

CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

June 9, 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 5:02 P.M.; Eric Williams offered invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson Councilman Ernie Flangas Councilman Ed Spear Councilman Jim Alworth

Councilwoman Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper

Members absent:

Councilman Kurt Carson

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

City Clerk Jennifer Lee City Attorney Leo Cahoon

Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Building Official Craig Peterson
City Municipal Judge Mike Coster (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, Samantha Elliott, Cliff Smith (rPlus Energies), Ken Ross, Terri Borghoff, Cameron Gresh, Wayne Carlson, Lillian Jonas, and Marvin Griff.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: June 9, 2022

Print name below	Print name below
MARY KERNER	George Chachas
Dira Ruchette	Ryan wooldsidg
Domna Barer	Aaleeah Jacobsen
JOHN CHARCHACIS	
STEPHEN ROMERO	
Caut aulaus	
Reger Bowers	
Миснает Сомен	
Katre Coleman	
Kenn Hickey	
GREG COPELAND	
KEYING BOILER;	
Allens I love	
MARKRASTON	
SHADBACH ROERTON	
Andy Britton	
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2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Robertson stated if you are here to speak in favor or against the Pumped Storage Project that those comments be made during public comment and if you have questions during the presentation, we will take those during the item.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated I am here this evening for any questions that might arise when you discuss the item for a donation of \$200,000.00 towards the renovations of the Murry Street School for the Early Learning Center under new business. The program we are developing is going to service seventy kids ages five weeks to five years old. I know it is very important to the community and will be available to answer questions during that time.

Mary Kremer stated I am here to speak regarding agenda item B-4 and encourage your support of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Early Learning Center. They have made a huge impact in our community over the past five years as you all are aware. We have a desperate need for childcare for working families within that age group. I think we are fortunate to have a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. The legacy of trust we have with the Club and their brand nationally speaks volumes. I encourage the maximum support the City Council is willing to allocate this evening. Thank you.

John Charchalis stated I am here to speak regarding the White Pine Pumped Storage Project. I have some figures I worked up. They are speaking of 4,100-acre feet of water and I wanted you to know what that equates to in gallons and is coming out of the aquifer. It breaks down to 1,318,900,300 gallons of water out of the aquifer. As far as restoration due to evaporation the maximum problem is 758-acre feet per year and that equates to every year 241,262,250 gallons have to be replaced. I am just putting this out there so you can understand the impact it will have on the environment here.

John Charchalis Public Comment RESERVOIR STORAGE 4, 100 ACRE FEET 1 ACRE FOOT = 43, 000 Cu.ft 4,100 x 43,000 = 176,300,000 cu.fr. 1 cu.ft = 7.481 GALLONS 176,300,000 x 7.481 GALLONS 1,318,900,300 GALLONS
PUMPED OUT OF THE AQUIFIER YEARLY LOSS FROM EVAPORATION 750 ACREFT MAX THAT MUST BE REPLENISHED YEARLY
FROM THE SAME SOURCE ENERGY REQUIRED TO PUMP WATER TO THE UPPER RESERVOIR 1.02 KILOWATT HOUR TO LIFT ONE ACER FEET

OF WATER ONIZ FOOT IN HEIGHT

1,020 WATTS X 4,100 = 4,182,000 WATTS

AT 10070 EFFICIENCY

MAX VERTICAL HEIGHT 2,150 FEET

2,150 X 4,182,000 WATTS 8,991,300,000 WATTS TOTAL
REQUIRED TO RAISE 4,100 ACREET 2,150 HEIGHT OR 8,991.3 MEGAWATTS TO PUMP THE WATER TO THE UPPER RESERVOIR @ 100% EFFICIENCY

Superintendent of the School District Adam Young stated I am here to speak in favor of agenda item B-4 as well and just wanted to acknowledge the formal partnership that exists between the White Pine County School District and the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. The Boys & Girls Club came into our school District about five years ago and has been an outstanding partner. We host their club in all our schools except for Lund. We provide them space and they provide services for our students such as summer programming, after school learning, before school, lunch, you name it they provide it. They have been outstanding partners to us to improve what we do with servicing students. Agenda item B-4 addresses several needs in the community; one of which is early childcare which is a huge gaping hole for employers. It is a huge gaping hole for us as an employer as we work to hire, recruit, and retain teachers. I think the partnership also addresses finding tenants for our unoccupied buildings. The School District does own the Murry Street building and we intend to lease that long term to the Boys & Girls Club. We don't occupy that building and I think putting tenants in that building in the middle of one of our neighborhoods in Murry Canyon would be a really positive thing for the City of Ely as well. I would like to urge you to support this particular item for those reasons and again I just want to vouch for the excellent humans and corporation the Boys & Girls Club is, and they are wonderful to work with.

Donna Bath stated I am here as a private citizen and a couple meetings ago I gave you a rather large packet of my concerns on the Pumped Storage Project. I would urge you to review that packet once again. I have additional concerns since that time. The Pumped Storage has said numerous times in public meetings, they are taking Duck Creek side off the map so to speak, and they are not going up the Duck Creek side anymore. However, if you go check on the FERC documents that are filed most recently by the company and also in the BLM documents, they have not changed any of their maps and Duck Creek is still very much on the Duck Creek side of the mountain. The Hearsay proposal now, and maybe they will enlighten us tonight, is to go up what is known as Peacock Road. For all the locals that have been up Peacock Road that is a quantum. I have been up it once and I have no desire to go up or down Peacock ever again. If you are going to traverse that mountain back and forth, I certainly hope they will have to do an Environmental Assessment (EA) and at the very minimum and Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EA was certainly a closed session, and the gentlemen here tonight were not involved in this process. I certainly hope going forward they will include the City of Ely and the Railroad as cooperating agencies, and you will have a seat at the table to know what is being discussed at these meetings to make good, informed decisions for our community. I would like it on record that I oppose it.

NNRY President Mark Bassett read the following into the record and stated the Foundation believes it is imperative the studies be completed to ensure the viability of the City's and Foundation's Railroad.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK





A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation
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



The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20426

e: P-14581, White Pine Pumped Storage Project – Comments on February 17, 2022, Draft License pplication (DLA)

The Nevada Northern Railway (NNRy or Railway) Foundation (Foundation) submits these comments to express its serious concerns regarding the above-referenced Gridflex Energy, LLC (Gridflex or Applicant) pumped storage project (Project) and the incomplete studies and lack of studies Gridflex has prepared and proposed addressing impacts of the Project P-14851 on the Railway, a National Historic Landmark. The Gridflex studies prepared so far have not adequately addressed the Foundation's ongoing preservation efforts, the impact on our NNRy operations and the economic impact on tourism in White Pine County. The Foundation therefore requests that FERC direct Gridflex to properly complete and/or initiate the following studies before their draft license application (DLA) proceeds:

- Cultural Resources Study. Visual and Aesthetic Resources Study. Recreation Resources Study. Nevada Northern Railway Visitor Use and Experience Study.

A Socioeconomic Impact Study.
A Study on the Impact of the Current Megadrought on the Reliability of the Proposed Project,

In the Foundation's April 9, 2021, comments to Gridflex, for example, when Gridflex had submitted their study plans for review, the Foundation had asked Applicant to expand their Visual and Aesthetic Resources Study, Cultural Resources Study, and Recreation Resources Study to address the Foundation's various concerns. Gridflex never made those requested study improvements. As more details of the Project have become available, the Foundation's unease regarding the Project have increased.

The Foundation's various concerns arise mainly from Applicant's proposal to construct and insert their significant Project infrastructure between and in the line of sight of the rights-of-way of two of the Railway's tracks. The Hitine track has been used by the Foundation since it started tourism excursion trains thirty-five years ago. The Foundation has plans underway to restore the Mainline tracks and has received a \$10,168,421 grant from Southern Nevada Public Lands Management (SNPLMA) for this Mainline expansion and improvement, Opening the Mainline will allow NNRy excursion trains to reach

Ely City Council – Regular Meeting – June 9, 2022

the historic McGIII Depot opening valuable new recreational and economic opportunities for both the Foundation and the community of McGill.

Under their Project, Gridflex would place the lower storage reservoir between our two tracks. Moreover, the Project's tunnel portal, substation, access route, and transmission lines would all be visible from the two tracks compromising our Railway passengers' experience. The pristine viewshed currently enjoyed by our passengers would likely be spoiled by a power generation project that is poorly conceived and studied. The outcome is not difficult to image: the Project could fatally damage the economic health of the Foundation and the McGill community.

Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenalin Rush in Rural Nevada - 2020 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 Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Retired Geologist Bill Wilson stated with all the presentations we have had and the comments, the thing that has been ignored is the geotechnical stability of the plan sites. The area from Connor's Pass to Duck Creek turnoff along the edge of the mountains is the remnants of the still active Greater Steptoe Fault Zone. There have been five recent earthquakes recorded with a magnitude of three to four. I am worried about that lower pond with the big pond being hammered daily by eighty thousand tons of water and then having that pulled back up the hill. The ground is going to be squished and reflexed every day and that can put a strain on the unconsolidated gravels the site is going to be built on. I think this is a danger we need to pay attention to. Thank you.

Administrative Assistant Cobb read the following public comments into the record:

Jennifer Lee

From:

Aaleeah Jacobsen <jaaleeah@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:41 PM

To:

Jennifer Lee

Subject: Early learning center

My name is Aaleeah Jacobsen, I've lived in Ely Nevada for 19 years. I have 5 siblings and it was extremely hard growing up for my parents to find child care especially for the younger ones. The Early learning center would be extremely beneficial for not only for the people in need, but also for the parents who work or who are wanting to start work. With that being said, I think the Early learning center is an amazing idea and can help many families seeking child care assistance.

Jennifer Lee

GRETCHEN HURNER < GHURNER@hotmail.com>

Sent: To:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 2:27 PM Jennifer Lee; Nathan Robertson

Cc: Subject: eholdaway2@gmail.com Early learning center.

Dear Mayor Robertson and city council,

Please know that it is imperative for Ely and White Pine County to support the proposed Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Early Learning Center.

Safe child care that can support our major employer and their workers is a necessary service that we have been lacking, The Boys and Girls club has proven how much we need safe, reliable and professional child care in our community.

I implore you to join me in your full support of this vital service for our community. I would also ask that you also help contribute your time and resources to get this Center open as soon as possible.

Ely is a wonderful community and has many caring and proactive people, please let us all work together for this new and much needed opportunity.

With my thanks of your support.

Gretchen Derbidge

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Jennifer Lee

From:

Austin Merritt <austinmeritt9@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:32 PM

To: Subject: Jennifer Lee Child care center

My name is Austin Merritt and I have lived in ely for 6 years. Growing up my little sister didn't have child care over the summer and I think this would be a great opportunity to help kids who need it. I feel like an early learning center would be a great thing to add to ely and it would help out a lot with early education.

Jennifer Lee

From:

TiAna Brewster < nanibrews@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:31 PM

To:

Jennifer Lee

Subject:

Early learning center

Hello my name is TiAna Brewster and i have been living in Ely Nevada for 15 years. I feel like having a early learning center would be a great thing for this town and community. Growing up my family didn't have the access to child care so it was hard on my family and others as well. With that being said I feel like an early learning center would help benefit those family's that are in need.

Jennifer Lee

From:

Melanie Watson < melaniewatsonbgctm@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:27 PM

Jennifer Lee

Subject:

Early Learning Center

My name is Melanie Watson. Not only do I currently work at the Boys and Girls Club In White Pine County. I'm also a single mother of two boys. As a resident of Ely, Nv for 31 years not once Have I seen the need for Early Child care be fulfilled. Magic Carpet and The little people head start only serve members in a certain demographic. Which then in turn hinders some parents and guardians of the community from being able to receive support and assistance with

I have the privilege of having parents who are willing and able to help support my childcare needs. Not everyone is as fortunate as I am. The Early learning center would be one of the biggest benefits that White Pine County has had in a

Thank you for your time, Melanie Watson

Jennifer Lee

From:

Debbie Walker <debiwalk89301@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:22 PM

To:

Jennifer Lee

Subject:

Support of early child care for the Boys and Girl Club

To whom it may concern:

I am an employee of the Ely Shoshone Tribe and a citizen of White Pine County. I am supporting the child care center for the boys and girl club. Please take consideration that I get calls for daycare assistance almost daily. The tribe did have a daycare center on Pine St until it closed. But people still call asking for sitters and Ely does not have one. During school year the magic carpet and little people head start is open but during the summer they are not open. So it would be great if parents can depend on a facility that will always be open

My name is Debbie Walker and my email address is debiwalk89301@yahoo.com Thank you for your time.

City Clerk Lee read the following public comments into the record:

Jennifer Lee

Ryan Wooldridge <ryan wooldridge55@gmail.com> Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:59 PM From:

Sent: Jennifer Lee Early Learning Center

Subject:

My name is Ryan Wooldridge and I have lived in Ely for 17 years. For the past 2 and a half years I have had the privilege of working with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and White Pine County School District. Since my first day at Boys & Girls Club I have been asked the same question: "At what age can my child attend the organization?" The answer to that is 5 years old. This would benefit parents with younger children who cannot find child care. This would not only help the parents, but the school district and the children themselves. We all know that it's never too early to be exposed to education. Some of the most widely cited benefits to preschool include increased vocabulary and other preliteracy skills as well as the development of pre-math skills like counting, sorting and recognizing patterns. This would also open more job opportunities in White Pine County, especially for those who want to work in early education and Childhood Development.

TAYLOR WESTERN RESOURCES, LLC

P.O. Box 151732 Ely, Nevada 89315-1732

June 9, 2022

(Mrs. Lee, please read this into the record during Public Comment at the Ely City Council this afternoon.)

City of Ely, Nevada c/o Jennifer Lee CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov

City Council Members:

White Pine County is a unique area in the Great Basin. The County is blessed with many scenic wonders and an enormous number of natural resources. These resources are too numerous to mention. The residents of White Pine County and its governing bodies have a great deal of responsibility to guarantee the resources are both developed and protected at the same time. The community and the people of the entire County must ensure that the County does not suffer exploitation of its resources for no benefit or economic gain.

With this in mind, I would like to address the Council and the proponents of the proposed White Pine Pump Storage project. This project seems to have moved through different channels of our governing bodies under the radar so to speak. The water rights for this project are owned by the County. This means all residents of the County have ownership of these water rights. This proposal will pump a large volume of water from our aquifer to supply power to be sent out of our County and out of Nevada.

Water in the State is one of the most precious commodities we have. This project will pump and store large amounts of water in reservoirs that will allow this water to evaporate and be lost in saturation. The fact that we are in the worst drought in a 1,200year period leaves an enormous doubt whether this project is beneficial to the residents. It is certainly not beneficial to the water reserves stored in the basin.

As White Pine County looks for growth and economic revenue, I am concerned that this project has not been challenged or studied fully for its short- or long-term impacts. I ask that the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the State of Nevada, and other appropriate agencies thoroughly study and evaluate this project. Only after the appropriate agencies have thoroughly examined and evaluated this project, and have released they findings to the public, this project should be put on a ballot for White Pine County residents to decide.

Sincerely,

Glenn Taylor Taylor Western Resources

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 8B-4 you are to consider donating \$200,000.00 to the Boys and Girls Club, but you have yet to give any consideration to those different businesses owned and operated by women that applied for the American Rescue Funds. Some businesses received the minimum of \$10,000.00 and others up to \$20,000.00; those women should have received the same consideration. I do support the local Boys and Girls Club, but I also support the local business community. On your agenda item 8B-6 you are to consider approving an agreement with the Volunteer Fire Department which would be a fifty percent increase to what they receive now. The City has been more than generous to the Fire Department and a ten to twenty percent increase should be considered instead. I was having a casual conversation with a resident regarding City and County issues when he asked me what my concern was with his property which is located out in the County and not in the City. The person could not remember who he talked to, and I let him know that I have never made a complaint about his property and cautioned him about NRS 244.368 that City building codes supersedes less regimental provisions of County codes within a one mile boundary of the City. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding a requested a copy of what was sent to Mount Wheeler Power to possibly relocate power poles in regard to the water/sewer project to comply with ADA requirements; the curb and gutter at 488 Stevens; and his request for a complete list of permitted RVs in the City.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

> CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Cahoon stated I have a quick update on the abatement for parcel number 001-093-05 owned by Juanita Pope. An administrative warrant has been signed by the Municipal Court and has been given to Public Works Supervisor Cracraft for official action. There is a ten-day limit imposed by Nevada State Law to have that done, so hopefully that property in the next ten days will be cleaned up.

> CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated I met with Bill Brewer, the Executive Director of Rural Housing, on Tuesday. He informed me they worked with the hospital when they tried to get additional housing when they had their contractor here performing that \$12 million job on the Bristlecone Apartments and unfortunately the hospital wasn't able to take advantage of it at that time, but they could be a valuable partner for us. I also met with Greg Rivero from Commnet last week and he informed me the pole inventory is done and they have been assessing the quality of the poles. Mount Wheeler Power wanted to make sure before they were stringing cable that all the poles were worthy. That is finished, and the work should start this summer on that. We currently have twelve active complaints. The Clerk's Office and Treasurer Trask will be assisting with the Primary Election on Tuesday at the Bristlecone Convention Center.

> PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated RW-7 passed all the sampling required and is back in operation. Wheeler Machinery came out to the Landfill today and removed the motor out of the dozer so hopefully it will be six to eight weeks for it to be repaired.

Councilman Alworth asked are we going to get a report for the daily or weekly water consumed at the Golf Course?

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated we have been doing it daily and I can get that to you.

> CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL

City Building Official Peterson stated I received correspondence from the State Fire Marshal's Office in regard to the Interlocal Agreement and I did sign my end of that agreement so that should be executed, and we should be taking over their responsibilities such as fire inspections, annual inspections, and other tasks their office has done.

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

5. NNRY FOUNDATION REPORT

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

BAST

Nevada Northern Railway Foundation A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation

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 May 2022

- 1. Locomotive Status Updated
 - a. Locomotives in service: #81, #105, #109, #204, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
 - b. Locomotive 93 is out service with a axle issues on number 4 axle, she should be repaired and running in June.
 - c. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2023.
 - d. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201, #310 and #34
 - e. 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.
 - f. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309, Kennecott 802 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
 - g. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #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. Cabooses in service: #3, #6 and #22 are operational.
 - d. Cabooses out service: #5
- 4. Track Status No change
 - a. Keystone Branch is open
 - b. Adverse Branch is open.
- S. Ridership and Ticket Sales Updated
 - a. In May we carried 1,844 passengers, this is a 13% increase over 2021 and was the largest May we have had in our 35 years of operation.
 - b. Year to date, we have carried 3,156 passengers, this is a 15% increase over 2021.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 333,517 passengers.
- 6. Economic Impact Data from Travel Nevada Visitor Facts Pony Express 2016-2020 The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$140. Economic impact for May 2022 is $1,844 \times 80\% \times 140 = $206,528$ Economic Impact Year To Date is 3,156 x 80% x 140 = \$353,472

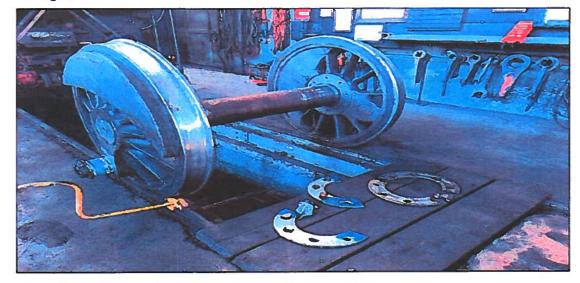
Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenalin Rush in Rural Nevada - 2020 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 Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

- 7. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand, in the last 28 days:
 - a. We reached 730,846 people.
 b. Post engagement was 194,202

 - c. We have 116,486 page likes d. 157,482 people follow our page.
- 8. Locomotive 93 Axle Repairs

The inner hub liner on the engineer's side of axle 4 failed. The engine crew was aware that something was wrong and reported it to the shop. One of the hub screws had backed out and destroyed the hub liner. To repair the hub liner, axle had to be dropped and removed from the locomotive. As the axle was being dropped, the staff noticed that two of the suspension springs had fractured. Thanks to the fast action of the crew, other than the side bearing plate nothing else got damaged



John Henry was able to machine a new side bearing plate and screws to hold the plate in position using our original machine tools.



The yellow arrows point to the breaks in the spring. We were able to custom springs created to replace the broken ones and to have a few spares too.

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

6. REPORTS

> COUNCILMAN ALWORTH

Councilman Alworth stated I have been doing some research on the property at Cedar Park East and I will get with the City Fire Chief because I know it is in the County, but I noticed there is no designation of what's out there. If there was a fire of course you would see smoke, but if someone was having a heart attack it would be hard to find. We need to identify that area with a name and addresses because we have a lot of people moving out there and it's a hazard trying to find someone and there are no streetlights.

> COUNCILMAN FLANGAS

Councilman Flangas stated with Memorial Day coming we will have visitors coming in and it is obvious the cemetery needs more water. As cold as the weather has been I can understand why that did not happen. In the lower area where the baby plots are there is black gravel or whatever it is, and it looks terrible. I think we could bring some dirt in and fill that in with some grass. I think we could improve that area over a period of time. The other thing is I haven't heard anyone in here mention they had a major concert in McGill over the weekend and people that I talked to that attended said it was a good success and it benefited the Railroad. With events like that people come from out of town and fill our hotels and motels.

> MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated you do have a list of events that have been approved. I did just get back from the League of Cities Retreat this afternoon and there was good information shared and good networking. I would also like to report our Great Basin Heritage Grant for City Hall did get approved for \$15,000.00 which was not the full amount, but I felt fortunate we got what we did. I will be defending our grant to the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historical Preservation (CCCHP) this Tuesday and that is for the \$300,000.00 for the planning. I would also like to congratulate all our local students promoting and graduating. I have been a part of some of that this week and it's great to see people getting an education and training; we have had everything from High Schoolers, Nurses, and eighth graders. Tomorrow some people will be graduating from P.O.S.T and going to work out at the prison. It has been great to see and congratulations to them.

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

1. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review feasibility of free commercial metal disposal at City Landfill, with possible direction to City Attorney to draft a resolution to that effect.

City Clerk Lee stated the Municipal Utilities Board moved this item forward to a future agenda due to Councilman Carson's absence.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to table the review of feasibility of free commercial metal disposal at City Landfill, with possible direction to City Attorney to draft a resolution to that effect. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members – City Clerk Lee– Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due landfill fee penalties up to the amount of \$853.88 from 14275 East 323 South Street, APN: 012-740-08, White Pine County, Nevada at the request of the new property owners, Tony and Pam Gomez.

City Clerk Lee stated the Municipal Utilities Board recommended approval on this item.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the removal of past due landfill fee penalties up to the amount of \$853.88 from 14275 East 323 South Street, APN: 012-740-08, White Pine County, Nevada at the request of the new property owners, Tony and Pam Gomez. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried with three ayes and one nay from Councilman Spear.

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.

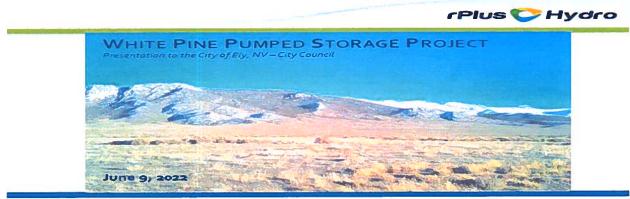
Moved by: Councilman Spear Second by: Councilman Alworth Vote: Unanimously

- 1. Discussion/For Possible Action Minutes
 - May 12, 2022
- 2. Discussion/For Possible Action -Bills.
 - May 24, 2022
 - May 25, 2022

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – *rPlus Energies* representative – Discussion Only – Presentation regarding White Pine Pumped Storage Project's draft license application and project update.

rPlus Engergies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland presented the following presentation. I appreciate the opportunity to give an update and all the questions and comments that help us through the process. I think through this process some questions will be answered and help to provide clarity.

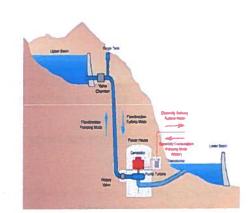


Company Background



- rPlus Hydro, a wholly-owned subsidiary of rPlus Energies
 - The leading developer of new pumped storage projects in the US.
 - Controls 50% of all current interconnection queue for planned or proposed pumped storage projects
- rPlus Hydro has 12 pumped storage projects in various stages of development across the U.S.
 - White Pine Waterpower, LLC is the license applicant for this project
 - Future project locations include:

Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona



Community Involvement and Support LITAH STARSS GEAR UP prospect MOUNTAIN WEST GRAND PRIX APPILL 28, 2022 Institute for institut

Community Involvement and Support



Greenbacker SUNDT STATE



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Sponsor – White Pine High School Robotics Team to attend the VEX Robotics World Championship



Community Service Committee
Food Drive donated over 1,200 cans
of food to the Carbon County Utah
Food Bank

Major Sponsor – City of Ely – Fourth of July Fireworks Show and Extravaganza



White Pine Pumped Storage

- Economic Benefits



- Employment
 - Study/Development Phase:
 - Local firms utilized
 - Construction Phase:
 - Estimated 300-500 jobs over 3 to 5 years
 - · Mostly skilled equipment operators and craft labor
 - Long-Term Operation Phase:
 - Estimated 35 full-time employees



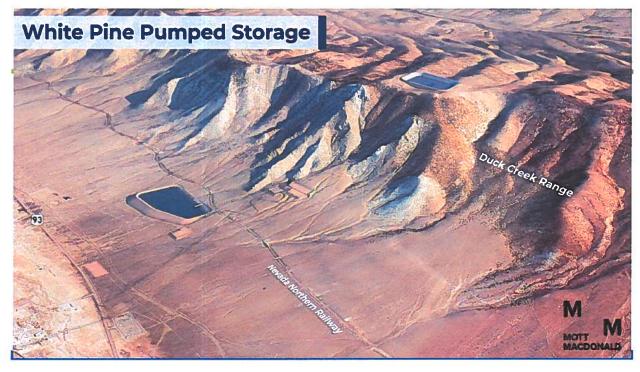
 Local <u>annual</u> tax revenue is expected to be at least <u>\$10</u> <u>million</u> during initial 20 years



Project Overview and Update



- Closed-loop project
 - Approximately \$2.3 billion capital investment
- 1000 megawatts (MW) of generating and pumping capacity
 - 8 hours of full-output storage (8,000 MWh per day)
 - about 1/8 of Nevada's peak power demand
- Rapid response generation
 - from 0 to full power in 60-90 seconds
 - If already operating in "pumping" mode, can shift to "generation" mode in a few seconds
- Wide range of operational benefits for pumped storage projects as both a generator and a load; i.e. grid stability, grid inertia, reactive power supply, frequency support, etc.



The above photo is a video simulation that is available on the website https://www.whitepinepumpedstorage.com/ that shows the anticipated project. The video shows people in different areas to show the magnitude of the project. With this type of project, it is usually transformers that cause a lot of noise, and the transformers will be inside the mountain.

What you will see in this display is a switch station which allows for isolation of the project for whatever reasons.

Donna Bath stated I appreciate you coming to this meeting as we have not had any public hearings or meetings and we get a lot of conflicting information. Your EA that was done by HDR I feel has a lot of misinformation in it and I have been accused of handing out false information; it is coming right off your documents or BLM documents. The one thing I did notice in your video you show a pond or a reservoir, but it doesn't seem to have a fence or lighting around it. Is there going to be fencing and lighting around it because it looks like a wonderful duck pond that you are going to go by on a train. The reality is you have to have security because you have to keep animals out of there and you are going to have lighting because of the security. Those are some of the questions I would have just on that side. On the Duck Creek side, I have noticed your reservoir has moved from down below directly across from our property, in which we have never been contacted by your company. If that pond lets loose, we are in the direct line. Now it looks like the reservoir is on the very top of the mountain. Has that changed and if you have dropped the access to the Duck Creek side, how are you going to get up there? Do you have permission from the property owners now to come in on the Duck Creek side?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated as any complex projects there are many things that you learn and as a part of learning you apply those. The actual location of the upper reservoir has been adjusted for primary sage grouse habitat area, to try and move it away from that. There were two considerations for moving out of the Duck Creek Basin side; one of them was independent access. We could have found a way with BLM property to get up to the upper reservoir from the Duck Creek side without crossing any private land parcels. What we have decided is because there are two like locations on the Duck Creek Basin side and that is to have habitat for PHMA which is primary habitat for sage grouse and because of those two considerations we made the decision in this last spring after all the work had been completed with other access routes. My engineering company is actually in the process right now of completing what the access will be from the Steptoe side. I have a meeting on Monday of what those options are.

Donna Bath stated your map shows an access road on the Duck Creek side.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated that video and the map that exists right now will eventually be changed once we have identified the route from the Steptoe side.

Donna Bath stated will your EA change then or will you have to do a supplemental EA?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated we will be addressing that with the BLM to have a supplement to the 299 application that will be submitted to the BLM as soon as we identify what that route will be. The study that is being done by the engineering company will be providing us with those findings on Monday and we have two weeks to respond to that. There will be a process that will be taking place as a part of that to include consultation of the BLM. You had mentioned earlier about access up around Peacock Ridge. The access to the Peacock Ridge is only for technical studies and will be temporary access to do the bore hole drilling that we need to do this fall and will only be accessed for six weeks during that timeframe. As far as I know right now it is not being considered to be a permanent access, but we will find out on Monday. Kevin and I have traveled up their several times.

Donna Bath asked are you taking an excavator up there?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated we don't need an excavator. We have a crew coming out next week and we are going to do field checks for the drill rig, to make sure it will work.

Donna Bath asked you are going to pump our coal fired power out of the substation near Robinson and then when it comes down the mountain it magically becomes green energy and you are going to put it in the power lines that goes to Reno, Yerington, and on to California? How much of that power is going to stay in White Pine County?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated there is no interconnection to Gonder substation. The interconnection agreement that we have that is approved by Nevada Energy is for Robinson Energy Substation. That energy that comes out of this particular project will be available for a variety of sources. It is not specifically from a

coal plant or anywhere else, it is up to the utility to provide that and decide that as part of grid management.

Project Facilities

rPlus 💟 Hydro

- Upper Reservoir
 - 4,100 acre-feet active storage capacity
 - 65-acre footprint
 - Natural basin closed with lined and fenced rockfill dam, 170' high at crest
- Lower Reservoir
 - 4,100 acre-feet active storage capacity
 - go-acre footprint
 - Lined and fenced rockfill dam, 134' maximum height on western slope

- Conduits/Tunnels
 - 2,270' vertical; 280' horizontal headrace; 7,380' tailrace; all 20' diameter
- Transmission
 - 28-mile line (H-Frame)
 - 345 kV gen-tie line
- · Powerhouse, Substation, & Equipment
 - Underground
 - 3 variable speed turbine generating units
 - 1000 MW total at the point of interconnection (POI)

Project Assessment Studies

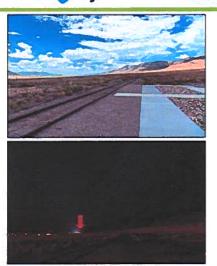
rPlus 💟 Hydro

• NNR Visitor Use Study

 Coordinate with Nevada Northern Railway (NNR) to obtain required visitor data.

Visual Impact Study

- The project is not anticipated to impact the visual aesthetics beyond what is already in existence
 - The project structure will blend in with the existing form, line, color, and texture of the landscape.
- Project lighting will be designed and operated to mitigate potential impacts
 - Use dark-sky compliant lighting fixtures
 - The timing and use of lighting will be coordinated



rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated we also want to be a part of enhancing and helping the railroad experience that visitors have and we can do that by a variety of ways by cooperating and working with the Railroad. We can at certain times turn off lights, being available to answer questions, or even providing additional information that can become part of the narrative that is experienced on the rail. At the end of the day, we want to have renewable energy and this project to be a part of the history and the story of both Ely and White Pine County. As part of that story, it includes the industrial development, the mine, and all the industrial work that has gone on in the past. This particular project can actually help to enhance that and show the connection between what the mine developed as a part of its industrial life and now what we see as a part of renewable energy implementation.

Water Sourcing (Ground Water)



- Water sourcing for project is under contract
 - Steptoe Valley water allocated to White Pine County (24,000 AF/Y) for industrial & economic development use (originally for planned coal plants)
 - Water agreement was signed with White Pine County in March 2021

Water usage

- Construction Phase: Up to 900 acre-feet per year for 5 year
- Initial fill requirement -4,500 acre-feet
- Annual make-up water for life of project 500-750 acre-feet (equivalent to about one irrigation pivot per year)

Working with Nevada on production well site relocation to project site

- Permitted well sites are 10-12 mi from project lower reservoir site
- Lower cost and reduced environmental impact



rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated we have been informed and the County has been informed that if that water right is not utilized, which was moved over from the White Pine Power Project, that it is at risk of being lost. We are in the process of evaluating if there are new technologies available that could limit the amount of evaporation by putting in flexible covers that are coming alive in a lot of places for reservoirs all over the country. There is a cost factor related to that, but we are willing to do that because it will cut down on the water that is used on an annual basis.

rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated my experience is in dealing with large scale infrastructure projects with legal and regulatory hurdles as well as issues and licensing processes that goes along with that. I have two goals to tell you about today and that there is a process that is involved for this project. It is a large infrastructure project and a large capital-based project, and I want everyone to understand and know there is a public process where the public will be involved, the City will be involved, the Citizens, and the regulatory agencies will be involved. They will be able to voice concerns, issues, or whatever comments they have that the agencies can consider. These draft license applications are long, complicated, and complex, and my goal is to make sure we are engaged in a meaningful way so that good decisions can be made that benefit the community and any mitigation measures that are needed for the project can be implemented.

FERC Licensing Jurisdiction



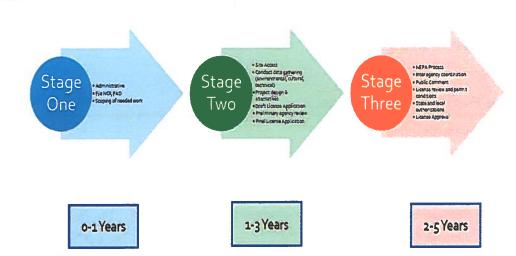
A hydropower project is subject to FERC's licensing jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act if it:

- · is located on navigable waters;
- occupies federal lands or reservations;
- · uses water from a federal dam; or
- is located on a Commerce Clause waterway, was constructed after 1935, and affects interstate commerce.

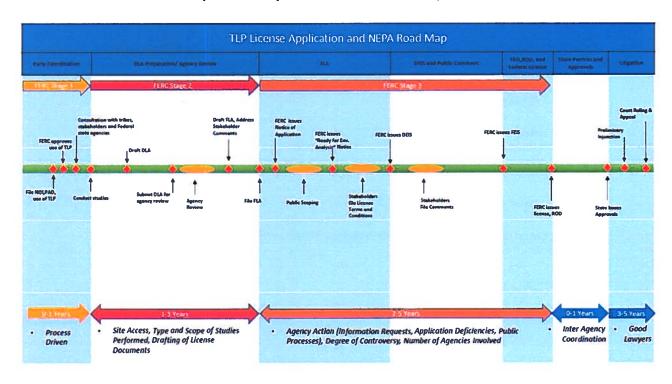
FPA § 23(b); 16 U.S.C. § 817(1)

FERC License Process (Integrated, Traditional, Alternative, Expedited Closed Loop)

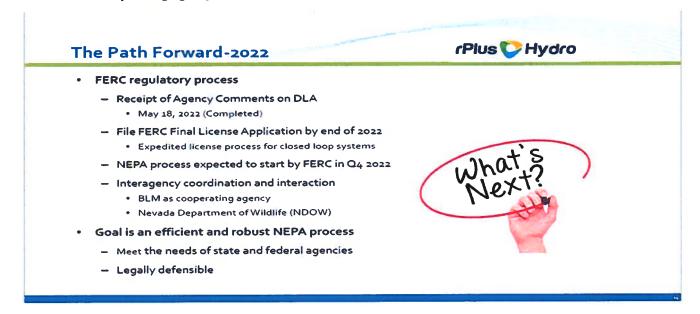




rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated stage one is the preliminary stage where you file a preliminary notice to FERC and you work with the agencies to develop and define what type of studies need to be implemented. Stage two is what we are just about ready to complete. This stage is where you do your studies, gather information, and data. This is where you draft and write your draft license application which is two thousand pages of information and material which is then put out into the public domain. After the draft license application is complete and put to FERC, the agencies have ninety days to make comments on it. I want to reiterate to you that it is a draft license application. It is intentional and part of the legal process that it goes through. The purpose of that is to get comments back from the agencies to help with the National Environmental Process Act (NEPA) process that must be undertaken later on in the process. If there are deficiencies in the draft license, whether it is where one road is located or other things are located, it is corrected in this particular process and is ongoing right now. We will release a final license application after comments are considered within the next few months. Once that occurs then stage three will happen and that is where FERC takes priority and will have control over this process at that time. They will do their environmental review which is a NEPA Process, time for public review, and time for all public citizens to participate in that in multiple stages and times. As a lawyer I encourage that to anyone that would like to have that type of engagment so we can make sure the decisions that are made are defensible and are robust in their nature. The yellow circles on the graph below is where the public will have an opportunity to make comment. We expect the full process to last three to five years.



rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated one of the things I wanted to add was the cooperating agency status. That is not something that rPlus decides and is not anything anybody decides besides FERC. As a part of their notification requirements and NEPA requirements they will request certain agencies if they have a desire to be a cooperating agency.



Questions?





rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated one of the questions that has come up is the size of boring as a part of what we do. Last year we did the bore hole drilling at bore hole two and in fact have one of the bits that was used for that bore hole drilling just to give an idea of the size. (a sample of bore hole two drillings was shown) The core samples go through chemical analysis and other geophysical analysis, and we save these samples in case there is a need to reproduce the sample. We are going to be drilling bore hole three down about twenty-two hundred feet. The samples we pull will be in a climate-controlled environment so we can go back and retrieve that when necessary. The samples are critical in the overall determination of the design. There is a lot of testing and any decisions made is strictly off the information available in the public domain. Our intent is to drill and have that information out for everyone to let us know if it is valid or not.

Mayor Robertson asked can we get the locations of the other projects you spoke of?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated they are all on our website.

Mayor Robertson asked during winter operation would there be any scenario that it would be so cold that this facility couldn't function?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated I don't know if I could say ever, but typically that is not the case. There is enough energy imparted in the reservoirs going up and down to where even if you had freezing occur it would be at a very minimal level and there is no expectation that it would freeze over.

Mayor Robertson asked how does the water usage intersect with the water rights because initially you are going to be needing so much water to fill up and then so much water to continue usage.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated that is in the agreement with the County. In the agreement we have the right to draw that much water initially and then it is reverted for the remainder portions of that.

Councilman Alworth stated I have been looking off your notes and have been to many of these meetings. You say there are forty-three plants doing this type of power. How many are using ground water in the country? The ones I have seen use water from a lake or a river.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated currently operating is what you mean I assume?

Councilman Alworth stated yes.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated I honestly don't know the answer to that.

Councilman Alworth stated there are none. This is the first one and that is the deal. We are in a drought right now and thankfully the mine is putting three thousand gallons per minute down to Steptoe Valley. I am pretty upset at the County regarding where the water is going to come from. This is the second time I have heard the big smoke screen about the twenty-five thousand acrefeet the County has when they are going to build a coal fired power plant north of town. The second thing is you just said it "thank goodness we are going to use this water folks because otherwise Vegas or whoever is going to take it all." You are only going to use three percent of that. It's four thousand seven hundred and some acre-feet so this statement of saying twenty-five

thousand acre-feet, we're going to use it, or you are going to lose it and we are saving your bacon on that is a dishonest statement. The other thing going back to the water. The point of diversion first of all is they are going to pull the water twelve miles north of McGill to save costs of building a pipeline to bring to the lower reservoir, so the point of diversion has not been achieved yet as it is probably part of the permitting.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the permitting I mentioned during the presentation is before the Nevada Engineer is for exactly that diversion. We have received indication that everything we have provided is adequate for their purposes.

Councilman Alworth stated a big concern of mine is the point of diversion, and the misstatement you are saving our bacon by doing the twenty-five thousand acre-feet. I would like to thank Mr. Charchalis for the breakdown of the gallons, it is very interesting. Let me give you a little more perspective; the upper storage or sixty-five-acre surface is two and a half times the size of Cave Lake, the lower one is ninety acres and is three times the size of Cave Lake so keep that in mind. I am talking as a City Council member, it is not in city limits, but it is going to affect our Railroad which we are a part of. The reason we live here is the mountains, valleys, and so forth and reading the existing road by Duck Creek highway will need to be improved for construction access. I have hunted and camped up there and it is four-wheel drive only and if you take a grader up there the two-track road is going to be gone. Sportsmen you better be listening to what's going on here. Any other road improvements to avoid creating water truck traffic on Duck Creek Highway are current. The plan is to pump water from the Steptoe side up Peacock and I don't know how you went up peacock, but I have lived here for fifty years and have taken motorcycles, side by sides, and four-wheel drives up it and it is a steep son of a gun. You are going to put a pipeline up that side. I don't know how the BLM, or anybody can accept that. It is bad enough we went out there to put out a fire and everyone was upset about the runoff and now you are going to run a pipeline. If you are going to zig zag up this road it is going to be a total disaster. You are the first one to mention that the cavern or bore hole is twenty feet in diameter. Yucca Mountain's bore hole is twenty-seven feet and showed a picture of what that looks like. The bore hole is going to be huge. I agree with what the geologist said in that it is going to shake things up. When you get down to where the turbines are how far down is that; nine hundred feet is what I was told at one time. There is going to be more than a bore hole is that correct?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated there is actually more than one tunnel that will go in from the Steptoe Valley side and there is one that will go in from the top and straight down. I really do appreciate your comments and if I was misleading about the water rights, please forgive me as that is information that has come to us third hand. I can't predict what the Counties water rights are going to look like or otherwise and an implication that water will be used for something else is probably inappropriate for me to say. To clarify, the reason the size of those tunnels are the size they are is so equipment can actually be moved into the mountain. The equipment is large enough that it needs to have that size of a tunnel system, both the transformers for the substation and the turbines. You also need to have the ability to drive back and forth.

Mayor Robertson asked the nature of the question is where does all that material go once it is taken out?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the material becomes part of the embankment system.

Councilman Alworth stated one thing it showed on your video but failed to mention was the access road for your mechanics and the guys that drive in is underground too?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated that is correct. There will be three separate tunnels; one is a conduit tunnel which is lined, there are tunnels for personal access, and then tunnels for electrical wire ways to be in there also. I hope that clarifies what we are talking about.

Councilman Alworth stated the video never showed the access tunnel for the equipment such as the forklifts and crane trucks when they go in to work on those huge turbines. Again, The City's dog in this fight is our Railroad and what is it going to do to the public lands. When we get snow the emergency road that you show in the video is not going to exist, it is going to be a huge snowbank. Again, this is somebody's dream on paper, but they have not done a realization. I would like to know who drove you up Peacock because that is a miserable, rotten road. The amount of money the County thinks they are going to get out of this; if it happens it will be

twenty-five years before we get any tax abatements. Duck Creek will never be the same for our kids and grandkids.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated I do appreciate your comments and it gives us an opportunity to go back and consider those. The reality is this is a process and the information we get from others helps on how we design and how we plan for this. As I mentioned we don't even have the option for the road on the Steptoe side from out engineers and hopefully will have that in the next few days. When that happens, we will then evaluate that. I would suggest it might be helpful if we come back if not monthly, maybe every other month to provide an update to City Council about what is going on and what the status is on the different activities we have going on.

Councilman Alworth stated I think that would be good and what we also need to know is your setbacks. I will tell you a major setback just reading your paper. The water originally to develop the pond on the Duck Creek side was going to come from the Kennecott ponds. Guess who got word of that and shut it down really quick. Rio Tinto said no you're not, and it has never been brought back that you overstepped boundaries there. That is a setback that a lot of people are hearing about and are up in arms and you need to come back and say, "Hey folks, that is not going to happen." Again, you have to give us good and bad, because everything I have seen and heard is bad. I haven't seen one good thing about this.

Council Members for the concrete things they have been talking about. I want to talk about more intangible things, and I think people's feelings and rights are those things. I am relatively new here and I like living here. I want to read something you all have written yourselves, "White Pine County is not a major electric load center, it is strategic in the electric grid because of the existing and planned transmission lines." What that really says is that you are a pawn, and I don't want to be a pawn. I don't want people to feel like we just happened to be at the right place and time and have something that you guys need because there are many things this town needs that we can't seem to get. I don't want us to be used for water that is going somewhere else as you were speaking of. I feel rolled over already with your presentation like this is a done deal. I agree with Jim in that we really need to know what is going on.

Councilman Spear stated I am going to disagree with Jim a little bit here because he said it is outside the City limits, but all the utilities such as the landfill, sewer ponds, and water that we provide is going to have a huge impact. I did the numbers and the last information showed at peak construction time there would be twenty-one hundred people here and now it says five hundred. I am sure that is employees and doesn't include their families. Five hundred families almost doubles the use of our Landfill and that is critical because it is a ticking time bomb and eventually it is going to be shut down. Ely needs to have a lot more skin in the game because of our utilities and fire and safety. We are a major player and without the City's infrastructure this probably couldn't happen without you building all your own. I think there is a lot of things the City needs to pay close attention to because we do have a lot of skin in this game.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated your video shows a wonderful alpine lake and from my research a pond like that is not only heavily fenced but has barbed wire fence around it, so to a certain extent that is deceptive. It is on your website and people are wondering what the Foundation is so upset about because it is a beautiful little lake. I am hoping you are going to update that real quick and show what it is actually going to be. The power unit is eight stories tall and are the ponds going to use all the cubic rubble coming from the excavations? The other thing that caused major heartburn was last fall when you got the EA for doing the drilling I found out about the EA as an adjoining property owner when the driller called me up. I am still surprised and don't understand why neither the Foundation or the City of Ely was notified there was an EA out there and we were invited to give comments. Your early work here hasn't done anything to give us a nice warm and fuzzy. As we move forward it would be very nice to be updated.

Donna Bath stated I don't want to correct you and I am not an expert in permitting, but I do want the Council to know there is an opportunity for you to become a cooperating agency. The local BLM is going to have jurisdiction on their EA process. If you request to be a cooperating agency in the entire process and the very minimum asked to be notified as an interested party and you will receive information by mail from BLM and you will receive anything that will pertain to this project; that is how I receive my information. I encourage you to read the EA and get online and read the application. I have read every page of the application. That is the only way we are going to be informed and get the correct information. I do care about this community, and I want to see my grandchildren be able to live here and live a good lifestyle. If it was a benefit for our

community, I would be all for it. I want the facts and not to be hornswoggled. Your company needs to do a better job. They did a terrible job in the beginning, and I have to tell you I am no expert, but that EA is the worst thing I have ever read in my life. I hope going forward you do a much better job. I appreciate you coming here, and we don't mean to beat up on you; we are nice people.

Roger Bauers stated I have followed this project from early on. I am a geologist and have been in exploration and in mining. I look at this as largely a mining operation and one thing I have never seen mentioned is communication with Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) which issues mining permits. Are you not to that stage yet? You mentioned NDOW and BLM, but nothing about mining permits.

rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated it is a FERC process and not a mining process. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the regulatory body that issues the permits.

Roger Bauers stated you are saying Nevada is not going to be involved at all other than NDOW?

rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated no, that is not what I am saying. I am saying that FERC is the governing body that puts the licensing out. There are other permits that have to be done, but the primary licensing is done through FERC.

Roger Bauers stated at some point won't you have to deal with mining permits?

rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated not to my knowledge.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the agency that you mentioned was notified about the filing of the DLA and was invited to make comment. They are a part of the consultation record and were provided the information. There were about eight State agencies that were included in that notification. The FERC process itself is extraordinarily comprehensive. They have to convene a board of engineers that's independent that provides advisory service back to FERC on the design work similar to what you are talking about. They do that because they have authority over that, and we have to be prepared to answer those questions.

Roger Bauers stated you talk about the people that will be employed is about five hundred and I am sure you have heard this before, but we have a tremendous housing crisis here. Where are you going to put them?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the answer to that question is that is a responsibility we will put on the contractor to figure out. The County has already asked us those same questions and there has been dialogue established to see what we might be able to do in the future. What is important to realize is the conditions that exist today with regard to these elements, draught conditions, and other things are the conditions that exist today. The permitting process is going to take several years, and construction will take several years. We are projecting out and we don't know what housing is going to look like in six years. The Contractor will be responsible for this whether that is coming in and building a new housing development, whether or not they have to build infrastructure to support, or it may be as simple as a man camp.

Bill Wilson stated my fear is the lower pond is going to breach and we are going to compromise the Kennecott tailings pond and reclamation. My main question is would you be able to supply us with a sensitivity analysis on the economics? Your differential of profit for the project between peak rates and off-peak rates. In ten years from now as solar energy, particularly their improvement in battery capacity to provide energy twenty-four hours a day. What is going to happen in ten years when you start? If something happens to the project financially or physically, are you required to post a reclamation bond and what happens when everything is completed?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the short answer is we don't know what the requirement is going to be for a reclamation bond, but we expect that will be the case and will be stipulated by FERC as part of the licensing process. In regard to your question about the spillway it is under current work. We have a draft and still waiting for a final report that will be coming out within a year.

Councilman Alworth stated Bill asked a good question and that question was asked before just worded differently. What happens if in fifteen or twenty years you lose funding? Is there going to be a bond to come back and reclaim everything they have done by filling in the holes and such.

Once again, I am asking if you have a setback, we need to be aware of it. That question was asked at the convention center, and we never heard back.

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the actual project is a fifty-year design and a fifty-year license, which is typical for a FERC dam structure and with proper maintenance the expectation is the project could last one hundred years. The reality is the design work that is going into it right now and the studies that are being performed are taking a long time because we are designing a fifty-year design project that is potentially going to last one hundred years.

Mayor Robertson stated that is not the question. The question is if you get into it and your company for whatever reason closes up shop, and you are halfway into this and there is not anyone to take it over, will the community get left with a half-finished hole in the ground or do you have to post some kind of reclamation as other mining or other types of disturbances do to mediate the site?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated I can't answer the question directly because I don't know. I can tell you in other similar projects that when the license is issued there is a reclamation of sorts that has been identified. I don't know what the amount or scope of that is going to be.

NNRY President Mark Bassett Stated there are a series of trigger points here; number one the engineering is not done on the project so we don't even know if the site can handle the project is that correct?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated the preliminary engineering is complete and it shows the project can move forward.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the County has the water rights, but there is still a study to be done to know if the water is actually there?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated yes.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated it is possible when the study is done, we find out there is no water there; that would be pretty serious I assume?

rPlus Energies Program Manager for the White Pine County Hydro Project Greg Copeland stated there are a number of trigger points and a number of things that are yet to be determined to find out in the final analysis if the project is able to move forward. We are doing everything we can to get all that information and water and hydrology is one of those key points, and the other is the geotechnical work.

rPlus Hydro Deputy General Counsel Kevin Baker stated from a regulatory basis what we have in front of us is a draft license application. The final license application will be where all the licensing and other activities that take place and where the NEPA process begins. Our purpose is to make sure everyone understands what is out there and to inform the public. We are not trying to hide anything from anybody, and we welcome these kinds of comments. We are here and will be here and come back to answer any kind of questions as often as you all need it.

Project Contacts

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Mayor Robertson recessed the regular City Council Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Mayor Robertson reconvened the regular City Council Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

2. Mayor Robertson – Katie Coleman NRHA Director of Communications and Public Relations – Kevin Hickey NRHA Business Development Specialist – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Resolution 2022-08 providing for the transfer of the City of Ely's 2022 private activity bond volume cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority.

NRHA Director of Communications and Public Relations Katie Coleman stated I would like to provide an update on the Home At Last Home Ownership Program and the impact within the City of Ely and provide an overview of the source, use, and limitations of private activity bonds and why Nevada Rural Housing is requesting the transfer of your unused volume cap. In 2006 NRHA launched the Home At Last Down Payment Assistance Program funded by private activity bond volume caps. The City of Ely has been supportive of the Home Ownership Program from the very beginning with a total of \$2.1 million of unused volume cap being transferred to the housing authority over the years. Since 2006 the Home At Last Project has provided sixty four Ely home buyers with \$8.8 million in affordable mortgages, \$300,000.00 in payment assistance, and \$100,000.00 in estimated federal tax savings. Fifteen years after launching Home At Last the program has helped over ten thousand rural Nevadans to achieve affordable home ownership; program wide that is a total of 2.2 billion in affordable mortgages, \$63 million in down payment assistance, and \$35.5 million in estimated federal tax savings that is returned to homebuyers in the Mortgage Tax Credit Program. NRHA is requesting a transfer of your unused volume cap for 2022 to help us continue operating the Home At Last Home Ownership Program. The program has been using previous volume cap transfers to provide that Mortgage Certificate Program, commonly referred to as the "MCC." Aside from providing homeowners with tremendous tax savings year after year for the life of the loan, the tax credits that are returned to those home buyers is money that is reinvested in your community. The MCC helps home buyers qualify for a mortgage because the estimated tax savings is considered additional qualifying income. The additional income also helps lower debt to income ratios which is helpful to those carrying anything such as student loan debt, credit card debt, etcetera. The MCC provides first time buyers or qualified veterans with a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit equal to twenty percent of the mortgage interest paid for the life of the loan as long as they continue to live in the home as their primary residence. To provide an example, adding this MCC tax credit to a \$375,000.00 mortgage with an interest rate of 5 ½ % would generate an estimated tax credit equal to \$4,100.00 in the first year of home ownership, and to break that down it is about \$341.00 additional dollars to the family a month. NRHA serves only communities that have a population under one hundred and fifty thousand, so this includes all of Nevada's fifteen rural counties plus the rural areas of Clark and Washoe Counties. I wanted to also acknowledge Ms. Lee's comment about meeting with Mr. Brewer earlier this week. He did make an update and provide Ms. Lee with information about our desire to be in Ely and to bring housing to Ely, as there is no question there is an absolute need. The question is how do we do that? Ms. Lee has indicated we tried to bring some housing in with the hospital a couple of years ago and that didn't work out. We were doing some rehabilitation work on the Bristlecone Apartments and with all the contractors in town doing that work we thought it would be a good opportunity to build some new units here. The hospital didn't move forward with that and that is ok, but we want to make that effort. We are able to do the best housing developments here when we have partnerships with municipalities and entities. We have had discussions with Robinson Mine on what a deal could look like to develop some housing with them. We want to continue to have those discussion to bring the needed housing to Ely.

Councilman Alworth stated I am glad Jennifer talked with Mr. Brewer because I was in a meeting with him, and it was terrible. There has been nothing done in this community, except for the Bristlecone Apartments which is good as there is a need there. For other housing he said there is nothing and we haven't built no other houses. I hope the word "try" will mean we will get it done. We need some help here with everyone talking about no housing and we transfer a lot of money and have not gotten anything back.

Councilman Spear moved to approve Resolution 2022-08 providing for the transfer of the City of Ely's 2022 private activity bond volume cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – *LP Insurance Services* Principal Tina Perchetti – NPAIP Representative – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and approval for payment in the amount of \$243,089.62 from fiscal year 2022-2023 funds.

Councilman Spear disclosed I will abstain from voting on this item as Tina Perchetti is my daughter.

LP Insurance Services Principal Tina Perchetti stated I trust you have all got your packets ahead of time and have had time to review them. Steven Romero has been a colleague of mine for many years with POOL/PACT and he will be giving a large portion of the presentation about coverages if you have any questions. The information in your packet should cover loss control services provided specifically by LP Insurance Services not to be confused with the overabundance of services that come from the POOL/PACT as being a member as well. You are in a unique situation partnering with LP Insurance Services and POOL/PACT where you have loss control and risk services with us and the POOL/PACT which other agencies are not able to provide. I will have Steven talk about the changes in the premium this year. I know that sounds like a large dollar amount and it is. The reason for that and the driving factor for that, was the additional properties being now insured or added to your current policy.

POOL/PACT Representative Steven Romero stated in this case we are talking about POOL. We actually have two different pools. POOL is the property liability, cyber, and environmental and PACT is the worker's compensation pool. With POOL/PACT we provide a lot of services and most of them are in regard to the risk management services that we have and the human resource services we have. We do have a sizeable e-learning platform. I was able to pull up the services that you have done for the past three years, and they have put a dollar amount to that, and it is right at about \$19,000.00 that you have utilized from the POOL within the City. The program is owned by you if you are a member of POOL/PACT. I am a broker for POOL, and I broker all the reinsurance every single week, so I go out and shop for your reinsurance to make sure we are providing the best terms and the best deals out there. Like Tina said there is an increase of about twenty percent to your premium.

Mayor Robertson asked what is the increase to our premium for because we didn't add any new buildings?

POOL/PACT Representative Steven Romero stated last year we were at \$61 million and this year we are at \$74 million in assets.

LP Insurance Services Principal Tina Perchetti stated when we went through the prerenewal process Jennifer, and I went over the value of the buildings and the replacement cost has went up if any would need to be replaced.

POOL/PACT Representative Steven Romero stated every three years you have a physical audit and that can cause an increase as well. All your property is placed in London Markets which watches trends.

Councilman Alworth asked did you talk to Janette about this increase. I vaguely remember the twelve percent and she budgeted fifteen percent.

LP Insurance Services Principal Tina Perchetti stated when we got news there was a possibility of a twelve percent increase, I sent an email and a form letter to Janette and Jennifer's office telling them that is what trends were looking like so everybody could be prepared ahead of time. There is usually ongoing communication monthly between Janette, Jennifer, and myself to make sure not just rate and renewal information is reviewed but questions on claims and coverages can be discussed too.

POOL/PACT Representative Steven Romero stated last year we did have a sizeable loss of \$267,000.00.

Councilman Alworth asked City Clerk Lee did that memo get to you in time for Janette's budget preparation?

City Clerk Lee stated yes, and as Tina said it was a twelve percent global increase at that time and was unsure what ours would be at that time, but the Treasurer did budget a fifteen percent increase.

Councilman Alworth moved to accept the renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and approve payment in the amount of \$243,089.62 from fiscal year 2022-2023 funds. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried with three ayes and one abstention from Councilman Spear.

4. Councilman Spear – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to donate up to \$200,000.00 to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows in order to establish the Murry Street Early Learning Childcare Center in the City of Ely.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated thank you for your time this evening. If anyone has any questions or comments from my presentation two weeks ago that I can address, I would be happy to.

Councilman Alworth stated I think the comments from the public pretty much sells the deal. My youngest daughter with the granddaughter that is fifteen months old lives in Spanish Springs and trying to get her into any type of daycare around other kids is impossible. I think this is an excellent possibility and I hope everything works out well with this.

Councilman Flangas asked will the Boys and Girls Club own that building.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated no it is going to be deeded over to us and if at any time we were not operating childcare out of it, it would revert back to the School District.

Councilman Flangas stated so you could get thrown out the day after you move in?

Mayor Robertson stated no, the deed is going to be a quit claim deed, correct me if I am wrong.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated it is going to be a long-term lease I am unsure of the number of years.

Councilman Flangas stated I am really not supportive of putting that kind of money into something if you are not going to be owning it.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated we will be putting the foundation money, the \$500,000.00 donation from the Mine, and we have a great partnership with the School District right now. Like Mr. Young said we operate in all of his buildings.

Councilman Flangas stated the administration of the school could change tomorrow and you don't know what will happen. When you presented a couple weeks ago it was total ownership.

Councilman Spear stated no, it never has been.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated they are going to deed it over to us as long as we continue to operate a childcare early learning center out of that building.

Mayor Robertson stated I am hearing two things; you are saying deed over, but then you also say long-term lease.

Director Of Frontier Operations and Development at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Mark Jacoby stated we are in partnership with the school district and the lease will be for an extensive amount of time as long as we operate childcare out of that building. It has not been drawn up between the School District and us, but we are currently working on it, and it has been like this since day one in talking with Adam Young and Mr. Johnson.

Mayor Robertson stated thank you for the clarification.

Councilman Flangas stated I am not against the project. I think it is great. I just want to see it being official all the way.

Councilman Spear moved to approve donating \$200,000.00 to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows in order to establish the Murry Street Early Learning Childcare Center in the City of Ely. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Spear – Councilman Alworth – Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely's behalf to secure federal and State funding.

Councilman Spear stated what I have seen today is a little more encouraging. Two weeks ago, I felt like we had been shot out of the water totally on any of these appropriations or earmarks taking place. The report today it appears that Senator Cortez-Mastos still has a couple of our earmarks in there and there is a possibility that one may be presented, which is a good thing for us.

Councilman Alworth stated we should know by next week but for sure Congressman Horsford's office did not select any of our projects.

6. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of the Ely Volunteer Fire Department Support Services Agreement establishing a cooperative relationship between the parties and a fixed contribution of \$1,500 per month paid by the City of Ely to the Ely Volunteer Fire Department for its performance of emergency support services.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to disclose that my husband is member of the Volunteer Fire Department although I don't feel this will be affecting him personally any more than any of the other members.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to disclose with my thirty-six years on the Fire Department I get certain privileges from the Volunteers so I will abstain from voting on this item.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I am very glad they came and explained this to us and I would like to see this happen because this money is spread out to provide anything that is necessary and it serves everyone.

Mayor Robertson stated I appreciate the work of our Attorney, all of the Council Members that had input, and the Volunteers that helped in cleaning this up.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve the Ely Volunteer Fire Department Support Services Agreement establishing a cooperative relationship between the parties and a fixed contribution of \$1,500 per month paid by the City of Ely to the Ely Volunteer Fire Department for its performance of emergency support services. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried with three ayes and one abstention from Councilman Alworth.

7. Council Members – Human Resources Director Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approve anti-bullying/harassment training for mayor and city council.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to include our Leadmen in this training.

City Clerk Lee stated the Leadmen have already done this training.

Councilman Spear moved to approve anti-bullying/harassment training for the mayor and city council. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to pay Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Membership Dues in an amount to be determined up to \$10,431.38.

Mayor Robertson stated this item is generated from the presentation Wesley Harper, the Executive Director, gave at our last meeting.

City Clerk Lee stated in your packet is last year's invoice for comparison purposes. It was \$2,594.55 and there was discussion at the last meeting to do some sort of an increase, but not necessarily the full ten.

Councilman Spear stated this is a four hundred percent increase and the thing that really bothers me about this is Henderson, Reno, and Sparks have no increase and Las Vegas is at \$8,000.00. I don't believe we are going to get the same amount of exposure from the Nevada League of Cities as the bigger cities that have four to five hundred thousand in their population. Who are they going to work the most for; us or them? I think we need to be a part of it, but four times the amount in dues is not good money spent. I don't know if Janette budgeted any increase?

City Clerk Lee stated we knew what the amount was, and I discussed this with her, and she did budget the full amount in case the Council wanted to do that. It is truly up to the Council. It doesn't mean the Council has to pay that much.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I agree that we need to be a part of it, but I know we are not going to get those same services and get overlooked on things because we are smaller. I thought I remember Mr. Harper saying, "whatever you can do."

Mayor Robertson stated that is certainly an option.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I think in good faith we could do a little, but maybe not the full amount.

Mayor Robertson stated I agree with something that Councilman Alworth said at the last meeting in that "the proof will be in the pudding." I think they have really staffed up and have been very responsive so far. It is hard to base something on experience you don't have yet.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated if we can come up with a number and then if we see things are really changing and when it is time to do this again, we may want to go to this number they are asking.

City Clerk Lee stated the base rate went up to \$8,500.00 and that is what is really affecting us. The base assessment for last year was \$1,290.68.

Councilman Alworth moved to take the \$10,431.38 and cut it in half to pay Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Membership Dues in an amount \$5,215.69. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Council Members - City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Tri-County Weed Control's (TCWC) proposal to the City of Ely for herbicide application within City limits during 2022 in the amount of \$5,000, to be paid by the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee stated this year they do not have entity grants. Public Works did budget \$10,000.00 for weed abatement this year.

Councilman Spear moved to accept Tri County Weed Control's (TCWC) proposal to the City of Ely for herbicide application within City limits during 2022 in the amount of \$5,000.00, to be paid by the City of Ely. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

 Council Members - City Attorney Cahoon - Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval to execute Amendment No. 2 to One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries.

City Attorney Cahoon stated we already passed amendment number one so this one is actually dividing up the recoveries from the recent settlements. I looked at the numbers and I think between now and 2038 the City will receive a maximum of \$8,600.00 from these few defendants that have settled.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve executing Amendment No. 2 to One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated you talk about the lack of housing, and I have property that I can't rent because of you people. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for a list of permitted RVs and if they are paying utilities; his request for reimbursement for the sewer problem at 681 Parker Avenue; the billing for his property located at 490 High Street; the City ever collecting in full for water, sewer and landfill services from the Historical Railroad when they owned the White Pine Trailer Park; collecting in full from Garnett Mercantile; and the damage he alleges Q & D caused when parking their vehicles over a curb stop.

10. 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 7:40 p.m. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR