

CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2022 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. Councilman Alworth led in the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor James Woffinden offered invocation, and Mayor Robertson asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

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

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 Fire Chief Pat Stork
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
City Police Chief Scott Henriod
City Building Official Craig Peterson (Zoom)
City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

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, Wyatt Cox, Mark Bassett, and Chris Stanko.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: January 13, 2022

Print name below

Adam Young
Samantha Alworth
George Chachas
James Woffinden, pastor
Michael Carson
Levi Carson
Gregory Rivero

Print name below

W

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Administrative Assistant Cobb read into the record an email from Geri Wopschall that stated: I would like to have Zoom continue. It saves me time from requesting the recording from the City. I know it is costing the City to provide CD's and time to provide the recording.

Administrative Assistant Cobb read the following into the record:

January 13, 2022

**Mayor Nathan Robertson
Members of the Ely City Council**

Dear Elected Officials:

I'm writing to you today regarding, Item 4, under New Business, with regard to Zoom access for City of Ely Public Meetings. I did discuss this item with Councilman Carson, and I certainly agree with his rationale for putting this on the Agenda.

The Nevada Open Meeting Law Manual does not specifically state that Zoom is mandatory to provide for public entity meetings. The last update to the Open Meeting Law Manual was done on March 26, 2019. After that time, the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 declared the pandemic.

The pandemic made it clearly important to have Zoom available for meetings.

In our community Zoom provides an avenue for those individuals who cannot attend meetings, or may have been affected medically by the pandemic. Zoom provides an information source for our citizens, and is definitely considered "the wave of the future". We also must be cognizant of the importance of social distancing, which Zoom provides for.

The City has received funds from Cares Act, and the American Rescue Plan. Perhaps funds from those avenues may be used to off-set the cost of Zoom, which I understand is now \$3,708.00 yearly.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Marietta Henry
2375 Iron Drive
Ely, NV 8930**

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 9B-5 the Council is to consider using American Rescue Plan Act Funding to fund William Bee Ririe's Housing Complex Project and this item needs to be turned down. The hospital is supported by the taxpayers and should not be competing with the private sector. I supplied an RV space to a hospital employee who is a specialist in the blood lab and happened to be a veteran. In a very short time, the previous City Attorney sent his son who was with the Sheriff's Department to issue me a citation and evict the gentleman for a so-called zoning violation. I was looking at a \$355.00 fine even though others around me were continuing to rent RV's. On your agenda item 9B-9 you are considering approving an interlocal agreement with White Pine County for perpetual operations and maintenance of SNPLMA funded projects; the City staff needs to maintain City projects or resign. My family and I received notices to remove snow dated December 29, 2021. I have been diligent and have gone from one end of Aultman to the other and counted forty-two different properties that did not even attempt to clear snow and properties on Great Basin Boulevard.

Judge Mike Coster stated I wanted to report the mayor came to visit and watched the Municipal Court operate for a day and we appreciated that. I think we all learned things that day and I would like to extend that invitation to any member of the City Council who might be interested to do the same; our schedule is Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and occasionally Mondays. The Court including the clerk's office is closed on Fridays. I will be attending the semi-annual State Training for Justice Court and Municipal Court for judges in Las Vegas for the week of the next City Council Meeting; we have already submitted our reports for that meeting, and I don't

know if I will be available to attend by Zoom. On the annual report from the State on operations of all courts, within the seventh District, the Ely Municipal Court stood out for the highest case closure rate throughout the district last year. We were the only court that closed an excess of one hundred percent, which is a measurement of new incoming cases versus new and old case closures. I want to commend Linnea Prengel and Lisa Hall for sticking with the paperwork and file cleanup to give very impressive statistics for our court.

Wyatt Cox with KELY Radio stated on item four under new business at a time the City talks about COVID-19 and concerns about public gatherings, Councilman Carson or someone under his name put an item on the agenda that would end live streaming through Zoom of council meetings. This is something I would expect from a government that wishes to operate under the cover of darkness. Not everyone can get to council meetings and many of you may remember we used to broadcast the council meetings on a delay and a lot of people appreciated that. I can promise you Mr. Mayor if this item is passed, I will not only lead our state newscast system with this item in the morning, but I will have harsh words for this Council in my commentaries. The public needs more sunshine and greater public exposure, not less.

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

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to recommend the removal item four under B. New Business regarding the Zoom system. Zoom is with us for the rest of our lifetime. I think there were a lot of people out there that thought the item was to decide to get rid of it, and that was not it at all. We have to have Zoom and I don't think there should even be any discussion.

Councilman Carson stated I agree with Councilman Alworth. I didn't word the agenda item correctly. The Budget Committee is looking at various upgrades to enhance Zoom, starting with our old sound system here. All the improvements are for the Council to decide, and that will be later on a different agenda.

Mayor Robertson stated I would also like to add, the intent was to have on the record the continuation of Zoom if we have to look back on that in a couple of years. It is important to have the commitment of the Council on record before we spend more American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding on enhancements to improve the equipment. This item was quite the opposite of doing things in the dark; it was very much an effort to do things out in public and to make sure it was part of the public record. I feel this discussion fulfills that need.

Councilman Alworth stated the \$3,708.00 yearly fee for Zoom is budgeted and there was never an intent to discontinue Zoom. We may look to expend money in the future to enhance what we already have.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated to piggyback on what Councilman Alworth said, Zoom is very important and will do nothing but get better with the equipment and the sound. I am pretty sure this Council will try to bring the best of Zoom for all patrons and constituents to see what is going on. We have had many conversations on how we can continue to improve Zoom and Mayor Robertson and myself would not be able to attend this meeting tonight if we did not have Zoom.

Councilman Spear stated we are discussing the agenda item number four so I don't know why you would want to remove it and then have the same conversation during that item.

Mayor Robertson stated the motion and the second is to approve the agenda with removal of that item and the discussion was related to whether we needed the item or not and I think that is appropriate.

City Attorney Cahoon stated yes, we are fine to have removal of item number four on the agenda.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item four under New Business. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY FIRE CHIEF

City Fire Chief Stork stated I have one addition which is a breakdown of our 2020 calls versus 2021 calls. In 2020 we answered 1,315 911 calls versus 1,463 in 2021; EMS calls were 1,154 calls in 2020 versus 1,265 in 2021; and transports by ambulance were 1,013 in 2020 versus 1,190 in 2021. The average calls per day went from 3.6 in 2020 to 4 in 2021.

Councilman Spear stated on page one under ALS and BLS Transports there is a blank line, and it says one.

City Fire Chief stated once I make a correction it takes about three hours to reflect, and then I can pull that report again. The one is going to be advanced or BLS; it was non-categorized when I ran the report.

➤ CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Cahoon stated to provide Council an update with regards to abatements; we are noticing most property owners are cleaning up the property and are complying. There are two at this time that may need further action: one involving vehicles on the property that we will need to obtain the vehicle identification numbers (VIN) and seek titles through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the other property we will potentially have to move forward with a warrant.

Councilman Spear stated on the lien report in the past we have always had a total of the dollar amount of current liens and this time it was blank, and I would like it to be put back on there.

City Attorney Cahoon stated it must be an error in the lien report.

City Clerk Lee stated we will follow-up and make sure it is there for the next report.

➤ CITY CLERK

Councilman Alworth asked did we have a public hearing regarding the STOP sign removal on North Street and Ogden?

City Clerk Lee stated we didn't, and it will be on the January 27, 2022 agenda.

➤ CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

City Clerk Lee stated Public Works Supervisor Cracraft is absent tonight, but he asked me to add a couple of things to his report. The compactor, per leadman Shoning's report, Wheeler Machinery and CAT have been given the authority to come to the landfill and truck the compactor back to Salt Lake City for a more thorough inspection and then decide the best course of action the City of Ely should take. We are working with our insurance company on this, and he will keep us updated on the progress. The signage has been put in place at the City Parks for the hours of occupancy.

Councilman Alworth stated on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report Raul mentioned they installed a new flow meter for the centrifuge, and we are required by Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to monitor the amount of sludge taken to the landfill. I want to make sure we have a report of this and that it is getting reported to NDEP.

City Clerk Lee stated I will follow up with Public Works Supervisor Cracraft on that.

➤ BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Official Peterson stated we did have an enforcement action that did have a successful resolution. The hospital is ongoing, the public safety building is coming along, and I am continuing to work on the extension for the Bell Avenue curb and gutter issue. We have sent out a letter and have not received an agreement back, hopefully that takes place in short order, or we will be forced to start enforcement.

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

5. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT

NNRY President Mark Bassett reviewed the following report:

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

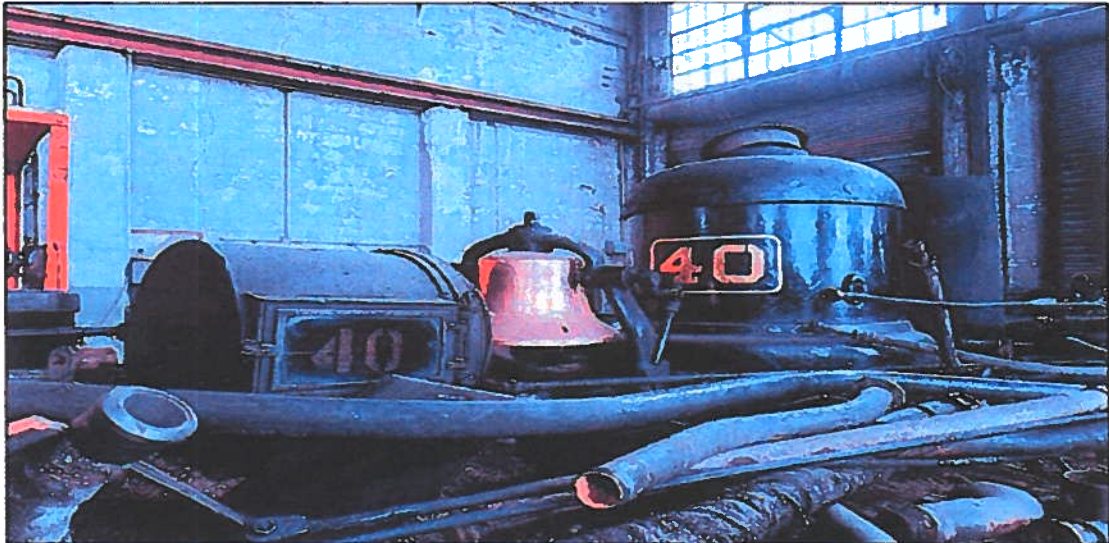
Monthly Operations Report for December 2021

1. Locomotive Status – No change
 - a. Locomotives in service: #81, #93, #105, #109, #204, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
 - b. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs, she will be out of service until 2023.
 - c. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201, #310 and #45
 - d. Locomotive 801 is being brought back into service. It is a very rare Baldwin VO diesel locomotive that is one of only eight left in existence.
 - e. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309, Kennecott 801 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
 - f. 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 December we carried 3,005 passengers. We carried no passengers in 2020. It is an increase of 23% over 2019.
 - b. In 2021 we carried 18,037 passengers. This is an increase of 131% over 2020 and a 19% over 2019. 2021 was the largest year we have ever had for carrying passengers.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 330,361 passengers.

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

- d. Ticket sales for Santa's Reindeer Flyer were very strong. We carries 3,957 passengers this year. There were two limitation, one was a lot of people did not show up, about 10% per train. Instead of doing refunds we did gift cards. Secondly, we reduced capacity by 30% per tain.
- 6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand, in the last 28 days:
 - a. We reached 11,602,693 people, a 403% increase.
 - b. Post reach was 728,591, a 53% increase.
 - c. Our page likes increased 658, a decrease of 12%
 - d. We have 115,316 page likes.
 - e. 157,655 people follow our page.
- 7. Locomotive 40 Overhaul

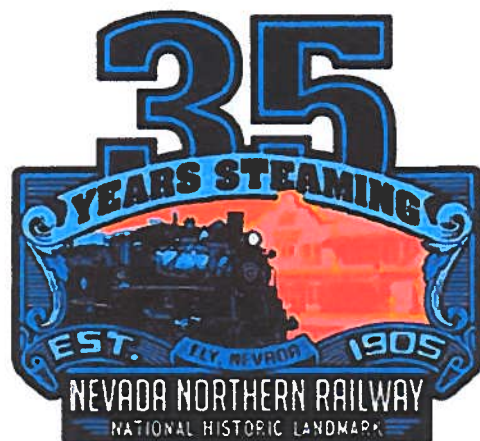
Every 15 years or 1472 operating days, a steam locomotive is required to have its boiler inspected. This is mandated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). We are at the 15-year mark with Locomotive 40. During this boiler inspection we will also address issues on the running gear and her tender. The boiler has been stripped down.



8. 35th Anniversary Celebration.



2022 is the 35th anniversary of the start of excursion trains on the Nevada Northern Railway. In the past 35 years, 330,361 tourists have ridden on our trains. Furthermore another 350,000 people have visited the railroad. This visitation resulted in tourists spending an estimated \$100,000,000 during their visit to the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark. During 2022 we will have multiple events celebrating our 35 years of operation.



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

6. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN ALWORTH

Councilman Alworth stated B.J., Councilman Spear and I sat through PORTER Group meetings and housing meetings. I want to touch on the recent snowstorms we have had. They are probably the biggest we have had in three years, if not more, and I want to commend our green road department crew with very little experience in the way they handled the snow. We are going to continue to improve with snow removal, but we really need to figure out how to get the sidewalks cleared in this community. I believe putting it on the front door of City Hall and in the newspaper hits very few people. On Great Basin Boulevard from the old South Fork Hardware Store up to Laquinta on the west side of the road I have personally seen people walking in the bicycle lane because that sidewalk was not cleaned off, and it's the same thing on east Aultman Street. We need to do something to keep people safe and not walking in the streets because property owners are not cleaning their sidewalks. I ask for people to be patient with our crews and again kudos to the road crew as well as the water and landfill crews that helped in clearing snow.

City Clerk Lee stated I appreciate Councilman Alworth's input and would like to let everyone know that in addition to what he mentioned we have added a sidewalk clearance reminder at the top of the bills for the remainder of the snow season.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I would like to commend Pat Stork. I was in need of an ambulance this week and when the Fire Chief walks in the door and that is the person helping you along with others, I would just like to say thank you.

➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I did spend a day out at the Municipal Court which was very eye opening. It brought to light an issue we are having with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) not having enough people to do driving tests in our community. I was shocked on how many of the cases being heard that day dealt with that very issue. It prompted me to call our Lieutenant Governor Staff who put me in touch with the Director of the DMV and was kind enough to follow up with me. They are having staffing issues like everyone is and they are doing their best to fill in the gaps. There are driving tests available here, but they are on a limited basis so you may have to schedule it out a bit and it is weather dependent. I would also like to report that Coronavirus is back with a vengeance and is highly contagious this round. I would encourage those that are able to go get vaccinated.

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

1. Councilman Alworth – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance 744, Bill 2021-07 amending Title 4 of the Ely City Code Establishing Additional Notice Procedures and Requirements Relating to the Abatement of Nuisances, Re-Organizing the Title by Transposing the Contents of Chapter 3 into Chapter 1, and Adding, Removing, or Amending Other Provisions Throughout.

George Chachas stated I am in favor of leaving things in place as they are. I have come before you numerous times and given you discrepancies. When I tried to remedy the situation, I had on my property it took me thirty attempts to get a building permit from your former building inspector. Mr. Chachas mentioned several nuisances around town and stated the selective enforcement needs to stop.

Mayor Robertson asked Mr. Chachas do you have any comments about the Ordinance itself?

Mr. Chachas stated yes, drop it because you are not enforcing what you have now.

Jim Alworth, speaking as a citizen, stated this is a public hearing on this item and Mr. Chachas was told in a public meeting there is a process to deal with these problems; don't come in here flashing pictures of nuisances. You need to come to City Hall, fill out the form, sign it, and the City will investigate it. Our City Attorney reported tonight that we have two properties that are outstanding and being discussed. The process we have in place is working even better than what we had in place when Mr. Chachas was mayor overlooking his own properties. There have been over one hundred complaints handled with the modifications we have made currently. The new modification in my opinion is going to make it even better.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance 744, Bill 2021-07 amending Title 4 of the Ely City Code Establishing Additional Notice Procedures and Requirements Relating to the Abatement of Nuisances, Re-Organizing the Title by Transposing the Contents of Chapter 3 into Chapter 1, and Adding, Removing, or Amending Other Provisions Throughout.

Councilman Alworth approved the second reading of Ordinance 744, Bill 2021-07 amending Title 4 of the Ely City Code Establishing Additional Notice Procedures and Requirements Relating to the Abatement of Nuisances, Re-Organizing the Title by Transposing the Contents of Chapter 3 into Chapter 1, and Adding, Removing, or Amending Other Provisions Throughout. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 9A-1 Minutes and 9A-2 Bills.

Councilman Alworth disclosed I am a past member of the Ely Volunteer Fire Department and any bills I approve are in the best interest of the citizens.

Moved by: Councilman Spear Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - December 9, 2021
 - December 14, 2021
2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
 - December 9, 2021
 - December 16, 2021
 - December 29, 2021
 - January 7, 2022

B. NEW BUSINESS


1. Mayor Robertson – White Pine County School District Superintendent Adam Young - Discussion Only – Presentation to share progress on White Pine County School District's Performance Plan and progress and challenges associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

White Pine County School District Superintendent Adam Young stated I am going to work my way through the presentation but will not be able to cover all of the slides. I want to start with an assurance and an invitation for you to take an in depth look at our District Performance Plan which is our strategic plan. It was developed collaboratively with all members of our school community in about 2017 and has guided our work over the last four to five years and will take us into the future for the next two or three as well. The plan is based on three very sound educationally researched and vetted theories of

action. Those strategies are leadership developments in teaching staff and students how to be better leaders.


The following slides were reviewed:

Theories of Action
Leadership Development



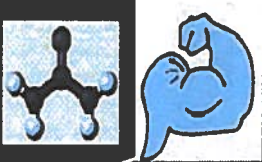
- NISL in 2017-2018: 144 classroom hours for 24 leaders focusing on systems thinking, alignment, and strategic thinking
- NISL leadership coaches in district 30+ days each in 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- Instructional and leadership coaches at WPMS, Lund, DEN, and WPHS in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. More than \$500,000 in grant funds devoted to this effort.
- District Leadership Team meetings since 2016, yielding DPP grant applications, District Leadership That Works, and Dare to Lead.
- Districtwide mentoring for new teachers: evening (paid) sessions. Opportunities for master teachers to lead
- Collaborative team leaders beginning in 2019 to build formal leadership opportunities at the team level.

Theories of Action
Dramatically Improved Tier 1 Instruction




- Extensive literacy professional development and coaching 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020
- World Class Literacy Framework adopted in 2019
- Extensive STEM professional development and coaching 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- Onsite instructional coaches through grant funds in 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020.
- World Class Math Framework and associated resources and professional development launched in 2021.

Theories of Action
Strengthening Systems and Structures to Outlast All of Us



- Path to World Class Learning
- By student data sheet.
- ELA resources folder
- Guaranteed and viable curriculum framework.
- STEAM Academy at David E. Norman.
- District leadership team.
- Collaborative lesson study framework in K-5 ELA as well as K-12 math
- World Class Relationships Framework rolled out in summer 2020.
- World Class Math Framework
- World Class Literacy Framework
- New teacher mentoring established and ongoing since 2017


District Performance Plan
Goal 1:
Core Academic Learning



2015-2016	25.0%
2016-2017	27.1%
2017-2018	25.0%
2018-2019	45.0%
2022 Goal	45.0%

2015-2016	24.0%
2016-2017	25.0%
2017-2018	28.0%
2018-2019	35.0%
2022 Goal	35.0%


District Performance Plan
Goal 1:
Core Academic Learning



ELA State Change	-7.1%
Math State Change	-11.2%
ELA WP Change	-4.9%
Math WP Change	-1.6%


ELA State Change	-5.3%
Math State Change	-13.3%
ELA WP Change	+0.0%
Math WP Change	+3.3%

District Performance Plan
Goal 1:
Core Academic Learning



ELA State Change	-2.1%
Math State Change	-3.4%
ELA WP Change	+0.9%
Math WP Change	+5.6%

District Performance Plan
Goal 2:
College and Career Readiness




- This is about opportunities for students. Opportunities for students come through increasing specialized staffing.
- Existing opportunities.
 - Dual credit and AP at WPHS.
 - Senior Achievement and JAG at WPHS
 - CTE at WPHS and Lund
 - STEAM Academy at DEN.
 - Robotics K-12.
 - Accelerated Math at DEN and WPHS.

District Performance Plan
Goal 2:
College and Career Readiness

How cool is this stuff!???


- Piano Club, Guitar Club, Choral Music K-12, Instrumental Music 5-12, Jam Band at WPMS and WPHS
- Hydroponics at McGill.
- Advanced math 6-8.
- Auto Technology, Welding, Culinary, IT, Health Science, CNA at WPHS
- Competitive Robotics Clubs 4-12.
- Senior and Freshman Achievement.
- Diesel Technology partnership with GBC.
- All WPHS seniors are enrolled in college English this year!
- STEAM Clubs include Chess, Coding, Culinary, Garden, Reading, Lego, Ocean, Video Graphics and Design, World Passport.
- Measurable objectives

District
Performance Plan
Goal 2:
College and Career
Readiness



	Graduation Rate	Advanced Diplomas
2018	83.7%	34%
2019	83.2%	40%
2020	82.9%	29.7%
2021	83.8%	38%
2022 Goal	85%	40%


District
Performance Plan
Goal 2:
College and Career
Readiness



	Post Secondary Participation	Post Secondary Completion
2018	45%	16%
2019	69.8%	25.3%
2020	73.7%	30.6%
2021	72.7%	40.4%


White Pine County School District Superintendent Young stated four years ago there were zero kids in the STEAM Programs because there weren't any offered and today there are one hundred and fifty-six students involved.

Celebrations
through Covid Life



- Open all day, every day through 2020-2021.
- Distance education option for families who choose it.
- Robust summer 2021 learning and planned summer 2022 learning.
- Additional academic supports available on Fridays and after school.
- Continued partnership with Boys and Girls Club.
- Very thoughtful and evolving response to staff and student needs.


Challenges through
Covid Life



- Increase in frequency and intensity of disruptive student behaviors
- Increase in difficult encounters with parents
- Psychological toll of dealing with conditions we cannot control.
- Staff and student burnout.
- Frequent absences due to quarantine and isolation rules
- Increase in chronic absenteeism/truancy
- "Gaming the system" through distance learning choices.
- Educator pipeline is slimmer than ever.
- Covid fatigue is real-for everyone. We can only control certain variables and ask for the community's support in doing so.

Mayor Robertson stated I looked through the presentation prior to the meeting and one of the slides towards the end regarding looking for \$60 million to replace the middle school and the elementary school caught my attention. While I can appreciate the cost savings and the logistical simplification to get all the schools in one area, if you are going to be looking for support from the City on this plan I would encourage the District to sit down with members of the City and people in the neighborhoods of where these schools currently exist to come up with a plan for the facilities you will be leaving. The District does have a track record of abandoning their buildings and it ends up as a problem for the neighborhoods where these old schools are.

Facilities



- New gym at WPHS opened in 2016 through capital funds
- Health occupations facility opened in 2016 through Paul and Bob's work with the Pennington Foundation (\$2.1 million addition).
- Air conditioning units installed at DEN and McGill in 2018 through capital funds.
- New locks installed on all doors in 2021 through School Safety Grant.
- Extensive time and money (paid for through CARES and Pennington funds) spent on outfitting classrooms with plexiglass, foggers, and other materials to operate safely during the pandemic.
- New playground equipment to be installed summer of 2021 (\$1.3 million from Pennington Foundation).

Facilities

- 1909 facility at DEN
- 1913 facility at WPHS.
- Insufficient capital budget to replace either of these schools-price tag of \$60 million
- Stalled communications with the Governor's and Treasurer's offices.
- Unsuccessful legislative attempts to secure funding.
- Submitted hardship application allowable by statute to tap into statewide capital funds. No response or acknowledgement.
- At some future point, we will be asking for local support to approach the State of Nevada with a demand for attention.
- Possible resolution.

White Pine County School District Superintendent Young stated I know there are strong feelings about this, and it is about eight steps in the future because at this time we have very limited options on where to seek the funding. I give assurance that if funds were to

become available, we have every intention of taking the holistic approach that Mayor Robertson talked about and including all stakeholders in a discussion.

Mayor Robertson stated I have to give kudos to you and your administration. I have seen more meaningful maintenance done at these schools in the last five to seven years than I have seen in probably twenty years. You have really gone above and beyond with some projects, and I think you are doing great with what you have. If there is anything we can do to help, please feel free to approach us.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated thank you for making the presentation. Superintendent Young has been very good at including the Charter School in some of those social, emotional, and diversity issues. We try to piggyback on a lot of things, and we are proud to share the educational system with White Pine School District.

White Pine County School District Superintendent Young stated the QR code at the end of the presentation can be used to be added to his key communications list to keep up to date of what is going on in the School District.



2. Mayor Robertson – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Cooperative Agreement for Election Services between White Pine County and the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee stated this Cooperative Agreement for Election Services would greatly benefit the City. It is a cost savings to us, and it would provide electronic voting at the Convention Center. The County Clerk is already our Registrar, and they would handle all the mailouts of ballots to every registered voter in the City of Ely. I highly recommend approval of this item.

Mayor Robertson stated this was brought up again because if you recall our city elections have been synced up with the county and general elections and it makes sense logistically.

Councilman Alworth stated this is another positive move for the future.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement for Election Services between White Pine County and the City of Ely. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, West Desert District, Fillmore Field Office and City of Ely establishing a cooperating agency relationship regarding the Cross-Tie Project.

Councilman Carson moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, West Desert District, Fillmore Field Office and City of Ely establishing a cooperating agency relationship

regarding the Cross-Tie Project. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to request Nevada Capital Projects American Rescue Plan Act monies to fund William B. Ririe’s housing complex project for visiting medical professionals.

Councilman Alworth stated this originally started with an indication there was a shortage of what we thought was rooms at the hospital and so we met with the CEO of William B. Ririe Hospital and found there is not a shortage of rooms but a shortage of medical professionals. The people are out there, but there is nowhere for these individuals to stay for an extended period within the City of Ely. The housing shortage is all over the country, but we are 250 miles away from anywhere with services. The Hospital Board met with their group, and they had a contractor come two years ago and look at what they were wanting to do, and the contractor gave them a preliminary design on a facility, but it was too expensive with federal money involved. We are going to go with the same design pattern from two years ago below the hospital. The hospital owns the land and their Board of Trustees approved to go forth with the plan which includes the design of apartments and eight to ten tiny homes so when a doctor comes here, they can leave their things in the apartment or tiny home and not have to move from motel to motel and they would be close to the hospital. Our goal is that hopefully the City will approve this and then we will go with a letter writing campaign. City Clerk Lee and the PORTER Group already have a letter drafted pending approval of this item to go to the Interim Finance Committee at the State and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) and hopefully encourage support letters from other businesses emphasizing the importance of having professional specialists in town. Our current staff does the best they can, but it when it comes down to a major surgery or respiratory therapy, we don’t have them. Last week they needed three respiratory therapists and we couldn’t get them here because we don’t have anywhere for them to stay. Our goal is to get funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding to get more staffing to serve our citizens.

Councilman Spear stated throughout all the stuff you read through the different funding sources it is called health monitoring providers that we need. We are 250 miles away from the nearest facility for any major medical issues and we don’t have public transportation and the doctors have no place to stay for an extended period. We recently had three lab technicians come here and didn’t make it a month because they could not find a place to live. This housing is not for the community, but for doctors and professional health monitoring staff homes that they can come to and do rotations at the hospital. I think we are lucky to have the hospital on enough property to be able to do this. We have looked at this in depth and I think it is a wonderful thing especially when you look at 27% of White Pine County’s population is retirement age and a lot of those people don’t have the means to have a friend take them somewhere for their special medical needs and we can do that by having housing here at William B. Ririe Hospital for the professional staff that is needed.

Councilman Alworth stated Fire Chief Stork put out some very important numbers in his report which we will use in our presentation. There were 1,265 EMS calls for 2021; that is over four calls a day to our hospital. There were also 1,200 transports that needed to be taken to the airport in a year. The hospital is not only a need for the residents of White Pine County but also those that live in Eureka, Nye County, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, down towards Sunnyside, Garrison, and Baker. It is very important that we get this project going.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to echo what Councilmen Spear and Alworth said, and I think the hospital’s CEO, Matt Walker, sums it up pretty well in the letter he wrote that we are in an extremely rural area and having these kinds of services is critical not only to our retirees and older demographics but also our miners, children, and anybody needing these services could be the difference between life or death.



*William Bee Ririe Hospital
And Rural Health Clinics*

1500 Ave H
Ely, Nevada 89301
P: 775-289-3001

01/04/2022

Dear City Council,

As the CEO of White Pine County Hospital and an employed representative of the Hospital Board of Trustees; I'm writing this letter in strong support of the housing project being considered to increase and improve healthcare availability, health service equity, and healthcare monitoring within the community and surrounding counties.

I've been employed at this facility for 12 years and have been amazed at the sheer land mass that is covered by this small, critical access, county hospital. Given that the nearest healthcare outside of this facility is 200 to 230 miles away making us one of the most remote hospitals in the lower 48.

Being so rural brings on many challenges, one of which is providing healthcare to all that seek care for any ailment that occurs regardless of pay source. This often requires many specialists and medical staff that are difficult to find, a difficulty only compounded by the recent healthcare shortages. Although difficult to staff we have found that getting these much needed services is even more difficult due to housing shortages in rural Nevada. Due to the large number of specialists that come in and out of the area bringing needed services to an underserved population helps bring healthcare equity to the area, as well as improved healthcare monitoring.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of housing throughout rural Nevada we have difficulty bringing needed services to the region. This has been a detriment to the community, and has only been getting worse with the healthcare workforce shortage.

The hospital would strongly support any help to improve the healthcare shortages, often times due to lack of housing as it would benefit a large portion of Northeastern NV in services provided to an underserved community.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Walker".

Matthew Walker, PharmD, MHA
William Bee Ririe Hospital
Chief Executive Officer

Councilman Spear moved to request Nevada Capital Projects American Rescue Plan Act monies to fund William B. Ririe's housing complex project for visiting medical professionals. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth - Discussion/For Possible Action – Request Mayor Robertson, with the support of City staff and input from Council Members, to prepare and give a State of City address in accordance with NRS 266.190 2. (a). Address to be given at the first City Council meeting in February and also submitted in writing.

Mayor Robertson stated if councilmembers have items they would like as part of this address please contact me or the staff and we will try to get the data and figures and make it part of the report.

Councilman Alworth moved to request Mayor Robertson, with the support of City staff and input from Council Members, to prepare and give a State of City Address in accordance with NRS 266.190 2. (a). Address to be given at the first City Council meeting in February and also submitted in writing. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilman Alworth stated the PORTER Group in the month of December, reported the Center released its fiscal year 2022 spending bills and it included the City's Central Ely Sewer Upgrade earmark request and if that is successful that is \$3.3 million. They are also working with identifying federal childcare grant opportunities for the City of Ely's Boys and Girls Club daycare project over in the Murry Street School. We are having bi-

monthly meetings and they are working with the staff at City Hall and with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) trying to secure funding on the William Bee Ririe hospital housing project. City Engineer B.J. has looked into other earmarks and Clerk Lee stated we have approximately \$33 million in wishes out there to get the infrastructure up to grade in the City.

8. Councilman Spear – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of City Police Chief's report concerning the intersection of 8th Street and Aultman Street in regards to making it a two-way street AND possible direction that a public hearing be held prior to Council's final action.

City Police Chief Henriod stated at the request of the Council we did the traffic study on 8th Street. It is discouraging that we cannot provide the statistics because of how short 8th Street is we were catching the traffic northbound coming down the hill. When looking at the numbers there were about eighteen hundred vehicles that traveled on both sides of the street for the week which is very light to moderate traffic. If you do move towards 8th street being a two-way street, I would recommend that you have no parking allowed on that street because of the narrowness. If you had parking on one side or the other, it just would not work. I am not sure if it is the City's responsibility or State Highway, but I would recommend painting the curb on Aultman Street so there is a little bit of a red zone that backs that traffic up because when you are pulling out onto Aultman Street it is hard to see around that corner.

City Engineer Almberg stated I support the Sheriff on his recommendations and if you wanted to make that a two-way street, I don't see any issues.

Councilman Spear stated I have said from day one that we would need to eliminate parking on 8th Street if we make it a two-way street, but for the businesses in that area that may not be beneficial.

City Police Chief Henriod stated my concern is that it is a park and a lot of people with RVs and towing trailers use that park throughout the day. If you open it up to multi-directional traffic and allow parking, you are going to have problems with people making the turn with large motorhomes.

Councilman Alworth stated I think no parking would work well and possibly having right turn only off 8th Street onto Aultman Street. If you try to cut across and head west, you are going to have fender benders.

Mayor Robertson stated I do believe a number of the middle school staff parks over on that street and there are already limited parking options for them.

Councilman Spear moved to hold a public hearing regarding making 8th Street a two-way street between Aultman Street and Clark Street prior to Council's final action. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and City of Ely for perpetual operation and maintenance of SNPLMA Funded Projects.

Mayor Robertson stated they are going to give us money to fix and restore parks and we just have to agree to maintain them.

Councilman Alworth stated on the first page I am not sure I have the right clarification. The City of Ely would only maintain and do maintenance on City grants such as if we get granted the money on Broadbent Park? The County is looking at the park near Love's

Truckstop and it is in the City but it is not our grant and we don't have the manpower to manage all of that. Also, on the second page it states the purpose of the agreement is to ensure long-term perpetual operation of all current simple funds incorporated within the City. It is not clear enough to me that the City grants are all we work on. I never could figure out how the County could put a grant in the City without the City's permission.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I agree with Councilman Alworth. I am wondering if this agreement could have an addendum added to what he just said so that it is not misconstrued further down the road when none of us are here. I would like to see something that states our responsibility clearly.

Mayor Robertson asked counsel does that warrant some adjustment to this agreement?

City Attorney Cahoon stated yes, if we want to table it, I can take a look at it and add the needed language to clarify responsibility.

Councilman Alworth moved to table the approval of the Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and City of Ely for perpetual operation and maintenance of SNPLMA Funded Projects until responsibilities are clearly outlined. Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask - Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Resolution 2022-1 for the purpose of augmenting the City of Ely's General Fund using unbudgeted revenue collected in the General Fund to apply towards the operating expenses in the General Fund.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to commend the City Treasurer. It is mid-year and the unbudgeted revenue coming from the Fire/EMS Group is helping us out. As I look at her allocation of where the money is going almost every department is benefiting from this. The way we run our budget shows we are running within our means, and this will hopefully get us through the end of the year. If something comes up, I am sure she will be on top of it.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve of Resolution 2022-1 for the purpose of augmenting the City of Ely's General Fund using unbudgeted revenue collected in the General Fund to apply towards the operating expensed in the General Fund. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Council Members – City Attorney Cahoon – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of License Agreement between the City of Ely and Commnet Wireless, LLC.

Councilman Carson moved to approve the License Agreement between the City of Ely and Commnet Wireless, LLC. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns with his request of a list of homeowners required to sign a document by the previous Building Official requiring curb and gutter around their home in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy; his opinion of filing complaints at the City Council meetings and not doing a written form; the whereabouts of the 490' linear steel pipe from the Murry Street project; installation of curb and gutter on East Aultman Street not meeting ADA minimum requirements; and the barbed wire around property in Central Ely that violates City Code.

11. 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 **6:36 p.m.** Councilman Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST