regular Meeting – July 8, 2021

	YEAR	PROJECT	GRANT AWARD
City of Ely	1983	Historic Preservation Study	6,500.00
	1984	Fire Pumper	100,000.00
	1986	Ely Senior Citizens Ctr. Kitchen Exp.	58,093.81
	1986	Ely Water System Study	15,000.00
	1987	Ogden Avenue Water Main	47,151.98
	1990	Ely Ambulance	62,878.02
	1991	Sewer Treatment Plant Expansion	100,000.00
	1992	Handicap Access-Fire House	20,800.00
	1995	Sewer Abatement	77,884.56
	1995	RNDC	45,000.00
	1996	Bobcat Drive, Walks & Lighting	70,000.00
	1996	Headstart Waterline	56,700.00
	1997	Ely-White Pine Co. Fire Station	143,050.00
	1997	Clark Street Sewer Lines	153,750.00
	1998	Ely Fire Station Site Improvements	78,702.00
	1998	Clark Street Sidewalks	103,950.00
	1999	A & B Street Sewer Extension 99/005	103,900.00
	1999	Campton Street Sidewalk 99/006	103,928.00
	2002	"A" Street Sewer Abatement(Add'l funds) 02/006	29,105.00
	2002	Ely Fire Station, Phase 3 02/007	51,000.00
	2003	Ely Fire Station, Phase 4 03/006	200,000.00
	2007	Ely Avenue Storm Drain 07/PF/003	220,000.00
	2008	Ely Sewer Rehab 08/PF/003	120,000.00
	2009	Sewer Inspection and Cleanout 09/PF/006	78,568.55
	2009	"B" Ave Sewer Line Replacement 09/PF/027	94,000.00
	2010	NV Ave. Sewer Project 10/PF/009	188,115.00
	2012	Center Street Water Project	197,000.00
	2016	Ely Ave. - West 15th St. Water Line, 16/PF/03	366,300.00
	2019	Murry St Sewer & Water Upgrade	245,735.00
	2020	Murry St Sewer & Water Upgrade Phase II 20/PS/08	332,363.00
	2020	Ely Fire Extrinsication Tool 20/PS/07	12,229.00
	2021	Murry St Sewer & Water Improvement Ph III 21/PF/02	251,787.00
SUB-TOTAL GRANTS			3,733,498.92
REVOLVING	1986	RLF- Coopersmith	70,000.00
	2003	V & S Variety True Value 03/NRLF/002	100,000.00
	2004	V & S Variety True Value 04/NRLF/001	100,000.00
Revolving Loan Totals			270,000.00
HOUSING:	1992	Housing Rehab.	150,000.00
	2009	Housing Rehab. 09/HS/007	131,334.00
	2010	Housing Rehab.10/HS/010	131,334.00

HOUSING TOTAL:			412,668.00
PLANNING/CAPACITY BUILDING:			
	1996	Ely Sewer Study	38,000.00
	1998	Development Master Plan	40,000.00
	1998	Flood Control Plan	20,000.00
	2001	Railroad Commercial Freight Plan 01/PCB/003	55,000.00
TOTAL PLANNING/CAPACITY BUILDING:			153,000.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
	2001	Railroad Inter-Modal Transfer Const. 01/ED/001	250,000.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOTAL			250,000.00
TOTAL City of Ely:			4,819,158.92

Mayor Robertson asked are there any other areas of Murry Street that we can grandfather in on that?

City Engineer Almborg stated after this phase that was funded, we are out at Murry Street; Murry Street is no longer in the LMI area. Our LMI areas are shifting a bit and we are having Rural Water do some surveys to redefine those areas.

City Clerk Lee stated we just need to get to Public Hearing #2 and have some projects on the table the Council can discuss and then I will give the assignment, so they are not surveying the entire community.

George Chachas stated you need to include the 600 block of Parker Avenue on that. I want to remind you that I corrected a sewer problem on that street that cost me over \$3,000.00 and that was your problem. I pay every month that you fail to take care of the problem. This problem needs to be corrected and the area it is in is a low-income area.

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

1. Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Tri-County Weed Control’s (TCWC) proposal to the City of Ely for herbicide application on that portion of the Georgetown Ranch leased by Tedd Heggie; SNPLMA grant funds require a twenty percent (20%) match, to be provided by Tedd Heggie in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Councilman Carson stated this item was recommended for approval at the Municipal Utilities Board meeting this morning and I think it is a great idea.

Councilman Carson moved to approve Tri-County Weed Control’s (TCWC) proposal to the City of Ely for herbicide application on that portion of the Georgetown Ranch leased by Tedd Heggie. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members – City Attorney Manuele - Discussion/For Possible Action – Renewal of lease of the Golf Course between the Ely Municipal Water and Sewer Department and White Pine County for thirty (30) years.

Councilman Carson stated the Utility Board recommended approval this morning of this matter. There was some talk of a rate increase, but the County does all the maintenance of the golf course and I don’t feel it is necessary.

Mayor Robertson asked the thirty-year agreement is just a continuation of what has been happening in the past?

Councilman Carson stated yes.

Councilman Spear stated I think it is a great idea to approve as the Golf Course is a tremendous asset to the City of Ely. We need to figure out a way to get more water on there.

Mayor Robertson stated the Golf Course has not been using the amount of water that has been allotted to them under the agreement. We can get you a copy of the agreement and the meter readings as they have been collecting them every day.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the renewal of lease of the Golf Course between the Ely Municipal Water and Sewer Department and White Pine County for thirty (30) years. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Board Members – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance and final change order approval of Murry Street Sewer Main Upgrade Project Phase-I & Phase-II.

Councilman Carson stated this was unable to be voted on at the Municipal Utilities Board this morning due to two member abstaining, and not having a quorum.

City Engineer Almberg stated the crew is wrapping up by the end of the week. They are currently cleaning up the intersection at Murry Street and Mill Street where all the concrete and dirt is. They said they will come back in and gravel the city lot around the booster station and leave it in nice shape. We did have a downpour in the canyon, and

they were there this morning cleaning up where the water ran down the road and washed out around some of the water meters.

Mayor Robertson asked was a punch list generated for this project?

City Engineer Almberg stated yes, they are finishing up with items now and we will retain their last payment until all of the little things and cleanup is complete.

Mayor Robertson asked has there has been a walk through and is a punch list available to view?

City Engineer Almberg stated I believe it is at my office, as we have sat down with them to go over what still needs to be done and they are aware of those items with deductions and changes. I have a final change order which includes anything that was decreased or added on during the project. They are over the days agreed upon in the contract, but were granted nine days due to weather and things they ran into on the project. Overall, they were past the due date by twenty-four calendar days, excluding the nine days given. The twenty-four days include weekends and holidays and it is up to the Council if you want to penalize them for weekends and holidays. I have prepared two change orders; one of them is for seventeen days of delay, if we exclude weekends and holidays, and the other is for a straight twenty-four calendar days of delay. The change order is a decrease to the project as there were some things, we were prepared for in case we ran into them and we did not, or not to the extent we had anticipated. There is a deduction based on some drain rock, trench stabilization, and removal of some existing water mains. The liquidated damages are \$500.00 a day they are over the contract amount. If we go with the twenty-four-calendar day, the net change would be a decrease of \$85,935.00 and if we go with not penalizing them for weekends and holidays, the decrease to the project would be \$82,435.00.

Councilman Spear stated I move to not penalize them for holidays and weekends.

Councilman Carson stated I do agree with Councilman Spear in not penalizing them for weekends and holidays, but I believe we are wrapping up the project and I think there is more testing that needs to be done and reports that need to be compiled. I don't believe this item needs to go in front of the Municipal Utilities Board again, but I would like to table it until the next City Council Meeting.

City Engineer Almberg stated I don't have a problem coming into finalize the situation after finishing up the paperwork. The money is there for the project and they will complete those things to receive the money.

Councilman Spear withdrew his motion.

Councilman Carson moved to table the acceptance and final change order approval of Murry Street Sewer Main Upgrade Project Phase-I & Phase-II until the next City Council Meeting to acquire final reports. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Robertson passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Williams Harper.

8. NNRV FOUNDATION REPORT

Mark Bassett stated thank you for your accommodating me. We had a locomotive give up the ghost right before train time, so I had to get that taken care of. I think the important thing is our ridership for the month of June was 2,565 passengers which is the largest June we have ever had and the largest summer month we have ever had. It is a 186% increase over 2020, but we all know that everything was down in 2020. It is a 27% increase from 2019 and 2019 was a very good year for us. Mark reviewed the report 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 June 2021

1. Locomotive Status – No change
 - a. Locomotives in service: #93, #105, #109, #204, 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: #310 and #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 June we carried 2,565 passengers. This is an increase of 186% over 2020, and an increase of 27% over 2019.
 - b. Year to date we have carried 5,317 passengers. This is an increase of 6% over 2019.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 317,641 passengers.
6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand. We have 111,174 people who LIKE our page and 132,510 people who follow our 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

Mr. Bassett stated we have two shop cats, Dirt and DJ (Dirt Junior). When I walked into the shop this morning Dirt Junior was sitting on the running board of locomotive 81 so snapped a picture and put it on our Facebook page at about 9:00 a.m. and since then we have reached 22, 895 people view our page because of the cat. The cats are more popular than the trains at times. We had 1600 reactions and 40 comments on our page to that posting. The ridership for July is following the trend from June and I expect it to be very busy.

Mayor Pro Tem Williams-Harper passed the gavel back to Mayor Robertson.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 12A-1 Minutes and 12A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Carson Second by: Councilman Flangas Vote: Carried with 3 ayes and Councilman Spear abstaining due to his wife being paid for work done for the City for Ely.

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - June 10, 2021
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
 - June 23, 2021
 - June 30, 2021

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilman Spear – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of draft priority list for City of Ely’s American Rescue Plan funding.

Mayor Robertson stated we did the paperwork and it is considerably more than the estimate that was provided. I think we will be able to do some good in the community with that.

Councilman Spear stated I went through all the information on spending the American Rescue Plan funding, including the House Bill and I don't see where special events are covered; so do we want to list them in case we can cover them?

City Clerk Lee stated I think it would be good to keep special events on the list, especially in the case of the horse races, as they were directly affected by COVID.

Councilman Spear stated one of the most impacted would be the Silver State Classic car race because they had to cancel two races and they have to maintain their insurance; their total out of pocket impact was up almost \$25,000.00 with no revenue. The next one that was affected was Great Basin Service Club who had to pay for their insurance prior to the 4th of July in 2020 for the parade; we cancelled that event and they couldn't cancel the insurance, so they were out about \$1,000.00.

Mayor Robertson stated I know it doesn't say Special Events, but I think they are eligible under Community Non-Profits.

Councilman Spear stated I think we need to get this list prioritized and make a section just for special events as there are probably going to be more. We can get the money in the bank and then we can start deciding what will be paid. I don't think I would change what is on the list right now, just make a section for special events.

Mayor Robertson stated that being noted I would encourage the Council to table this one more time and have discussion at the next meeting if the Council would like to set up a committee to take care of this as it will not just be a priority list. I think this is a great start.

Councilman Spear moved to table the approval of draft priority list for City of Ely's American Rescue Plan funding for further discussion at the next City Council meeting. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for mayor, city council members and city clerk to attend the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities' 2021 Annual Conference August 25 - 27, 2021.

Mayor Robertson stated we tabled this last meeting due to a vacancy and wanted to give the new council member a chance to go. I would encourage all council members to go. I went a couple years ago, and it was a good experience. They had a lot of good information and it is good to get the temperature of what is going on in other cities around the State.

Councilman Spear stated I think we should leave it open as it is budgeted for the Council to go. I would like to wait until closer to the date and approve any and all that would like to go as it is a good experience.

Councilman Spear moved to table approval for mayor, city council members and city clerk to attend the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities' 2021 Annual Conference August 25 - 27, 2021. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to reschedule the August 26, 2021 City Council meeting to August 31, 2021 so City officials attending the Nevada League of Cities Conference August 25-27, 2021 will not miss August's second meeting.

Councilman Carson moved to approve rescheduling the August 26, 2021 City Council meeting to August 31, 2021. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approve letter of thanks to City Tree Board for obtaining and maintaining the City of Ely’s Tree City USA designation.

Mayor Robertson stated they have put a lot of work into this and I felt they needed recognition.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve the letter of thanks to City Tree Board for obtaining and maintaining the City of Ely’s Tree City USA designation.

Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Direction to City Attorney to research and present available disposal options for junk vehicles without a title which are confiscated by the City of Ely.

Councilman Carson stated I don’t know if there is an answer, but we need to figure out something if we are going to continue to cleanup these dilapidated properties.

Councilman Spear stated Councilman Alworth mentioned to me that he thinks if the car is missing its doors, trunks, or if the car is partially dismantled, we don’t need a title. This is something we need our attorney to look into. I didn’t know this was the case but if so, it would be simple to remove a lot of doors, trunks, and hoods.

Councilman Spear moved to direct the City Attorney to research and present available disposal options for junk vehicles without a title which are confiscated by the City of Ely.

Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of 2021 Debt Management Policy and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated this is an annual approval item.

Councilman Spear stated on page 3 note the City gets no property tax other than our redevelopment fund; that’s not even that much. Where we don’t get any of that revenue, I hate to see it listed.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated duly noted.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the 2021 Debt Management Policy and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jed Peeler stated I think it is great that you are addressing the junk vehicle problem because a lot of people have cars on their property they don’t have titles for and the DMV won’t give you one. The DMV doesn’t want to give you a license if you are disabled, so you have to be very persistent. People have cars on their property and they don’t know how to get rid of them. I think the town is doing a great job cleaning up. There are a lot of people repairing their homes and a lot of nice construction going on. There are a lot of people I know from out of town that think this is going to be a great place and they want to move here.

George Chachas stated on your Draft Priority List there is nothing listed for a victim’s fund and it needs to be addressed. Many people have suffered from vandalism and property loss with no restitution or consideration given by governing agencies. On your agenda item 12-C3 you are to consider options for so called junk vehicles. There are some vehicles that are antiques and you need a court order before you remove someone’s property, especially when you have been notified several times that City Council members are not in compliance. It appears business license fees have gone up; when did the City Council authorize that? Some of the increases are greater than what is allowed by NRS 354.5989 in the Consumer Price Index. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns of curb/gutter codes not being enforced; selective enforcement of City Codes throughout the City; the sewer connection at his property on Great Basin Boulevard; permitting of RV’s; and squatters’ RVs.

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

Councilman Spear moved to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **6:10 p.m.** Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


ATTEST


MAYOR

