



CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 9, 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 5:02 P.M.; Pastor Bob Winder 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
- Councilman Jim Alworth
- Councilwoman Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper

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

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Treasurer-HR Director Janette Trask
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb
- Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Building Official Lee Walker
- City Engineer BJ Almberg
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- 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: Caroline McIntosh, and Geri Wopschall.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: September 9, 2021

Print name below

Samantha Elliott
George Chachas
Pastor Bob Winder
Mark Bassett
Joan Bassett

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. George Chachas stated on your agenda item 7-1 you are to consider the approval of a Liquor License for *Leisure Gaming, Inc.* d.b.a. *Lucky's Casino*, located at 1701 Great Basin Boulevard. State NRS states you cannot have liquor or gaming within 1,000 feet of a school. Ely City Code states if you have more than sixteen slots you are required to have a minimum of thirty hotel rooms. The abatement concern for my property at 710 Avenue G has been completed. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding a Public Information Request for permitting on the Community Choir building; the write off of utilities at 790 Avenue I at a previous meeting; billing on his properties; bringing utility billing back to City Hall; his opinion of education and ability of the City Clerk and City Treasurer; curb and gutter on East Aultman not meeting ADA requirements; and selective enforcement.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated we continue to manage the eighty-one complaints my office has received this year. To date, we have sent sixty-eight letters, received thirty-seven responses, and thirty-two property owners have complied. We received a note from Tri-County weed this afternoon and he stated the message we had on our billing cards drummed up a lot of weed treatments in town and paralleled with what we are getting accomplished in the right of ways. On the donations the City received towards the Broadbent Park vandalism, Sheriff Henriod informed me that the informant wished to remain anonymous, so per the request of those individuals that donated those funds, the money will be put towards City Parks. On Grants, Patti is preparing the Broadbent Park Revitalization SNPLMA Application which will be turned into the County next month. I checked with the City's BLM contact on the Green Up Grant application, and she responded today that those are still being reviewed and there will be a status update soon. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection is holding a cybersecurity workshop September through November and our appropriate Public Works staff will be attending that. Enviser installed the needed six thermostats in the Armory this week. The Deputy Election Secretary of State, Mark Wlaschin, will be holding a town hall meeting in Ely next year to inform residents of upcoming 2022 procedures and to field questions.

➤ CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated next Tuesday and Wednesday the City is going to be fog sealing the roads that were chip sealed and we want to remind the public to please have your trailers and vehicles off the side of the road so we can do a proper job.

Mayor Robertson stated I assume that anything left on the road when you are prepared to do that will be towed?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated in the past we have always been able to call Sheriff Henriod and they have been able to find the people, so we will try to do the same thing. We have started that today with a couple of trailers that needed to be moved.

Mayor Robertson stated someone had made mention of animal control issues with animals getting into drainage ditches behind the railroad. Were you aware of that?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I was not aware of that, but will follow up in the morning.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated just to follow-up with what Mike was saying about the roads, I know they passed out flyers about sealing the roads and I got a call from a resident asking me why we are only doing the center of the road. I explained we are trying to get as many road miles people drive down in the City as we can by going down the center line, but when we come back this next week and seal, we will be sealing from edge of pavement to edge of pavement. We finished up last week with our summer intern that was collecting the GIS information and I thought we had a very successful summer in collecting those. The last couple weeks was more analyzing the stuff we got and sending him out to get the ones we missed. We certainly did not get 100% of everything in town, but we got 90% and now it is just picking up the remainder.

Mayor Robertson stated on that road project, were there any sections that were not chip sealed that could use dura patching before they get sprayed?

City Engineer Almberg stated not that I am aware of. I did see City Crews out there and they were doing a really good job cleaning up all the curb and gutter and all the weeds. If there is anything that needed to be dura patched, they are going to be on it. We did some surveying down in Central Ely for curb and gutter that is getting installed. Our road project on Murry Street did start last week. They are starting to chip out all the old concrete curb and gutter that is going to be replaced on this project. As an update, we did get a second round of testing on Murry Street and there were good results coming out of there, so the last thing I anticipate out of that as they excavate over this road and get it down eighteen inches to two feet is we will have them go down one more time through that trench area to get testing completed.

➤ **CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL**

City Building Official Walker stated just an update on the Justice Center. Brad and I did an inspection and we were hoping it would be the final, but it wasn't. There are a few little items but nothing for fire and life, so we were pretty confident in issuing a temporary permit for occupancy for just the jail. The project is moving along nicely, and we have another inspection scheduled for next Thursday to hopefully issue the Certificate of Occupancy for the jail section itself.

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

5. NNRV FOUNDATION REPORT

NNRV President Mark Bassett stated the large news is Locomotive 81 was inspected by the Federal Railroad Administration this morning and she is ready to start steaming and should be running down the track by the end of the month. The staff and volunteers just really worked their hearts out. The last time she steamed in service was 1958 so this is quite an accomplishment. We will have two operational locomotives again. Once Locomotive 81 is up and going we will be starting on Locomotive 40 and that will be about a 2-year project. In 2020 Trains Magazine for railroad enthusiasts were going to have a big blow-out for their 80th anniversary, but of course with COVID they were unable to do that. It was suggested they have their 81st celebration in Ely, Nevada with Locomotive 81 and so that is going to happen this October 8th, 9th, and 10th. We have people coming from across the country and around the world to celebrate. The following report was reviewed:

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.nnrv.com • E-mail: info@nnrv.com

Monthly Operations Report for August 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 August we carried 1,859 passengers. This is an increase of 38% over 2020, and a decrease of 3% over 2019. After experiencing two huge months, our ridership softened in August and September appears to be softening too.
 - b. Year to date we have carried 10,306 passengers. This is an increase of 108% over 2020 and a 12% over 2019. In fact we have carried more passengers this year than we did in all of 2020.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 320,771 passengers.
6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand, in the last 28 days:
 - a. We reached 4,199,969 people, a 20% decrease.
 - b. Post reach was 326,009, a 31% decrease.

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

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

6. REPORTS

➤ **COUNCILMAN ALWORTH**

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to report that I drove by Mr. Chachas property on Avenue G and after fifteen years or more it is no longer an eyesore to the community. He covered it with plywood and painted it but like the old saying goes you can put lipstick on a pig, but it is still a pig; that is still a burnt building.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to note that President Biden announced earlier today that they will be requiring businesses with 100 employees or more to be vaccinated and will be enforcing that through OSHA. If you are also not aware, the County decided to engage with a billboard attorney over in Reno for an undisclosed amount of money and an undisclosed purpose to fight the Governor. I am not exactly sure what is going on

there. I would encourage and will support the City's continued support of the State and federal efforts to control the Coronavirus. The County Health Officer has been here a number of times and we appreciate his input and will continue to support his efforts as well.

7. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE ELY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD.

2. Board Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Class III Liquor License to Ryan Albright for *Leisure Gaming, Inc. d.b.a. Lucky's Casino*, located at 1701 Great Basin Boulevard, Ely, Nevada.

Councilman Alworth stated the person that calculated the license how do you determine what's what? There are circles and lines drawn through them and how do you interpret that?

City Clerk Lee stated it is a Class III License.

Councilman Alworth stated the Class III is for \$382.45. The example is very confusing.

Mayor Robertson stated you are not the only one. These systems are quite complicated and is why I would support revision of this process.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Class III Liquor License to Ryan Albright for *Leisure Gaming, Inc. d.b.a. Lucky's Casino*, located at 1701 Great Basin Boulevard, Ely, Nevada. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to disclose I was a past member of the Fire Department and any payments made for supplies of the Fire Department I will abstain from.

Moved by: Councilman Spear Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous with Councilman Alworth abstaining from the items related to the Fire Department supplies purchased on the August 26, 2021 bills.

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - August 12, 2021
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
 - August 26, 2021

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Retroactive approval of letter to Governor Sisolak to strongly reconsider the use of the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Honor Camp crews in communities where they are depended on greatly.

Mayor Robertson stated this was a joint effort between Mt. Wheeler Power and a number of other local entities that have benefited in the past from these crews for various community services and needed to get that out the door.

Councilman Spear stated I would like to echo what the Mayor said. These crews did an impeccable job in Ely and got so much accomplished. It has been an asset in manpower that we could never replace, so thank you for getting this done so we can move on it.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to note for the Councils benefit that shortly after sending this letter I did get a call from Warden Gittere at the State Prison here in Ely. He does have a small crew currently they use for light duty things and wanted to make me

aware of that. The day he called I believe they were doing some painting out at the fairgrounds.

Councilman Flangas stated I appreciated your letter as it is very well written and would like to recommend sending that to the rest of the small, rural communities in the State that have benefited from the Honor Camp and maybe it will encourage them to reach out and get it reestablished.

Mayor Robertson stated certainly many hands make light work and having people sign onto that wouldn't be a bad idea. It is a well written letter and I would love to take credit for it, but it was written by Kevin Robinson.

Councilman Alworth moved to retroactively approve the letter to Governor Sisolak to strongly reconsider the use of the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Honor Camp crews in communities where they are depended on greatly. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilman Spear stated the month of August they were on recess. Our earmarks are still waiting to go through the different funding sources. Our earmarks are for the three major projects including \$25 million plus for the downtown project. One of the things mentioned today is the Childcare Stabilization Grant Program which allows us to convert, renovate, and retrofit buildings and is definitely a project that could be funded. We did find out the states and territories have to request that particular funding. So far, out of the fifty states less than a third have requested that funding and I think it is \$33 billion dollars. I was concerned and Cameron mentioned maybe the Governor's office was understaffed or too busy with the COVID stuff. I got to thinking after that meeting that the Governor's office was one of the last to apply for our ARPA money as well and I am thinking maybe they are trying to put together a program. The minute the State requests that it will be a grant program. If the Boys and Girls Club needs some help on the application process, we will put some pressure on it and make sure it is done.

3. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – *Geoverse* Vice-President Kevin Hayes – Discussion Only – Presentation on *Geoverse*' Connect America Phase II deployment in the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee stated Greg Wencil with Geoverse is presenting in place of Geoverse Vice-President Kevin Hayes.

Greg Wencil stated I have also asked JoJo Meyers-Campos to join us this afternoon, who is our Business Development Director in the State of Nevada. I am Greg Wencil the General Manager of the southwest region for Geoverse otherwise known as Choice Broadband and covering for Kevin Hayes today. I am sure you have seen the retail store pop up on Aultman this year. I want to find out what updates were you specifically looking for?

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I would like to follow the money trail. I know you were awarded about 1.6 million dollars over the next ten years and I also understand that 40% of that needs to be spent by December 31, 2022 and you should be working on 1375 locations. I would like to have an update on what you have done, exactly, where these locations are, and will the forty percent that needs to be done happen?

Geoverse General Manager Greg Wencil stated we have launched twenty-five free services in Ely and other places in White Pine County. We are already covering the majority of our Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) obligations within the City of Ely in terms of twenty-five free services which is required with the CAF II obligations. One of the things we are doing going into next year is deploying fiber optics within the City of

Ely and also outside of Ely; that should allow us to bring fiber to the homes and businesses.

Councilman Alworth stated there are 1375 residents; how many have gotten the service already?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated we will get that for you. If you look at the whole CAF map, the majority of the money is out in the County. However, there is some right there in Ely. We just launched the rate plan this year for the 25-3, which was done in July or August; so, we have never had the 25-3 and we must have that to have our CAF obligations covered. The rest of those will be done with the Ely Phase 2 project; I don't see that project out of permitting until after the first of the year and that will be a fiber to the premise, meaning both business and close residential. The Library will go on fiber, as well as the surrounding buildings and all the way down main street. We have already signed a Master License Agreement with NDOT with which we are going to start putting in the fiber optics and the conduit down at the intersection with all the construction going on; the conduit is down Highway 93 and 6th Street. We are now to the point of signing a Master Location Agreement and that is going to be the conduit going down main street that we are also going to partner on. That is in progress and the rest of those CAF obligations will be done once we have that project completed.

Councilwoman Williams Harper asked what is happening in the Baker, Ruth, Lund, and McGill areas as far as the rural deployment?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated we are hoping to get those in the Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) Grant frankly, but I guess the demand was too great, so we went with McGill. However, we have already networked/designed everything from Lund, Preston, Ruth, Baker, Leeman Caves, and the Observatory so I know we are going to be working with the State with their 100 million as they will be putting out a Request For Proposal (RFP). We have already talked to the State Consultant, his name is Joe Freddoso, and he said he will hold onto those we have already designed for all the mentioned areas that are ready to go and not able to go into the BIP Grant. We are going to work with the State and see if we can get a couple more of those covered for full connectivity.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated can you give a little more of an explanation of what is going on down Aultman and Great Basin Boulevard?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated that is NDOT's improvement plan, but because of SB 53 that got enacted back in 2017 we were able as a service provider to use the conduit. NDOT, in the project that Q & D is doing, actually put conduit on both sides of Highway 93 all the way down to 5th Street. We signed the Master License Agreement, so now we will be putting in fiber optics into those conduits that have already been put in and tying into their vaults.

Councilman Alworth asked is it possible to get a printed timeline of construction in progress of where you are and what your goal is so we don't have to keep bringing you folks back to the City Council to see where it is?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated I would be happy to do that and I will offer to you all, as I have offered the County, to do a quarterly report for you in person.

Councilman Alworth asked how are the plans for the City coming for our stuff regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fire Station, and the Landfill? The stuff that Councilwoman Williams-Harper is talking about has to do with the whole City, but where are we with the City's goals?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated are you talking about the proposal for the City?

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated your proposal will be separate. I think part of that can already be done as it is not going to be dependent on this. I do not have an update on that proposal, I do apologize. I am under the impression there has already been contact under the proposal.

City Clerk Lee stated they are waiting for this item to be placed on the agenda for review and approval of the proposal. Wilson Navarrete has been in close contact with me. We have Geoverse's most updated proposal in hand.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated that is all I have. I want to thank you for the work that is happening, particularly for the things that have happened. I'm also looking at the upgrade and service to the schools, which is a special interest. I know this is very important and I want to make sure that things are going on in a timely function and have been wondering how that money is being spent.

Geoverse Business Director JoJo Meyers-Campos stated you are welcome to call me anytime and I would be happy to do quarterly reports.

4. 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: Premium Pay, to be determined, through FY22 and start effective the first payroll of October 2021 for all current City of Ely employees as essential workers during COVID-19 pandemic – amount to not exceed \$170,000.00 ; and *Zoll* Auto Pulse System for Fire Department - \$16,499.70.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated on the premium pay part I have been working in conjunction and getting guidance from our auditors. It is their understanding that with the back pay we are not able to go back before March of 2021. There is the option to do premium pay. We talked about percentages, but my opinion is to give a flat amount equally to every employee, so it is not based off of who gets paid more. What I have recommended on this was starting the first pay period in October and give each person \$200.00 premium pay out of this funding through the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Robertson asked \$200.00 per paycheck?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes. The other item, equipment for EMS, is covered under the act from the way I understand it and this was a request from the Fire Department.

Councilman Spear stated I did talk to the Fire Department and they gave me a demonstration of how the Auto Pulse System works. At that time, I was hoping the Fire Chief would put in for two of them. This equipment is incredible and if I ever need CPR, I hope the ambulance has that on it. We have two ambulances up there and one that is on loan, so a total of three, and I hope the committee will look at getting them in all three. One time in the last year they had all three ambulances out there on cardiac issues and I would hate to be the one that didn't have one on the ambulance. From what I have read the purchase of these is allowable. The life band that you showed me is a one-time use, right?

City Fire Chief Stork stated yes, the bands are a one-time use and then they get replaced.

Councilman Spear stated you only ordered two and there are only three per package, so if there is an incident you could end up using them all. Is that enough?

City Fire Chief Stork stated we could always use more. We have some of them put into our regular budget and I don't know where we are exactly with this funding, but more is always better.

Councilman Spear stated we have until December 2024 for you to put in requests. My point is you guys showed me two scenarios that you one time had two and one time three cardiac patients.

City Fire Chief Stork stated just three weeks ago we had our ambulance with our auto pulse on it in McGill and at the same time had a call with a drowning at Cave Lake. The ambulance that responded did not have one, but we did end up getting the guy back. If you are doing CPR on someone and you have stairs to go down, you have to stop because you can't be doing compressions. This machine once set up on them while we are getting them downstairs or down a narrow hallway is continuously doing quality CPR.

Councilman Spear stated I think it is a no brainer to go back to the budget committee and get a few more bandages and another auto pulse.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated we have a meeting next week to get more items put on and City Fire Chief Stork has already submitted some requests.

Councilman Alworth disclosed I am a past member of the Fire Department. Any comments I make will be for the betterment of the City and the citizens. On the pay I understand what you said. I think your idea of a flat rate is better. This declaration includes members of the City Fire Department, so I will abstain on that part. I expect you are going to come under a lot of heat because some people are not going to like the number you are grasping at. It is \$400.00 a month for forty-four employees.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated it is nineteen more pay periods until the end of the fiscal year if you start in October. I would ask for your guidance on the part-time people, if you would like that geared down according to their percentage of work.

Councilman Alworth stated for all the people in the public, the City employees are considered essential workers and we can't lose one person in any position in the City so that is why this money is being doled out the way it is. It is deemed by the federal government for essential employees that we can do this. \$200.00 for nineteen pay periods comes to \$170,000.00. I don't know what the Council wants to do on this, but again for the part regarding the fire department since we can't break it out, I will abstain from that. As for the Auto Pulse I agree 100%. If you have done CPR for 30 miles, it wears you out; there again with my past affiliation with the Fire Department, as much as I support it I will not be voting on that item.

Mayor Robertson stated for clarification we have talked percentage and a flat amount. You are proposing \$200.00 for an employee no matter what they are making?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes. I am not saying it can't be readdressed as we have another half coming and it is something to get it started.

Mayor Robertson stated October to next June is nine months and I would hate to put our employees in a position where they are used to getting this and then they quit on us in July because they are not getting it anymore. Do you have any thoughts on that?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated no. It is something to give our employees some extra and it is not going to last forever; that is just the reality of it. When it comes to the employees, they are going to do whatever they are going to do, and we can't please everyone. I feel it is something to give back to the employees.

Councilman Carson asked would this be close to reimbursing them dollar for dollar for what they lost?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated it is going to depend on who you are because back then it was based off their salary. Right now, what I am going off of indicates we can't go back to that, so I would say most everybody will get back at least what they lost if not more.

Councilman Alworth stated the higher paid people took a bigger hit and the lower paid people are going to benefit greatly. It is a reinforcement that we need you to come to work. We need you and the community needs you. Please get your shots and do everything you can to keep the City functioning.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I understand where you are coming from, so next week when we meet with the budget committee it might help if you lay everything out and then we will see if there are some people that are being shorted.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I am going to tell you right now they are not.

Mayor Robertson stated some people are going to be made whole and some will do better than whole.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated you have to remember we cannot tie this money back to that. It has to be a premium based off of March 2021 forward.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I think it is exciting that we have enough funds to really be able to equip our ambulances. So much of the city is brick and mortar and it is nice to invest in human capital, and that is what this kind of equipment does.

Councilman Alworth asked who designates the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic? If we go into the next round of money, does it come from Joe that it is over with or does it go until 2026?

Mayor Robertson stated I want to say looking through that paperwork that it did not depend on if they had declared an emergency or not.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Budget Committee's recommendation of American Rescue Plan expenditures, to include: Premium Pay through FY22, to start effective the first payroll of October 2021, for all current City of Ely employees as essential workers during COVID-19 pandemic not to exceed \$170,000.00; and Zoll Auto Pulse System for Fire Department - \$16,499.70. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0 with 1 abstention from Councilman Alworth.

5. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Direction to City Treasurer to request proposals to retain a professional firm for advisement on specific American Rescue Plan expenditures and reporting.

Mayor Robertson stated the Council Members that were at League of Cities with me may recall during that presentation this was something you could spend the ARPA funding on and also a recommendation. It is a lot of money; it will be audited and having that extra layer of advisement protection to get through these audits I think is prudent.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I am all in favor of this. I have gotten a hold of our auditors and I think they have passed on it because they will be doing the auditing plus the single audits. I have put feelers out with Hinton and Burdick to see if they have people available for this.

Councilman Spear stated I think this is necessary because I interpret a lot of this stuff a lot different some other people in the same room. We do need some professional advice and I was really hoping the State Treasurer would come down.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated Keddington, our auditors from Utah, stated their state hired somebody to give the different cities and counties guidance and said to ask through our League of Cities, but it didn't sound like anyone from the League of Cities told you guys there was anyone at the State level that they would hire for this.

Mayor Robertson stated not currently. My understanding is you will advertise and bring proposals back to the Council for approval?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes, definitely.

Councilman Alworth stated Ed and I can talk to the PORTER Group and see if they could shed some light on this. There are some entities throughout this country that have turned

the money back because they don't want to deal with the headaches and they are scared. It is a great idea to have professional advice.

Councilman Spear moved to direct the City Treasurer to request proposals to retain a professional firm for advisement on specific American Rescue Plan expenditures and reporting. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Council Members – City HR Director Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Building Official recruitment efforts taken upon City Council's August 31, 2021 acceptance of Lee Walker's resignation.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated after what we went through last recruitment period to hire Lee and train up, I would like to request that I be able to change the advertisement. I would like to be able to hire someone that can train and move up like we do with the fire department, instead of last time we advertised for a fully qualified Building Official candidate.

Mayor Robertson asked will we be advertising the same places as we did the last time?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes. We will advertise through the ICC as it seemed to be our best place last time, locally and through the State Employment Office.

Councilman Carson moved to approve Building Official recruitment efforts taken upon City Council's August 31, 2021 acceptance of Lee Walker's resignation and that advertising be open for different levels of qualifications. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Council Members – City Attorney Cahoon – Discussion/For Possible Action – Direction to City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapters 1 and 3 of Title 4 Public Health and Safety of the City Code of the City of Ely.

City Attorney Cahoon stated this amendment will be to include additional notice requirements and to bring Chapter 3 into Chapter 1. It is a little redundant between Chapter 1 and 3.

Councilman Alworth asked you will bring it to us with your mark ups to review?

City Attorney Cahoon said yes, I can do that.

Councilman Alworth moved to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapters 1 and 3 of Title 4 Public Health and Safety of the City Code of the City of Ely. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Samantha Elliott with the Boys and Girls Club stated I wanted to thank the Council and the Mayor for joining us on Tuesday. We did a preliminary walk through of the Murry Street School and we are in contact with contractors to get a price back for that building. Our goal is to retrofit that building and open it with a possible capacity to serve seventy- five 0-4-year old's. I don't have a timeline for that yet, but I know there is good momentum behind the contractors. The plumbing is the biggest thing with that building and I want to thank you all for bringing this to our attention. This has been something on our plate that we have been wanting to tackle and I think this year is the year we are going to be able to make it happen. I will keep you guys up to date with what we can do and of course, when we need more support we will come back to you.

George Chachas stated I am concerned that Mr. Alworth keeps coming after me on my property. My property is fenced and passed inspection by the City Engineer and Building Inspector years ago and I use it for storage only. I am tired of the discrimination and either you stop or we will go to the next level and it will affect your funding. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns with nuisances in various locations; concerns regarding the Regional Planning Commission not seeing discrepancies; ADA access at the Convention Center; NDOT supposedly taking away his sidewalk at his motel; ADA access on the corners of Aultman Street; and the purchasing of a permit for the repairs on the Choir Building.

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

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 6:06 p.m. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST