

Cityofelynv.gov

[illegible]

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

William Bee Ririe Hospital CEO Matt Walker stated I want to speak in favor of New Business, item 5 regarding the Murry Street school building. The hospital has difficulty like everyone else with staffing especially right now, but in the past as well and a number of the issues we have focuses on childcare or lack thereof. As you all know we have a lack of childcare for children under the age of five in the Ely, Nevada area and we have had a lot of staff quit because either their childcare goes away or is unable to take a job for an extended period of time because of the lack of childcare. I just ask as you listen to New Business item number five that you seriously consider it and know the hospital is fully behind it.

Robinson Mine U.S. Operations General Manager Amanda Hilton stated thank you for considering using a portion of the City of Ely’s American Rescue Plan Funds to invest in the proposed Early Learning Center. An investment in this important program is an investment in the social infrastructure in our community and will fill a critical need for childcare services. In addition, this investment will convert a vacant building into a vibrant facility and will improve the canyon neighborhood. Earlier this year Robinson Mine invested \$500,000.00 towards this project because we see the value in this program not only for our workforce, but for our entire community. There are currently many parents of young children who simply cannot enter the workforce due to lack of childcare. Families with young children are often hesitant to move to our community due to the lack of childcare. This facility will provide a safe place for our community’s young children and will allow parents to enter the workforce. There is widespread community support for this project as is demonstrated by the White Pine County School District, Boys and Girls Club, Robinson Mine, and the other donors who have already contributed. Please help make this project a reality by allocating a meaningful amount of the American Rescue Plan Funds to the Early Learning Center.

Brianna Hedges representing the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows stated I am here to express our support in building our Early Learning Center for the children of White Pine County. This proposed center will provide a much-needed solution to the childcare crisis currently happening in our community. While some may not consider this a crisis; parents trying to work to support their families and are unable to find reliable, trustworthy, and safe care for their children do. The crisis is real and current. Today I spoke to a mom that was unable to work her full shift because she did not have a place for her one-year-old to go. This mom is one example of many parents and guardians of White Pine currently seeking help with nowhere to turn. This facility would not only provide a safe, clean, and caring environment for our community’s children, but it will also provide a foundation of early learning to the future students of White Pine. As an added benefit this center will also provide multiple job opportunities to the local area. I hope you all will consider the plea as a community to help fill this void by approving funding for the Early Learning Center.

Jennifer Lee

From: Jasmine Gonzalez <jasmineayala006@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:31 AM
To: Jennifer Lee
Subject: Early Learning Center Murry Street

To whom it may concern,

In regards to the Early Learning Center on Murry Street, I believe that this would be a huge and much needed opportunity for lots of families here in Ely, Nevada. I believe that the ELC will help families tremendously that are in need for childcare as it will serve kids with potentially less age restrictions due to a wider age allowance and not just ages 3 - 5 like most other local childcare/ preschool centers. Not only is there a high demand for childcare for kids aged 3-5 but also 0-3, something the ELC could help with! The only other childcare center serving kids 6 weeks - 5 years old in Ely accommodates more towards lower income families(which is not a bad thing at all) However, this means that some over income families get turned away from childcare based off of their income which is a huge strain!

Our small community needs the Early Learning Center, and many families would agree!

Thank you.

White Pine County School District Board of Trustees member Terri Borghoff stated we are in full support of this project and are leasing the building to the Boys and Girls Club. As a resident on Murry Street, I am excited to see the building used for something. I think it will be a wonderful addition to the community and I can't think of one employer that wouldn't benefit from this providing childcare for their employees.

George Chachas stated on your agenda you are considering directing Eglet Adams Law, counsel for the City of Ely, to dismiss without prejudice Economy Drug, Inc. as a defendant in the "Nevada Opioid Litigation," Case No.: CV-2007077. If the City votes to dismiss the defendant, then the City needs to give the other defendants equal consideration and equal protection under the law. If the Council does not do that, they are deliberately discriminating against others that have been charged with the same violation. The billing on my property for 490 High Street has not been corrected to date. I pay my proper fees monthly and unlike the sweetheart deal the property owner at 790 Avenue I got a with \$4,000.00 write off even though all utilities were used for several years. We have Memorial Day coming and the cemetery does not look good and is dried out. I brought to your attention earlier that NDOT is not adhering to their administration code access; in particular, 2.6 and ADA access 2.7. I still have a one-foot drop at my property on Avenue G. They recently started putting in curb, gutter and sidewalk on 14th Street and Avenue B and 15th Street and Avenue B. There is no ADA access. There is still an issue on Avenue D and Highway 93 that has not been addressed with the road being too narrow and not ADA compliant. Q & D has yet to straighten out the roads from the construction that was done on Great Basin Boulevard.

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 FIRE CHIEF

City Fire Chief Stork stated we did interviews yesterday; we had three applicants. We did make an offer to one and that person accepted. We will hopefully be back to a full crew soon.

Councilman Alworth asked if there was an update on the employee out on Workman's Compensation.

City Fire Chief stated he is supposed to be released on the 6th, but he has a doctor's appointment on the 7th so hopefully we will know something for sure on June 7th. I am anticipating him being back the following week.

➤ MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Municipal Court Judge Coster stated I have one item to mention at the request of the County Clerk. We are making the Municipal Court Room available to the Clerk's Office for ballot counting on Friday, June 10th for their exclusive and secured use. It is the largest available room in the courthouse, and I wanted to inform you of that. They said they will definitely be done on Friday, so it will not interfere with any court operations.

➤ CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Cahoon stated in regard to the abatement of parcel 001-093-05 there has been some action taken to clean up the property, but it wasn't completely cleaned up. I sent a letter on the second of this month acknowledging cleanup had been done, but there were still unlawful conditions existing on the property and ten days was given to finish cleaning. Public Works Supervisor Cracraft visited the property on May 20th and provided pictures that those conditions were still existing. This next week I will be filing a warrant for abatement. In regard to the Ely Volunteer Fire Department Support Service Agreement, a draft has been completed and sent over to Burton for review and we are waiting for a response.

➤ CITY CLERK



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2130
Fax (775) 289-1163

REPORT

DATE: May 26, 2022
TO: Mayor Robertson and City Council Members
FROM: City Clerk Jennifer Lee

GRANTS

I have completed and submitted the City's \$100,000 Green Up grant application which will reimburse the City Landfill for accepting large items from residential customers free of charge.

BROADBAND

City Treasurer Trask and myself met with Commnet and BCT representatives Tuesday morning regarding the configuration of the Mereaki firewall, which is scheduled to start in the next two weeks.

CITY COUNCIL FOLLOW UP FOR MAY 12, 2022

1. Councilman Alworth requested a completion date when blown trash from the landfill during the 70-mph wind storm would be picked up.
Public Works Supervisor Cracraft coordinated a meeting with himself, I and Landfill Leadman Shoning May 13th, during which the following information was presented:
 - The first community service worker worked thirteen days, bringing in an average of four to five trucks per day filled with 55-gallon trash bags full of collected blown trash.
 - The second community service worker worked for four days, using 100 55-gallon bags which filled five trucks; he picked up trash around the outside of the Landfill and along the highway.
 - Public Works Supervisor Cracraft directed two WWTP employees following the 70-mph storm to assist with trash pickup along the highway and to continue that regimen weekly.
 - Landfill Leadman Shoning pointed out the wind screens have to be moved throughout the day due to winds changing directions and that landfill employees are instructed to bury or water down loose trash right away, if possible, and pick up loose trash in and around the landfill when staffing levels allow; in short, **trash blowing out of the landfill will always be a problem, but City staff will continue to take measures to mitigate it.**
2. Councilman Alworth stated the old Landfill office needs to be addressed.
 - Public Works Supervisor Cracraft discussed the former Landfill office's disposition with department Leads: it will be moved to the Water Department's area for parts storage.
3. Councilman Alworth expressed concern the Landfill is accepting used motor oil.
 - Public Works Supervisor Cracraft has discussed in previous Public Works meetings that the Landfill accepts used motor oil from residential customers: when a sufficient amount is collected, local garages pick up the containers to recycle it in their waste oil burners.
4. Councilman Alworth expressed concern regarding the heavy bookcase on City Hall's fire escape.
 - Public Works Supervisor Cracraft had the bookcase moved the following Monday morning, which required pulling employees from three departments for a total of five individuals; this was planned prior to Councilman Alworth's comments in City Council.

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Councilman Alworth stated thank you for getting right on that. I told the attorney using a chainsaw to cut it up would have been a lot quicker.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated RW-7P had the new well put in the ground and today it was turned on. Carl took his samples that we have to take and get results back before we can actually turn it to the system. We are getting really close within a week or week and a half to having the sample back and get it back in the system.

Councilman Carson asked have you heard when the certified pump is going to be in?

City Engineer Almberg stated I have not. I anticipate it will be three to four months before the permanent pumps are in. Also, to give you an update on our well usage with 7-P being down and other wells being down. We are watching them very closely and monitoring how much water we are using. We are using at our capacity with some wells being on full time. The Golf Course and Terrace wells are pretty much running full time. 17th and Avenue M, and 10th and Avenue M are running at part time. When you put them all together, I estimate we are running at about eighty percent capacity right now. I think we are in good shape and hopefully in a week or so we will be back online with 7-P. Jim asked some questions at the last meeting regarding will-serves out on the edge of town. I went back and looked and the last will-serve I did out in that area was for 930 South Michigan and that was on October 1, 2019.

Councilman Alworth asked since that time how do we tell if the two newer homes have had a will-serve.

City Engineer Almberg stated the way it works from our side is I get a will-serve that comes in front of me through the building permit process. I am unaware of anything on these two new homes that you are talking about, but we can go back and look.

Councilman Alworth stated it is also a real hazard for our Fire Department. I don't believe there are any addresses out there and I don't even know what it is called. If they get a call, they just have to look for flames. We need to get something figured out because I really believe some of these guys are doing hot taps. These homes are going up and they are clearing off lots and putting up buildings. There is a big sign of a contractor that is putting up a big pole barn. I know it is in the County, but they are using City water and they owe us some dinero. I don't know if they have sewer out there or not.

City Engineer Almberg stated those homes are on septic systems out there.

Councilman Alworth stated hindsight is 20/20 but if the Fire Department gets called out there for a heart attack, good luck. We need to do whatever we need to do to get that straightened out. We already had a terrible incident with a lack of an address. Thank you for your follow-up.

5. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN ALWORTH

Councilman Alworth stated we received notice this week all of the efforts and hard work that B.J. and his staff put in to request funding from the delegation back in Washington D.C. for the City of Ely by receiving \$3.3 million for the sewer project. It is the first time in history the City of Ely has gotten this kind of money. All the money basically went out to Las Vegas and Reno; not to rural Nevada. As a community we are an island. My dad used to call Ely, Western Utah. We are not even thought of in this state. As the Pastor said, the City, County, Hospital, BLM, Prison, etc. have to pull together because we are not going to get help from the government; remember that when you go to the polls. I received two emails I want to clear the air on. One was dated May 16, 2022 from the Mayor to the Budget Committee and myself. He was evidently upset the Search and Rescue did not get any money. I stated in the meeting that Van Tassel was the author and didn't even bother to show up and the Sheriff did his very best. Some people have forgotten that I worked for the County, and I knew that budget from the County was zip. They didn't want to buy a battery; they didn't have the money. All the questions were asked and then you, the mayor, said the housing support wasn't even passed through the Budget Committee and had no backup. You are right, it was an agenda item on March 10th and passed unanimously. That is the way some of these big expenditures should go Mr. Mayor, not because your business partner wrote a letter, which I believe you probably authored. The other one I received Thursday, May 19, 2022 to all Council. The first sentence states in light of direction given by the City Attorney during the last City Council Meeting please be advised of questions asked during reports. Leo cut me off on the very first question and when I countered him, he said "I think the NRS says this." I don't work on "I think." The Mayor said please be advised of questions. I advise myself. You will not tell me how I want to speak or what I want to put across the table. The reason I set this thing up with the Budget Committee was because I guarantee you that six or seven questions I had could not have been answered tonight and we would have

postponed the budget being sent off. I think you need to cool your jets, Mr. Mayor a little bit. The Council runs the show, and I am sorry you got your feel bads hurt over the Search and Rescue. I told you how I feel about them; they are a good group, but they weren't here to defend it and I know what their budget is at \$800.00 a year. With that being said, I aired it in a public meeting and regarding the budget any other questions will be aired in a public meeting, so it is all transparent on what is going on in this City Council.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I would like to turn my attention to the Sheriff. Most of you know that my mom passed away on Sunday and the young deputy that came up to my house was amazing. It seems like the longer I am in Ely the more I understand how important people are in this town and how they work together. I just want to say thank you because obviously that is the kind of training you are giving. We were at ease, at peace. He was marvelous and at our house for over an hour. I received the same from the Fire Department when mom was sick, and those things are important to residents and are very important to me because coming from a big city you don't experience those types of things. Thank you to all of our folks that work for the City of Ely you are making Ely a very special place.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated you have a list of things that were approved. I would like the Council and public to know that rPlus Energies will be here next meeting to talk about the White Pine Pumped Storage Project and if you have concerns, like I know a lot of people do including myself, please bring your questions and comments for that. They will be here to make a presentation and hopefully answer a lot of that. There will be no decisions made as it is not an action item.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Alworth disclosed I am a past member of the Volunteer Fire Department and bills that are paid on behalf of the City of Ely Fire Department I believe are paid in the best interest of the citizens.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 8A-1 Minutes and 8A-2 Bills.

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

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.

- April 14, 2022
- April 28, 2022

2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.

- May 10, 2022

6. 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 Treasurer Trask – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as FINAL. Budget to be submitted to the Department of Taxation pursuant to NRS 354.598.

George Chachas stated on the handout I received you have an item under the Redevelopment Fund to purchase a “Tiny Home” for \$80,000.00. I want to remind you of NRS 281 that you cannot compete against the private sector. My family and I have numerous properties and can't use them like everyone else does and now you are bringing in a “Tiny Home?” You need to scrap that Mr. Mayor. The City has no business buying homes and competing against the private sector. The County just bought a house for an employee for \$221,000.00 using tax dollars. You people need to stay out of that. Put in the infrastructure and the rest will take care of itself. You need a Building Inspector that is not out to kill this community.

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

1. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as FINAL. Budget to be submitted to the Department of Taxation pursuant to NRS 354.598.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated we will start with the budget message that I did change that was included in the packet. I added an additional line to the first paragraph that says the City received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of \$2.6 million and is scheduled to receive the remaining \$2.6 million in this coming fiscal year.

Councilman Spear stated also in that paragraph there is a typo. The tax rate should be \$3.66; I verified that with Burton.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated I will start by going through the budget and explain as I go. If you jump to page three it gives you the budgeted year for FY 2021, what I estimated for FY 2022, and then what we are currently budgeting. These are all the funds and gives you an overview of expenses and revenues. Page four shows any transfers out and what we are expecting for ending fund balances. These are all grouped together and as we go through it; it breaks it down individually. On page seven it breaks out the different funds that aren't the utility funds. It has the estimated beginning fund balance and then the budgeted revenues that I am budgeting for this next year and any transfers in. Page eight consolidates all the expenses broke out with salaries, benefits, services, capital outlay, and contingencies. The transfers out we don't normally see this amount, but what I have put in there is \$660,000.00 to be transferred to the Sewer Department to help cover the cost of the twenty percent for the earmarked funds we were approved for. The other \$80,000.00 is for the Street Department and I will explain that as we go. Page nine is the utility funds and that has the revenues, expenses, and transfers in. I will mention that the net income usually shows as a negative, but that all changes when the financials are done because the expense of capital projects are taken out of expense and put in as assets. Page ten breaks down the revenues for the General Fund. I just went through and have done averages over the years of what to expect and take additional information into consideration, for instance from Burton.

Councilman Spear stated at the bottom of page ten you have metal recycling at zero.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated because that goes to the Landfill.

Councilman Spear asked if that could be taken off because anyone that reads this it looks like we have nothing.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated I can show where it is in the other area.

Councilman Spear stated I know exactly where it is, but you look at metal recycling and it appears we are not budgeting anything, but it is in the landfill budget.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated this is in the General fund and that is fine it can go away. The American Rescue Plan Funding I put \$2,000,000.00 in there and this is based off of our ability to collect that as revenue to pay for our operating expenses based on the option we chose to use it for. It is an oddity that is not normally there. Page twelve has the different funds in the General Fund broke out by the different functions. The wages and benefits, I have a worksheet that I base those off. I have put in a three percent increase for that based off negotiations that we still have to address with the Union Contract if we do end up agreeing to that. The other is the supplies and services that each department came up with as suggestions that went through the Budget Committee.

Councilman Alworth stated I have a comment on page thirteen we have discussed the law enforcement under the interlocal agreement with the County and the key on that like City Treasurer Trask told me, is our fire department is running that ambulance. Unfortunately, prior administration got us into a silly contract that needs to come to an end. They still

get twenty percent that the previous administration agreed to that put no thought into it. That will be coming to an end when we have negotiations for police protection.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated it is actually twenty-six percent. This is the final year we will have to go into negotiations with the County for police protection for the FY24 year. On page fourteen the big one is service and supplies under community support. I budgeted \$1,000.00 again for the Tree Board, I did put \$5,000.00 in again for the RSVP Program that we did this year that was agreed upon and the remainder of that is the funding that we can do other projects with and not have to augment for these things. It was originally the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Page eleven shows you the ending fund balance that we are expecting and based off of next year's budget. Page sixteen is your Street Fund. The amount we get from gas tax and the County contribution does not cover our wages and benefits that is why we do General Fund transfers. It is getting a little harder as we never know what the winters are going to be like for overtime and other departments working in the Street Department. I have increased that amount and this year put \$30,000.00 in, but I want to budget the \$80,000.00 to be on the safe side. I have to have this fund end with a positive balance even if it is just one dollar. Under expenses the biggest thing is our public transit funding that we get as revenue is our operating expenses. It is part of the services and supplies. Also, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) the budget was discussed and approved and recommended by the RTC committee on what they want to spend for the City. These are washes because whatever I am putting in as funding for both of those is also coming out as an expense. The capital outlay this year will also come out of the public transit funding in this budget. You then have a bunch of little ones such as beautification nothing is being done with that and there hasn't been for years. All the Courts funding is governed by their own NRS's, and we have no control over this. It is whatever revenue goes in there, and it is up to the court to decide on how to spend it. I try to budget the maximum, so they don't have to try and decide right away if they do or don't want it. Page twenty-one is the Fire Protection/Street Improvement Fund and this year the majority of it is going out to pay off the ambulance and the ladder truck with the fund balance we have to help save on interest. The idea was brought to me, it fits in, and I think it is a good idea. The Street Department has requested to use some of it to come out, but still leaves it with a pretty good ending fund balance.

Councilman Spear stated paying off the ambulance and the ladder truck really is a good idea.

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated I wish we could do the same in the Water/Sewer Department. The Redevelopment funds is one that Burton from the Assessor's Office gave me a heads up that it will be coming down, so I decreased it by \$10,000.00. The Service and supplies for this fund is \$80,000.00 for the tiny home and the tree removal at the cemetery for \$10,000.00. The Revolving Loan Fund, there is the interest that is earned off of the loans we had plus what we had in the bank and that is our only revenue in there right now. As the loans get paid back it will build up the cash fund. On page twenty-five is Capital Improvement Fund. We have room tax money going into this and local County revenue that comes into this. The expenditures we are going to pay off are the fire station during this fiscal year and it will be a big savings on the interest. The cemetery and the parks have combined a split between a dump truck and a zero turning riding lawn mower, the Street Department has a snowplow and a truck, the Administration Department would like to get a better sound system, and the Public Works Department would like a building to house the bucket truck in. On page twenty-six we have the Water Fund. The revenues are based off what I feel we are getting in. I adjusted salary and wages based on a worksheet that I do and the rest of it is based off what they are requesting. They also have capital requests, and this is one that has the North Street Well replacement; I will give you more information on that. The same thing for the Sewer Department in that they also have capital requests. The Sewer Fund also has the Wastewater Treatment Fund in it. The Sewer Fund that is not related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant I am budgeting the two CDBG amounts that we are obligated to pay. They are asking for a mini-X that is split 80/20 with the Sewer Department and a cargo trailer which is also split that way with the Water Department. The Wastewater Treatment Plant originally asked for over \$6 million for capital improvements which we cannot do and they came back with requests for some capital

items that would help with running the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The landfill is the same thing as far as the expenses they have requested. The dozer rebuild is needed so that got added in and the storm diversion channel and I will give you more information on that. There were some questions asked on capital improvement expenditures and to give the public more information.

Capital Projects and Expenditures:

Streets:

Q: Snowplow - \$11,000 and Truck - \$55,000 (Truck did not deliver this current fiscal year)

A: The plow is for the new truck when it is delivered. The new truck was budgeted and ordered for this fiscal year but has not been delivered and will most likely not arrive before the end of June.

Steet Fund:

Q: Using Public Transit Funds – New Street Sweeper \$360,000. What is the fund balance **before** these dollars are expending and what is the **forecasted** revenue and what would be our best ending fund balance estimate be after other PTF are spent throughout the year?

A: Estimated beginning fund balance for FY23 is around 850,000, estimated revenues of \$250,000, and with the budgeted expenses for FY23 at \$605,150, the estimated ending fund balance would be around \$445,000. The goal is to always keep at least two years' worth of operational expenses of approximately \$130,000 to \$150,00 per year, as a fund balance each year.

Q: Please make a brief comment on why PTF are so vital to the Street Dept. because our fuel tax revenue doesn't even cover Wages and Benefits for the (number) of people in the Dept.

A: The PTF pays for all the operating expenses for the Street department and are not allowed to be used for wages and benefits. Revenues generated by road taxes and the County contribution don't cover actual wages and benefits. The General fund supplements for any shortage with a transfer of funds to the Steet fund.

Q: Why do we need another machine?

A: The Elgin Geo Vac sweeper has not been functional in over three years and the Johnston sweeper is more designed for highways and for use on newer roads. A full vacuum sweeper will allow the street department to be much more efficient at cleaning the streets. One vendor said that they would take either or both in on a trade, but if we go with a different vendor we may have to go to auction. Either way, if we can trade one or both sweepers, it will allow us to come in well under budget. The City would own one sweeper and have the use of one sweeper owned by the RTC.

Water Fund:

Q: Fire Hyd-Terrace Replace Project (9) \$34,900 Why and are our people doing the replacements?

A: The hydrants are the old standard styles that only have 2 2.5" ports on them. They need to be upgraded the new LDH with 2 2.5" and one 5" ports. This will be an ongoing project to replace all old-style hydrants throughout the City over time. These will be done with City employees.

Q: North Street Well Replacement \$100,000 Why and what is included in this budgeted amount?

A: The well is usable as it is now, the shaft broke which caused damaged the motor and pump. After pulling, it was discovered the casing had rusted through. All these items will be purchased and installed by a contractor.

Sewer Fund:

Q: Sewer Jeter - \$67,000 What and why is this needed? Explain the benefits of this purchase verses what the crew is doing now.

A: The Sewer department uses a rodding machine currently to unplug sewer line blockages. This rodding machine replacement parts are hard to get and very expensive. With the Jeter, it uses high pressured water to clean out blockages. It will be more efficient and sanitary for clearing out roots and sewage blockages.

Sewer Fund (WWTP):

Q: Trailer - \$9,200 What kind of trailer is this and why is it needed?

A: This is a trailer-mounted trash pump, the size they would like to get is a fairly large size and it would be a real pain to move it manually. Most large pumps like these come on trailers. A large pump is needed due to only have small pumps that are not very efficient. The last time they had to pump the clarifier down, it took two days. The pump trailer can also be used by the water/sewer department.

Q: Utility side by side - \$12,000 Explain the benefits and need for this machine?

A: The main reason is for the operators to reach the monitoring wells during the wintertime. The wells are in the ranch fields where it's hard to reach with the utility truck and carry the equipment needed to take the water samples that are required by the state.

Q: Incubator - \$7,200 I know it's not for chickens, so what is it for?

A: This is a piece of equipment used for the incubation of the water samples. The lab is only certified for one water test and this equipment is absolutely required to run the test. A few months ago, it stopped maintaining the required temperature and needs to be replaced it before it completely fails.

Landfill:

Q: Dozer rebuild - \$160,000 I understand the need, what are the plans for pushing material for covering the daily waste, are were going to rent another machine and if so, is the rental cost budgeted?

A: The dozer is used to create the dirt for coverage and make space for future trash. The dozer was being used to compact trash while the compactor was being repaired. The landfill currently has enough cover dirt to last for some time but feel it crucial to get it back into operations as soon as possible. Landfill Leadman Ken Shoning inquired about renting a dozer and was informed that there are none available. With compactor back in service, the loader will be used to haul the dirt for coverage.

Q: Storm Diversion Channel - \$335,000 This has been on the radar for quite some time, have we completed some of this ongoing project and what else is needed. Timeline?

A: The Runoff Ditch and Pond are a part of the 2015 Class 1 & Class 3 Expansion. The Construction of them is a requirement of the Permit and the Approved Plan of Operations. Landfill staff completed the North Runoff Pond, and the North Runoff Ditch is probably 70% complete. This ditch is completed at the full distance, it just needs to be widened. To save money, Landfill staff intended to complete South Runoff Ditch and Pond but due to staff workload they have been unable to complete. The Plan of Operations states that these improvements will be constructed by a licensed contractor. As time and money allow, it should be completed this next fiscal year. Otherwise, it can be done in phases that can be budgeted into another next fiscal year.

Councilman Alworth moved to adopt the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as Final and submit to the Department of Taxation pursuant to NRS 354.598. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper – Discussion Only – Presentation of Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities One Nevada Plan.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated thank you for your attention and allowing me to present the One Nevada Plan and the context around it. I will give a brief history of the League and conclude with how we arrived at the One Nevada Plan and with a request for an increased dues contribution. It is a request. There was some confusion if this was a mandatory increase, and it is not. The Nevada League of Cities was founded on October 30, 1959, as the Nevada Municipal Association by the incorporated cities of Nevada. It remained in that basic state until 1995 when it opened up membership to other political subdivisions, meaning towns and general improvement districts. In 1997 the name was changed to reflect the inclusion of these towns and general improvement districts. I was selected as the Executive Director on March 1, 2020. When I was selected the League had twenty-four member municipalities; two of those were towns, four were general improvement districts, and the rest were incorporated cities. Notably, under my predecessor, North Las Vegas decided to leave the League, so I reached out to North Las Vegas and invited them to return. I also wanted to create a partnership with Nevada's Association of Counties so we could be partners in legislative actions in order to increase our influence and advocacy. About two weeks after I was selected, we went into lock down due to COVID-19 for about thirteen months. After lockdown ended, I had the ability to start meeting and visiting directly with cities and municipalities. I also went and engaged in conversations with the National League of Cities and also with other State Leagues. The Executive Directors of these State Leagues meet four times a year and we are on calls every other week. The idea of this was to understand how leagues provide value and service to their members. My assessment of what the Nevada League of Cities was doing was acting as a social organization as opposed to a partner in operational priorities. There are benefits to a social organization and I think that component should be retained, and those benefits are as elected officials and professional staff meeting with each other they learn how to face the challenges of their municipalities, which is valuable. In my discussions with the members, the National League of Cities, and other state leagues there seemed like there was something more that our state league could be doing. The result of these conversations was a survey that we put out October of 2021 to all municipal members to see what they wanted to see for their league and that survey informed our strategic plan which was ratified by the Board of Directors on January 31, 2022, and also ratified was the One Nevada Plan. The One Nevada Plan is the action plan that brings the strategic plan to life. It is a bold and dynamic direction for the League, and it consists of four components; advocacy both at the State and Federal level, communication with bi-lateral communication, education to be able to put together ongoing training and development for elected officials and professional staff as well as orientation for newly appointed and elected officials, and the last piece is economic development. The League can take the league in economic development activities, but that is not the point of it. The point of it is to optimize the partnerships and relationships that exist between the existing regional development authorities and the member municipalities. I do want to highlight the communication aspect. After the ratification of the One Nevada Plan and the Strategic Plan we immediately hired a Member Manager. The core function of her job is to be in consistent communication with each member municipality so the League understands the ongoing and evolving priorities of each member and how the League can help advance those priorities and help member municipalities overcome any obstacles that exist. The idea was for this dialogue to occur as often as member municipalities would tolerate, which has been about once a month. For Ely that conversation has been happening between the Mayor and Christine Johnson, who is the Member Manager. The Member Manager puts out a monthly report and in this monthly report it is the priorities of each city as well as the League's response to those priorities. This has a couple of purposes; first it makes sure that the priorities that we think the cities have can be verified if we are

stating it accurately, makes us accountable for what we are proposing to do in response to those priorities, and gives transparency so every city can see where the League is involved with every other member. We are developing an education program and currently working with the University of Reno (UNR) as they have an existing program which since has subsided, and we are working with them to revive it and make it viable once again. POOL Pact has an education program of their own and there are some of those elements we are looking in to. We do not want to duplicate their efforts for members that are members of POOL Pact as well. We have also been working with the National League of Cities to learn how they are advising education for professional staff and elected officials. Lastly, we are consulting with other state leagues and benchmarking their practices. We recently went to the City Leader Summit for the California League to learn how they are providing this type of information to their members. This outlines, at a high level, the One Nevada Plan.

Councilman Alworth stated you heard me earlier talking about all those federal monies going to Las Vegas. The League of Cities has its power in southern Nevada? Those folks come up here and we get room tax and fuel out of them. I really think the League of Cities with the power they have could be used correctly to help these small cities like ours. Again, we are an island. Eureka County not too far from here is the richest county in the State just by mining tax. Years ago, when I went to a League of Cities meeting there were people there from Las Vegas that didn't even know where Ely was, and I think that is still happening. The League of Cities needs to see the power that Reno, Las Vegas, and such have and say hey, let's help our smaller cities out. We are all in this together, but when you are seeing \$50 to \$60 million going down there and we are getting zip, we need more of a stroke. Our City was out of the League of Cities and then they got back in. Hopefully we can see a change on that, and we are not going to get nothing unless the League of Cities pulls for all the cities.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated to your point, the One Nevada Plan talks about adding capacity. Before I was selected the nine months prior the League of Cities had one staff member who is the Administrative Manager, and she will be with the league twenty-nine years coming this September. Prior to that for about ten years it had two staff members. It had the Executive Director and this Administrative Manager. If the League of Cities acts as a social organization, then two staff members is enough, but if you want your League to be functional in multiple areas that can advocate strongly on behalf of all members, we need to add capacity. When we talk about influence and the ability to secure resources it happens at a couple places; it happens at the State Legislature and at the federal level. At the federal level relationships that can be created are ones that can be directly with the federal agencies. As the Executive Director of the League of Cities I have a relationship with each member of our congressional delegation, but at that level they are not essentially creating the policy and the rules that effect funding, the use of funding, and rules for applying for funding at the agency level, which is where we need the influence. If we have the resources to be a functional operator in the space, then we can provide changes and relief to our member municipalities. At the State level, the large cities in the State are well resourced with legal departments, lobbying departments, and contract lobbying, etcetera. In order to bring a voice for all cities the League would need to have enough staff to be able to be in this space in a meaningful way. This last legislative session it was just me and the Administrative Manager and there were one thousand bills introduced during session. These bills have to be interpreted so we understand the potential of effect either intentional or unintentional of each of these bills. I was in a position that I had to rely upon the Government Affairs Team of the Cities with Government Affairs Teams. As you might expect they are going to interpret any of this proposed legislation from their point of view as it is their job to do so. My job becomes having to translate and interpret what I get from them to see how it effects Ely or Carlin for example. The One Nevada Plan is a practical approach to grow the capacity of the League so it can be a true partner with every member municipality.

Councilman Alworth stated I truly believe all the announcements of awards going out is due to election season. Our Governor is still sitting on \$1 billion and trust me this community could use some of that money. Again, I think as we get closer to the election, he is going to fire it down south so he can pull votes with the money; that is not right, he needs to take care of our small community.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated there are political realities and you are stating them. The question is, if your assertion is correct that doesn't mean that is the only opportunity for Ely to secure money. It means we would need to work a different path or different opportunity in order to secure the money that Ely needs to keep the community vibrant. We have a partnership with the PORTER Group, and they are great partners of the League. I know that Ely has a relationship with the PORTER Group as well and we work with them to bring the results that Ely is looking for. I don't think the residents of Ely care where the money is coming from whether it is the Governor's office or the federal government as long as it gets into the community to do the good. What this is about is having a League that can raise the influence of all members, raising the voice of all members to be heard, and allowing us to be functional to deliver the results. With this plan and this idea, it does require additional resources which means we have asked for an additional dues contribution. Upon the creation of this plan several cities decided to increase their dues contribution consistent with what we asked for in the One Nevada Plan. Those cities are Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Fallon, Carson City, Kingsbury, West Wendover, and Carlin. There are other Cities that weren't comfortable or weren't able to increase their dues contribution consistent with the One Nevada Plan but did increase their dues substantially and those were Gardnerville, Winnemucca, and Fernley. The request for an increased dues contribution is just that. This is not a raise of rent. This is not about please pay this amount or you are no longer members in good standing or members of the league; that is not what is happening. This is a value proposition that we make. It is the same idea as if the amount of dues we are requesting you see the value in providing that level of dues. If you do not see the value at the level we are asking, pay the level of dues that makes sense to you based on the value this plan can mean for the City of Ely.

Councilman Alworth stated personally I will make an investment in something and if it does not produce its out. Again, this is just my thoughts, it is going to take a little bit to get this going and we could increase a little bit and then more if we see something happen.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated you are not the only one in the membership that feels that way. Cities are all over the place as to what they think about this, and some do want to see results before they invest more heavily. There is a chicken and the egg situation as you would imagine. In order to see results we have to have resources. If we don't have resources, it is difficult to produce results. If we have the resources, we are accountable to deliver to stay consistent to the One Nevada Plan and that is true even under the old dues formula. Under the old dues formula if any city was not seeing the value, they could reduce their dues or leave the League. It is about creating a League that is strong enough and capable enough to partner in a meaningful way with each city. With respect to Ely, the things we are focused on now are the hospital housing and what we can do in order to create the revenue media, or the funds needed to produce this housing. The other thing we are focused on is childcare and what we can do to help the city create the kind of capacity for childcare to unlock the workforce in Ely. This is the point for the frequent communication in learning the priorities of each member municipality, but then we also have to have the resources and the wherewithal to be able to execute once we learn what those priorities are. If we talk money in respect to Ely, last fiscal year Ely paid dues in the amount of \$2,594.56 that is a monthly average of about \$216.00. The One Nevada Plan requested dues of \$10,431.38 which is a monthly contribution of about \$861.00 a month. The idea was that each city should be paying about \$1,000.00 a month in order to be funding the One Nevada Plan. Population is one major driver in what each city is requested to pay and with this Ely would still be paying less than \$1,000.00 a month.

Councilman Spear stated I did the numbers on all of this, and a couple cities are not increasing at all. Some of the cities are paying twenty cents per person when we are paying over a buck. I think if you are basing it on population than Clark County pays the same amount per person that White Pine and all other small communities and you would have more money than you would know what to do with. I would be in support of an increase in dues but I would like to see a better return coming out of Carson City.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated you raised about five issues and I am going to try and talk about some of them. You raised an equity argument, so I want to talk about that, and you raised the amount of influence the large cities have versus the small cities. The idea of one Nevadan, one dollar would make sense and that it is not fair for Ely to be paying essentially more than that if a larger municipality is paying much less is your point. I will say this about the equity argument; it's going to be all but impossible to have equitable dues with an organization like this with such disparate membership. There is a different reality for the large cities in respect to membership in the League. Large cities say why should we be in the League and what value are you bringing to us? We have all the resources to get things done, we don't need your help operationally, and we have all the political influence we need so why bother. The question is why they should bother and my answer to them is the reason you want to be in the League is while you think you have the resources in order to advance your political agendas in state, you probably don't. I might note that when I was selected as Executive Director North Las Vegas was not in the League, and they have since come back and are on the list of one of the cities that agreed to pay dues according to the One Nevada Plan. The reason they came back is they found out how difficult it was to be solo when you are trying to get your state legislative agenda done. There are a couple of problems if the legislators there are not interested in entertaining what you are proposing as a large city all they have to say is yes, but what is the effect on Ely and then the conversation is over. The other thing is if small cities do not think they have a voice in the legislature, you have lawmakers that have received votes from residents of those small cities and once you get into the legislature these legislators are relatively equal. If you have a couple legislators that are elected by rural areas, you now have a caucus that are a real problem for the larger cities. The reason there is a benefit for the larger cities to be involved in the League is to protect themselves from inadvertent or intentional hostile acts by groups of small cities and the legislators that represent them. With that said, they are interested in making sure the League has the kind of resources so we can effectively represent the smaller municipalities. However, they are not so interested in paying a dollar per Nevadan. If it was straight equitable and if it was a dollar per Nevadan, Las Vegas would be paying \$650,000.00 a year and they are not going to pay that. Right now, they are paying more dues than anybody and they increased their dues more than anybody increased their dues. They have a belief that a strong League is in their personal interest, they believe that a strong League helps them in the legislative process, and another thing a strong league does is it allows us to have influence in order to create partnerships with other stakeholders. Right now, when we ask for a meeting with the Governor's office regarding issues in small cities, they are taking those calls. The strength of the League means strength for Ely and that is the point of this. I understand that every community has to rise into this new direction in a place and in a manner that makes sense for them. I am suggesting the stronger the League is the better your return.

Mayor Robertson stated on a side note for the Council and I am sure the staff will echo this as well. The League has been very responsive, and this is an example of the equitable response they give us in that Mr. Harper is out here taking time to meet with us in person. He always takes time to take a call and has worked with the PORTER Group to make sure the issues brought up there are also ones they are forwarding. We really appreciate the responsiveness and taking the time to take our calls and take our issues no matter how small they seem to be in the vast scheme of things that are going on in the State.

Councilman Spear stated I said this before in that I strongly support the League of Cities and I still do. Today you also said if we could do what we could and we don't have to pay the percentage you are asking. I will put some thought into that as to what we are paying versus the bigger cities.

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Executive Director Wesley Harper stated I remember something else you brought up. We have twenty-five members in the League, and you are right we did not ask for an additional contribution from Sparks, Reno, and Henderson and this is because they were paying a disproportionately large share of the overall dues burden over the last five years. We may at some point ask for an additional contribution from them, just not this first fiscal year.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval of Resolution 2022-07 establishing City of Ely telecommunications conduit usage fees.

Mayor Robertson stated this is in preparation of the license agreement for the conduit for the fiber optics.

Councilman Spear moved to approve Resolution 2022-07 establishing City of Ely telecommunications conduit usage fees. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to direct Eglet Adams Law, counsel for the City of Ely, to dismiss without prejudice Economy Drug, Inc. as a defendant in the “Nevada Opioid Litigation,” Case No.: CV-2007077.

Councilman Carson moved to approve directing Eglet Adams Law, counsel for the City of Ely, to dismiss without prejudice Economy Drug, Inc. as a defendant in the “Nevada Opioid Litigation,” Case No.: CV-2007077. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of support letter for the Cross-Tie 500-kV Transmission Line Project, a proposed 214-mile, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) transmission line.

Councilman Flangas moved to approve the support letter for the Cross-Tie 500-kV Transmission Line Project, a proposed 214-mile, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) transmission line. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Spear – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows CEO Mike Wurm – Discussion Only – Presentation on the renovation of the Murry Street School building to house daycare facilities.

Mayor Robertson recessed the Ely Regular City Council meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Robertson called the Ely Regular City Council meeting back to order at 6:39 p.m.

Director of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated I am from southern Nevada and after working for this organization the last six years I can't imagine any other non-profit that works this hard and services this many kids as we do across the State. We opened up our first location here in White Pine County through a partnership with the School District back in June 2017 servicing approximately fifty school aged kids. The first year we operated out of the foyer in the middle school gym and have grown to five locations with four in Ely and one in McGill servicing about five hundred members a year, ages five through eighteen. We have great partnerships with the Charter School, and it is amazing the community we have here in Ely. Our club is open five days a week, fifty-one weeks out of the year and our goal is to enable our youth to become responsible, productive, and caring Citizens. A slide show was given on the following items mentioned. We entered in the early learning center (ELC) business back in 2007 opening our first center in Reno. We now have four

of ELC's in Reno and we cater to over four hundred and forty kids between ages of six weeks and five years old. The population of zero-to-five-year-olds in Ely outnumbers the childcare by three to one. I have to share with you, last night I went to the middle school/high school choir concert, and I was overwhelmed by how many young kids we have here. The two licensed daycares operating during the school calendar year only go from September through June so that leaves parents scrambling from June to September to get them into some type of care. They have to rely on parents or unlicensed facilities to take care of their kids. The lack of childcare options removes a lot of people out of the workforce and the ELC will give the opportunity to grow the workforce. The proposed solution is we will provide childcare options for children aged zero to five years old and will convert the Murry Street building into a daycare center for up to seventy children. Our year around program is getting kids ready for kindergarten and getting them ready for social and emotional emotions. We also have a number of literacy programs. It is a great program and an asset for parents. The renovation of the Murry Street School will be a major project in the area and make a building that has been vacant for over twenty years relevant again. The project not only includes rehabbing the building itself, but we are also going to rehab the modular unit, replace the existing playground, and the design work will consist of the parking area and other outside areas. Our projection is to open in the fall of 2023. The floor plan that was done by Thomas Bath was shown on the slide show. The old plans were available, so it made it easier finding all the duct work and mechanical functioning of the building. The floor plan has four big classrooms with the bathrooms in the middle. The bathrooms will be outfitted with small commodes for the children and the classrooms will be broke up by age groups and will all follow licensed childcare requirements. The modular off to the side will have a prep kitchen so we will be able to provide meals for the kids. There will be a teacher's area where we will do trainings and be able to provide prep time for the teachers. The estimate to remodel the Murry Street School is about \$150.00 a square foot. Whenever we open a new building, we always have a reserve account to make sure we can keep the building up and running and exist over time. In the time I have worked with the Boys and Girls Club I am very impressed with how we take care of our buildings and equipment and train our staff on how to use things. We have received \$525,000.00 so far with the Robinson Mine making a huge commitment of \$500,000.00 understanding the need for their workers having a place for their kids to be. The Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows is requesting \$200,000.00 from the City of Ely to support the Early Learning Center Project. The full scope of this project is to complete something we have already shown success in managing. The building for sitting over twenty years is still in pretty good shape so remodeling it and moving into it is going to be great for the community. With the big donation from the Robinson Mine we have had a donation from the Kinross Bald Mountain Mine, some private donators, and others stepping up because they see the importance. A similar commitment from local government will be the final momentum to pursue the state and private individuals to support the need to bring this project to fruition. I am asking you to approve this at your next meeting and I really appreciate your time.

Councilman Alworth asked how are you going to expand the parking?

Director of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated I am not sure but can definitely bring this question to the right person to get an answer for that. The front entrance is on Mill Street, and we want to move the entrance to Murry Street, and I think parking will expand over where the old playground was.

Councilman Alworth asked what the demographic of people is needing this facility.

Director of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated I know from talking to the CEO of the hospital they have employees that need childcare, the mine, and there are a lot of people that would like to move here but are reserved due to the lack of housing and childcare. I have to share with you we employ a lot of high school students, and we hope they grow into leaders in training through our development program.

Councilman Alworth asked what kind of heating system will it have?

Director of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated I am not an engineer when it comes to the HVAC, but I am sure it will be electric or gas, whichever utility is available and reasonable there.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I like how everyone is getting behind this. I know the high school will have a program to train future teachers next year. I am excited about this project because it effects every family and entity.

6. Council Members – City Fire Chief Stork – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval of recommendation to suspend open burning in City of Ely limits June 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2022; this proposed action would not affect previously approved Open Burning permits.

Mayor Robertson stated I know this gets asked every time Chief, but does this apply to fire pits?

City Fire Chief Stork stated no, firepits are exempt from this so if people have them in their backyard, they are still usable. Right now, I only have one open burn permit and if there are any others, they will be on a case-by-case basis. We are not getting a lot of moisture and with this wind it is time to shut it down until at least October 1st.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the recommendation to suspend open burning in City of Ely limits June 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2022 with this proposed action not affecting previously approved Open Burning permits. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns with ADA access into the new Justice Center; The new construction at William Bee Ririe Hospital does not provide adequate ADA Access; reminded those attending the last RTC meeting of NRS 244.368 that City building codes supersedes less regimental provisions of County codes within a one mile boundary of the City of Ely and you are not adhering to that; selective enforcement; his requested list of parking permits issued on Great Basin Boulevard; and his requested list of RV permits throughout the City of Ely.

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

Councilman Carson moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **7:02 p.m.** Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST

