

CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 14, 2022 5:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Mayor Robertson called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at 5:00 P.M.; 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 Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask
City Attorney Leo Cahoon
Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Fire Chief Pat Stork
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
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, Bodie Golla, and Shadrack Robertson.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: July 14, 2022

Print name below

Janet Lee
Samantha
Ken B...
Mark B...
George Chachas

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated sometime on July 1, 2022 my property was broken into and an outside wall was tagged at the old school. During that same time frame there was a local hotel, the Jailhouse, and Happy Garden also tagged. I am concerned the City is losing control of the downtown business district and allowing it to look like a ghetto. You have failed to replace streetlights that have been reported out and the Senior Center was also broken into. The Council has still not addressed the status of the metal bleachers in Broadbent Park, and I want to know what you plan to do with that asset. On your Mayor's Report you approved a 24-hour liquor license to Salt & "sucker", LLC who has a liquor license through the County. To qualify they need to have a City liquor license first before they can go to another location; there should be no political favors. On your agenda item 11B-7 you are to consider adopting Ordinance 746. I want to remind you the former Building Inspector did poor and shotty work on a roof installed on my building at 570 Aultman Street; the roof still leaks today. He should be liable for signing off on a poor roof job. This is a new ordinance that you approved and section 9-1-6 non-liability of the City. If the City forces me to pay for a permit and so-called protection against shotty workmanship, then the City is obligated to provide proper protection and pay for the proper repairs. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns with his request for a copy of the complaint filed on his brother's property at 842 East Aultman Street.

Janet VanCamp stated I have noticed coming down the main street the flower planters have been removed and I think that is a crime because it did a lot for the beautification of downtown. I think you should bring them back. I hope you don't get rid of the little benches.

Councilman Spear stated during Mr. Chachas public comment he continues to reference one business and it is very slanderous in what he does. The name of the business is Salt & Sucre, and he calls them Salt and "Sucker" every single time. It is Salt & Sucre and I think he needs to stop; nobody offends him and his businesses. He knows what the name is because there has been that discussion before.

George Chachas stated they suckered you buddy.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY FIRE CHIEF

City Fire Chief Stork stated Assistant Fire Chief Charles Scott has been off for fifteen months on injury and on July 7, 2022 he returned to full duty with no restrictions which put us back to full staff. On July 12, 2022 Assistant Fire Chief Bodie Golla worked his last day as he took a position with the White Pine County Sheriff's Office which put us back down one position. We put that job announcement out on June 20, 2022, and at this time we have received only one applicant. We will continue to accept applications until the 29th and decide then. With Bodie leaving there are a lot of duties that I need to transition over to other people, and I have been working with a plan. I have met with the Treasurer, Liaison, and the City Attorney to work on some more ideas and will have a more detailed plan to report on at the next meeting. Rescue 6, that is owned by White Pine County, had some warranty issues and so it is back in Utah to get those things fixed including the air conditioning which makes it essentially useless to us with the hot temperatures we have been having. I did get another ambulance from White Pine County. Chief North brought it over and we got it stocked up and back in service today. We do have three ambulances in place; one is not super reliable, but we have a plan in place. We hope to have the other one back seven to ten days.

Mayor Robertson stated I was pleased to hear of Assistant Chief Stark's performance, and it is great we got those recommendations.

City Fire Chief Stork stated this department has always had a strong presence over the years at the Nevada State firefighter's association training conference. We are the only department to win and retire the water fight trophy twice and reinstate it. The trophy has been going around the State since the fifties.

➤ **CITY CLERK**



CITY OF ELY

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

REPORT

DATE: July 14, 2022
TO: Mayor Robertson and City Council Members
FROM: City Clerk Jennifer Lee

TITLE SEARCHES

Stewart Title has informed me the title search on the Georgetown Ranch should be complete next week.

I have a request into First American Title on whether they will do the City's Belfort property title search.

GRANTS

I received notification from the EPA that our Central Ely Sewer earmark must be applied for through Grants.gov, which I had to use for our Green Up grant; they will let me know when our application can be submitted.

The BLM has requested additional information for our Green Up grant, which I have been providing to them over the past week.

The City's first CDBG hearing for prospective projects will be held at the July 28th Council meeting.

MEETINGS

I met with Nevada Rural Water's new circuit rider for the City: Danny Lofton; he has treatment plant work experience, so he should be a good resource if needed.

COMPLAINTS

To date, my office has received 29 complaints this year; 10 of those complaints remain active. With one remaining complaint from 2021, there are a total of 11 active complaints.

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

➤ **CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated the dozer is at Wheeler Machinery all torn apart and we hope to know the details of repairs next week. The truck we purchased almost two years ago is sitting in Carson City and should be here soon. This Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. law enforcement will be conducting helicopter exercises close to the armory in Broadbent Park so the park will be closed during those times, and they will have their own security.

Mayor Robertson asked did they notify the residents in that area?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I will make sure the Sheriff's Office knows

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated we have been working on environmental and SHPO requirements for our current CDBG Projects including the one in Central Ely and one on Bell Avenue. We are doing the environmental documents with the intention that it will also work for our earmark project that we have down in Central Ely. We will be able to use the time we have spent on the environmental and SHPO documents for the CDBG Projects towards the earmark requirements as part of our match. We did receive some information the other day on how our earmark is going to work and the requirements associated with that. I have been reading through it and digesting it. You can apply for a waiver for match funding; however, I don't know that we qualify for it. I don't believe we do based on my first reading of it. We did complete our Landfill aerial the end of last week so we will be working to get those quantities done to project the life of the Landfill.

This is something that is done every five years to project the life and closure of the Landfill. Now that 7-p is down to about one thousand gallons per minute (gpm) we are in a situation this summer we don't actually have water overflow in our tanks. We are getting a much better handle on what our true actual water usage is. We never really knew how to read what was overflowing from our tanks and it was hard to say what our demand was in the summer. Now that we are not overflowing the tanks, we just got our last readings from Carl, and we are starting to compile monthly usages so we can project what we actually use in the summer. We have been working with Mt. Wheeler Power with their power upgrades in East Ely on some of their power lines going through the area down there. When this is complete it looks like we will have a net reduction of power poles which is a good thing. We have a RNMC negotiation next Monday, so I have spent some time reviewing things to be prepared for that negotiation.

Councilman Spear asked on the \$3.3 million earmark that we received there are a couple of classes. Are you planning on sitting in on one of those?

City Engineer Almberg stated I can definitely sit in on one of those with Jennifer.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to disclose that I am a part-time employee of the NNRy Foundation but am not a voting member of this body and this is just a report so I will not be abstaining.

5. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT

NNRy President reviewed the following report:

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



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 June 2022

1. Locomotive Status – Updated
 - a. Locomotives in service: #81, #93, #105, #109, #204, #310, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
 - b. Locomotive 801, a very rare Baldwin VO diesel locomotive is one of only eight left in existence. Thanks to our members, staff and volunteers we were able to start her up on July 1. This is the first time she has been started in 39 years. After starting the locomotive, we were able to do test runs in the yard. There is still more to do, to make the locomotive serviceable for operations.
 - 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 and #34
 - e. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309, Kennecott 802 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
 - f. 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.
5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
 - a. In May we carried 2,927 passengers, this is a 14% increase over 2021 and was the largest June we have had in our 35 years of operation.
 - b. Year to date, we have carried 6,083 passengers, this is a 14% increase over 2021.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 336,444 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 June 2022 is $2,927 \times 80\% \times 140 = \$327,824$
Economic Impact Year To Date is $6,083 \times 80\% \times 140 = \$681,296$

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 885,859 people.
 - b. Post engagement was 239,352
 - c. We have 116,962 page likes.
 - d. 158,906 people follow our page.

8. Locomotive 801

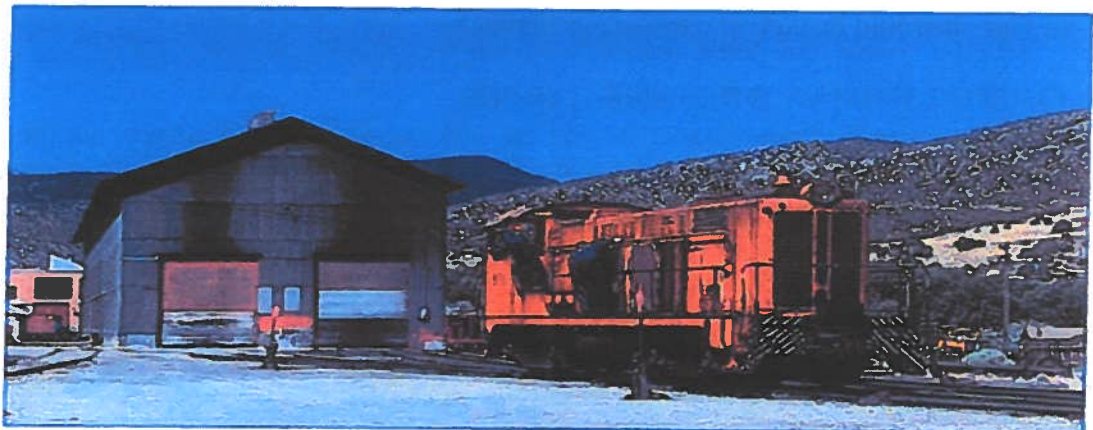


Locomotive 801 starting up for the first time in 39 years!

Locomotive 801 was hidden away in the Nevada Northern Railway engine house. She is a VO-1000 diesel-electric switcher that was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in December 1942. We figure the last time she was in operation was 1983. She was brought over from McGill and placed in the Nevada Northern Railway engine house where she patiently waited her turn at restoration. She was adopted by Con and Ron whose goal was to bring her back to life.

July 1 was the day we have all been waiting for, the moment of truth! Con was at the controls, John Henry, our master mechanic, was standing by when Con pushed the starter. The engine turned over and then white smoke started coming out of the eight stacks. Success!

We expect some hiccups, after all she is an 80-year-old locomotive that hasn't run in 39 years! Once the shop clears her for service, we will repaint her and add her to our Be The Engineer Program.



And better yet, Locomotive 801 operates! After starting her up, the staff and volunteers gave her an operational test. They ran her back and forth in the yard for a couple of hours. It turns out she is a heavy hauler with lots of get up and go! Not bad for locomotive that was built in 1942!



In celebration we had Locomotives 81 and 801 both at the coaling tower. We are one of the very rare locations that have an operating steam locomotive and diesel both built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

Councilman Flangas stated I have a question in respect of S & S in that they were to have all their equipment moved by I believe the 25th of July.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated it is the 31st of July.

Councilman Flangas asked has anything been done?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the last time we checked, which was the middle of June, there were still cars there. I will be going up there next week to see what they still have there.

Councilman Flangas asked if they are not moved by the deadline per the agreement what is going to be the penalty?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated that would be a question for the attorneys; I don't have an answer for that.

City Attorney Cahoon stated I will have to look at the agreement again and I can get back in touch with you on that.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the cars they have there are all from the same companies. They are not scattered so all they need to do is get a locomotive and pull them out onto the U.P. and they are done. My point being it is a very simple move for them to clean out their equipment. With that all being said, the railroad cars and other miscellaneous things they have scattered across the railroad if not moved by July 31st becomes property of the City of Ely and the Foundation.

6. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN FLANGAS

Councilman Flangas stated we just had our 4th of July parade and as far as I am concerned had low participation. I would like the City of Ely to encourage participation. We used to have floats, stagecoaches, horsemen, and other entries and you don't see any of that. It would be nice to retrieve our heritage.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I am still a newbie on the Council, but the Council is meaning so much more because I am learning so much more. This is such an important job and a hard job if you don't know what is going on around you. By having conversations with those in the office and my fellow Council Members I feel like I am starting to crack open that jar. I just want to say thank you to all those that run the City.

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

1. Board Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Class IV Liquor License, effective immediately, to Mindi Elyce Jensen d.b.a. *Ely Taproot, LLC.*, located at 301 Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked this is for Taproot and they will start serving alcohol?

City Clerk Lee stated the way I understand it is the remodeled back section is where the alcohol will be served.

Councilman Alworth asked does this liquor license go into effect right after we approve it tonight?

City Clerk Lee stated yes, it would go into effect tomorrow.

Councilman Alworth stated I just wonder about the one stipulation that says, "with a minimum of twelve seats." Is that a key thing they have twelve seats?

City Clerk Lee stated I will verify that.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated the twelve seats are where they are not serving the alcohol am I correct.

Councilman Spear stated they would have to be.

City Fire Chief stated it is a separate building that has a door that goes between the businesses. It is a separate business that sits to the east of Taproot.

Councilman Alworth stated so that is where the twelve seats have to be at for the liquor license?

City Fire Chief stated Craig and I still need to do final inspections prior to a business license being issued for that section.

City Clerk Lee stated this item can be approved, but they won't get the liquor license until inspections are complete.

Mayor Robertson stated I guess the question is can the Council make this approval contingent upon their business license inspections being completed?

City Clerk Lee stated yes.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve a Class IV Liquor License, effective contingent on building inspections from the City Fire Chief and City Building Official, to Mindi Elyce Jensen d.b.a. *Ely Taproot, LLC.*, located at 301 Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

THE MAYOR WILL RECONVENE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

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

1. Board Members – City Clerk Lee– Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$7,752.41 from 48 Keystone Street #1, Ruth, Nevada at the request of property owners, Novella Sorenson and Leona Rustin.

City Clerk Lee stated the Municipal Utilities Board recommended approval.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked is it ok for us to ask why or how long these penalties have accrued?

City Clerk Lee stated of course it's ok. The prior owner is deceased, and the new owner didn't accrue all these penalties. They came in and asked if there was something that could be done, and we told them they could request to have the penalties waived after they paid the principal owed, which they did.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$7,752.41 from 48 Keystone Street #1, Ruth, Nevada at the request of property owners, Novella Sorenson and Leona Rustin. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 1 with Councilman Spear voting nay

2. Board Members – City Clerk Lee– Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$4,302.82 from 8 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of property owner, Heather Harrison.

City Clerk Lee stated this is a similar situation and the Municipal Utilities Board recommended approval.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$4,302.82 from 8 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of property

owner, Heather Harrison. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 1 with Councilman Spear voting nay.

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

1. Councilman Alworth – Public Hearing - Discussion Only – Approval to remove STOP signs at the following locations – Murry Street and 1st Avenue, Murry Street and 3rd Avenue, and Murry Street and Annand Avenue.

Terri Borghoff stated I live at 994 Murry Street which is near the corner of Murry Street and 3rd Street. I understand the reasoning behind wanting to remove the STOP signs and I am not necessarily against that. My only request would be to remove only two or three so there is still something to slow people down or install speed bumps of some kind. There are a lot of kids on Murry Street especially where the street seems to get narrow and leaves room for only one car to pass when there are cars parked on both sides of the street and it is hard to see kids if they run out in the street. I would appreciate if there was some kind of measure to try and slow down the traffic.

George Chachas stated I don't have a problem with this. You pay a professional, the Police Chief to give advice and yet I am not seeing anything in the packet. Those signs were put up from his recommendation and now we are taking them down because we have changed council members.

Councilman Spear stated this information was provided in the last meeting packet.

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

1. Councilman Alworth – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove STOP signs at the following locations – Murry Street and 1st Avenue, Murry Street and 3rd Avenue, and Murry Street and Annand Avenue.

Councilman Alworth stated I appreciate Terri coming in with a thoughtful idea of speed bumps as they are easier to put in then the divots in the road. When the Sherriff was here at the last meeting, he reported over a period of time there has been no pedestrian/auto accident there. The average speed limit was 27 mph, it needs to be lower, and we need to get more patrol out there. We will study that and maybe look into ripple strips that they put up on the highway for construction. The problem with those strips is it messes up snow plowing. In my opinion people need to slow down and be aware of children. I appreciate that you came here with an issue, and you offered a solution.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I was going to say the same thing in that kids run out and there should be something to slow down traffic.

Mayor Robertson stated I think it should be noted for the record once again that we have repeatedly been told by the Sherriff and Engineer that STOP signs are not recommended to be used for speed control devices, but there are a number of other things we could look at.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the removal of STOP signs at the following locations – Murry Street and 1st Avenue, Murry Street and 3rd Avenue, and Murry Street and Annand Avenue. Councilman Spear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Spear disclosed on the July 7, 2022 bills paid included was a payment for \$243,000.00 LP Insurance and my daughters are part owners of that company so I will be abstaining from approving the payment of that bill.

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. I feel I have a just duty to approve or deny those bills.

Mayor Robertson stated I would also like to disclose that my husband is a member of the Ely Volunteer Fire Department. I don't think any of these decisions affect him independently any more than any other member of that department.

Councilman Spear asked on the veterinary bill for Eldridge Veterinary for \$1,562.00 for felines, how many cats did they do?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I would have to look and get that information to you.

Councilman Spear stated she has a very reasonable labor amount so that is a bunch.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 11A-1 Minutes and 11A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Alworth Second by: Councilman Flangas Vote: Unanimous with Councilman Spear abstaining from the July 7, 2022 bills.

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes
 - May 26, 2022
 - June 9, 2022
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - June 21, 2022
 - June 30, 2022
 - July 7, 2022

B. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Robertson stated I have had a request to move number seven up as the City Building Official has another appointment tonight.

7. Council Members – City Building Official Peterson – Discussion Only – FIRST READING: Proposed Ordinance 746 Bill No. 2022-02 updating and amending Title 9 of the Ely City Code thereby adopting operative building standards; adopting codes for residential, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, energy conservation, and an off-site modular and prefabrication construction; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

City Building Official Peterson stated this is a proposal so the County and City can have the same expectations. The one I am the proudest of is the MHI/ICC for offsite manufactured homes. The State has passed a law for municipalities to create districts that allow accessory home use such as container homes and off-site manufactured homes. I think it will be a big help creating expectations for folks.

Councilman Spear stated I have one addition I would like the Attorney to look at under 9-1-2, paragraph B in the last sentence it is gender specific, and I think it should be he/she. I think everything else looks good.

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Councilman Alworth's resignation as the City of Ely's representative on the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) effective July 7, 2022.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to respectfully rescind that resignation.

Mayor Robertson stated I am happy for you to stay if the Council wants to table this motion or reject it.

Councilman Spear moved to quash the acceptance of Councilman Alworth's resignation as the City of Ely's representative on the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) effective July 7, 2022. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Appointment of Council Member Kurt Carson as the City of Ely's representative on the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Councilman Spear moved to quash the appointment of Council Member Kurt Carson as the City of Ely's representative on the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Annual Performance Evaluation of City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask including, but not limited to consideration of character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, or physical or mental health. Possible action includes, but is not limited to, termination, suspension, demotion, reduction in pay, reprimand, promotion, endorsement, engagement, retention, or “no action.”

Mayor Robertson stated the Council is free to make comments. There were some questions and comments submitted by Councilman Alworth prior to the meeting that were delivered to the City Treasurer/HR Director for consideration and preparation.

Councilman Alworth stated I tried to keep it brief and cover everything that I could. I sat in that position for many years and actually got her involved in it. I have some knowledge on these questions so I will start off with general comments and then some recommendations that I feel need some corrections based on what is allowed. The monthly financial reports continue to reflect a positive financial growth and allow the employees to buy in on the budgets being developed. Last year after you were given additional responsibilities as the HR Director the Council approved an additional position relating to financial responsibilities and the additional employee was hired. Can you describe the additional duties you were able to hand off to that person to perform in a published job description?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated the two main duties that were part of the Treasurer's position and not in the job description were payroll and accounts payable.

Councilman Alworth asked is that working out well?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated it is working out very well.

Councilman Alworth stated I think as Des gets more and more involved in this; I think there are other things you could hand off to her. I think as we go into the future you are going to get overwhelmed. After your monthly report came out today you are going to need to put more on your assistant.

City Treasurer/HR Director stated she is taking more on and did the report today that you requested and has been learning more on Caselle.

Councilman Alworth stated I also believe some of her duties under your direction is to go downstairs and be cross trained for those jobs.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes, she is cross trained for the downstairs positions, and I think I have made it clear that I would like to train her under the HR. I have plans to have her go along with me to some of the HR Trainings.

Councilman Alworth stated with the introduction of the ARPA revenues and the hindsight always being 20/20 what would you have suggested or recommended differently to the Council?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated at this point I wouldn't have recommended or suggested any differences. This is something that is totally new to all of us and hiring Hinton Burdick to help us with it was one of the smartest things we did. They are still going to be helping me with it because there is the audit coming up soon. I will be more comfortable when the audit is done. I feel like we are doing everything the way we are supposed to be doing it. It is just going to be the stamp of approval once we get through the audit.

Councilman Alworth stated the following are areas on your improvement based on your many years of experience as the City Treasurer. Again, this is my opinion and thoughts. The budget benefits this year in almost every department were greatly understated. They follow mostly by calculated percentages of the wages and salaries. Although the budget is the best estimate, the benefits should have been more on target, but by using appropriations the budget's shortfall was corrected. Again, it was not a shortfall of money, but as I have discussed with you over a period of time it is a simple math thing.

City Treasurer/HR Director stated I feel like you know this. There are so many unknowns that can factor into this. I would love to be more accurate on these things, but it is not always going to happen.

Councilman Alworth stated the thing was on most of the benefits, I can't remember the exact department, but you had \$50,000.00 worth of wages and \$2,300.00 worth of benefits. What I am saying is we both went over those, so I understand, but to look at it when I go through and see the variance, that is why we have this financial report is to look at the variance. If it is supposed to be eleven percent variance for that period of time and you're at eighty percent, we have an issue. Again, appropriations over time take care of it, but I am just stating a visual on it; it should have been caught.

Mayor Robertson stated for the benefit of the Council and my own questioning could you elaborate on some of the variables that go into that?

City Treasurer/HR Director stated one of the big variables is on the insurance where we pay eighty percent. I always try to do a fifteen percent increase. What we don't know is the coming and going of the people, which we have had an extreme turnover in the last year. I can budget for who is there now, but whoever shows up to replace these people could be a family and I have only budgeted for a single person. The increase on our premiums could be more and I do know that Worker's Compensation went up more than I predicted so there are variables and that is why you have appropriations and augmentations available to help with these unexpected shortfalls.

Councilman Alworth stated again, for the bottom line it works out great, but for the future as you start training Des in some of this budgeting stuff it is going to be important.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I will say she hasn't agreed to that.

Councilman Alworth stated say that again, she is not interested in the financial side?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated she is not sure yet.

Councilman Alworth stated in the Water Fund the revenue account identified as a prima surcharge in my opinion was budgeted based on past years. It turns out to be one of the several skeletons that keeps surfacing from the past administrations. This account should have been researched so you know what and where the revenues were being received from. The problem was corrected. I did suggest to you that a simple schedule be developed. Again, I have done the budget and when you get into the motion of it the Water Fund is right towards the end of your financials and it is x amount every year, hasn't changed much and so you do it again, but as the skeleton popped out of the closet that should have never had a revenue budgeted in that account. We corrected the issue,

but again we get into the mechanical side of things without putting a little more thought into this. I also suggested that you develop a simple schedule for the Council's use to show what contract, agreements, long term agreements, etcetera the City has. If this was done as I suggested, I have never seen it. It is important because we have a new Council Member here and we have two new ones coming on and they are going to be overwhelmed. It is like Jerri-Lynn said there is so much to learn and when they come in, they need to know what our debt is and the whole process. If you look in the audit you will see our long-term debt but not everyone is going to know that.

City Treasurer/HR Director stated it is part of the budget that you guys approved.

Councilman Alworth stated what I am saying is that you have two new Council People coming on and they won't know that. So, I think a simple schedule just like you summarized the debt management.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I have had this conversation with Janette, and she is going to give us a class so to speak on the things we need to know. Listening to you now, you have done the job so you know much more than I would, but Janette agreed that we need to know more and agreed to do the class with us.

Councilman Alworth stated it is my opinion that you will only make changes if the changes are approved by the Council and that is some of the conflicts, we have had discussion on. According to your job description in the very last sentence it says advises the Mayor, City Council and City Clerk of current and future City financial status. It is in your job description so you can come to us and advise us, but we don't know. You look at the financials every day and you need to analyze them and say we have a problem coming up here or this, this, and this. I am trying to mentor your train of thought into something not so mundane and repetitive. The monthly financial report needs to be improved to avoid errors in calculations and spelling before printing by having another staff member look at it. I think again it is a mechanical thing that you are doing, and a creative report format change might be considered; I am not telling you to do it. A change in a person's monthly or daily paradigm should be thought over. Don't be afraid to toot your achievements. I chatted with you a long time ago about a paradigm class just to change your paradigm by taking a different road to work changes your whole train of thought. I will say the report I looked at today, thank you very much it is a very thorough report and I understand it completely. I don't know if any of my fellow Council Members discuss the financials with you like I do on a regular basis, but I feel it is our responsibility to always be aware of the financial position of the City. I encourage the open discussion and to hear your ideas. With that being said what do you consider your biggest challenge in keeping the City financially sound?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated my biggest challenge is staying on top of it and educating everybody and myself to make sure we are doing our due diligence on the purchases that we make, putting programs in place to replace big ticket items so we are not going through major break downs and having to come up with the money in hindsight. It is also working with the employees, so they have a buy in and also to invest in our employees a little bit more.

Councilman Alworth asked what would you like from the Mayor and City Council in support of your position?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I would like open communication and for any of you to come into my office and ask.

Councilman Alworth stated I am going to jump back up to the ARPA discussion. Right now, we have left over from the first tranche of money of \$830,000.00 and now we will have another \$2.65 million and that is a lot of money at almost \$4 million. Do you have a feeling like we can just coast because we can use it anywhere?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated no because it is not sustainable. The whole purpose was, and the goal is to give the majority back to the community. The way we have chosen to record it, it ends up in our ending fund balance. It is money in the General

Fund that the City gets to spend. I have put \$2 million plus into the Community Support Expense Account to be used for the community. I don't feel like we are cruising and what we do in the end hopefully will be for the betterment of the community and anything we do needs to be sustainable.

Councilman Alworth stated I have had some residents say hey, you got all that money can you come and spend it over here. We have a process in place now and I am sure hoping you will stand your ground for that comment you just made. For example, the idea that I threw out there about the fuel tax. What the heck it is going to help the public on some of the roads; this is some of the worries I have about all this money because this is a once in a million years for the City of Ely to do this. I have discussed it with you and the Mayor in that we have to do something for the people of the City. We can't get blinders and look at all the other stuff going on. It is a comforting feeling in that the City has never had this kind of money.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated no, we haven't and quite honestly you can throw suggestions at me, and I am happy to listen to them, but what I need you guys to understand is I am doing two jobs here and it's going to take some time. I prioritize what I am doing, and it doesn't always mean what you want you are going to get instant gratification; I can't promise that, but will do what I can, which is always going to be what is best for the City.

Councilman Alworth stated now for the HR side of things. Dealing with both sides of the Collective Bargaining Units for the City have been very successful in reaching agreements in a timely manner; kudos to you as that can't be a pleasant thing. I for one do not have enough feedback on exactly what you do in this area to make comments or recommendations. Once again, creativity and preparing a summary of staff would be beneficial to at least myself showing what you are doing in this area of HR. The report you put out today was spot on. We are having a hard time keeping employees employed and the Fire Chief is having a horrible time and that is a specialized thing. With this report we get an idea that we are having turnover and can try to figure out why. Is it lack of dinero? You would think job security would be a plus. The fact of the turnover rate and you mentioning you want to expand your knowledge were things that didn't really surprise me about the time you are putting into the HR side because one little complaint takes a lot of time. Fifty to sixty percent of your time is spent on HR and that is why I highly recommend pushing more off on Des because she is very capable in my opinion. I am talking about the financial side, so you have more time on the HR side because you know as well as I do financials are money coming in and going out and the bottom line is either what you made or lost. Is there anything the Mayor or City Council can do to support you in this position?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated as long as you guys are willing to continue to let me do training that I have been doing. I do want to mention I have been doing training since you started me back in 2007 so I have a lot of years and a lot of training. I plan on taking a refresher course and continue with training to broaden my knowledge.

Councilman Alworth stated with all this training it pulls you away from the financial side of things.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I have an audit coming up in September so I will be putting a whole lot more time into the financials. The whole thing with COVID, the economy, and the job market out there I feel we need to look at that a little harder and see what we can do. I feel like we are not even near competing with the mine, we are more competing with McDonalds right now.

Councilman Alworth stated I understand that, but McDonalds is a worldwide corporation and has lots of money, we have very little money and I know you understand that. I think that is why the department heads are encouraging to work smarter not harder and I don't see any waste out there. Again, a report from HR should give the Council something to think about on why we are having such a turnover. Are there any questions you have for us?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I would like a raise.

Mayor Robertson stated before we get to that part are there any other comments from Council Members they would like to add?

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I would like to say I appreciate the time you are spending with me to understand. Also, Jim is very knowledgeable, and it is nice to hear him talking about all the things you do so well, and it is nice to give kudos to the people that keep us afloat. I concur with Jim in if there is something we haven't thought about or you want us to do let us know. I know you are always looking for things that fit us and meet the needs that we have so thank you for that.

Councilman Alworth stated I know it is easy for someone to read a report and critique it. I know you are keen and sharp on your job, but if you see something when you are looking through the budget and see a big variance; analyze it and say we need to look at this. I might have under budgeted, but it is going to kick us in the rear later down the line.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I am sure when I did this year's budget, I was definitely looking at that, so hopefully I got it corrected.

Councilman Spear stated I think she is doing a tremendous job for the job that she has. She sits in some pretty tough spots at times, and it is not always fun. I think you are doing a good job Janette.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to commend as well. I think some of our biggest successes not only in your department, but all of our departments are how well our appointed officials delegate and get information from those people working in their departments. Like Jim said empowering our departments to help with the budget and to bring that information in I think makes our budgeting process so much more successful than it has been in prior administrations. Kudos to you for being able to do that. I see firsthand you are offloading a lot of stuff to the clerk's downstairs and to Des and making sure they are responsible for their areas of work which frees you up to some extent. It has been a hard year like you said with bobbing and weaving with COVID, turnover, and all these things that have come into play not only in our finances but in how we deal with it through HR and how it effects our workforce. It has taken a job that is already on the verge of being too much and making it quite a horse of another color some days. All the training and using the resources you have at your disposal such as Leo and POOL/PACT is key, and I am glad to see how well you guys have been using that. How much of a raise are you looking at?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated my last raise was when I got promoted to Treasurer/HR Director when that got put into place last year. The minimum to maximum range per year is \$60,000.00 to \$85,000.00. I am currently making \$64,000.00 due to having prior experience with the HR. The midway amount would be \$72,500.00 and I was going to ask for \$70,000.00.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated my background is in education and we cannot fill our educational spots. When we find good people, we need to pay them. We talk about turnover and obviously people need to be paid good money because we are in competition with everyone else. When we have people that are doing the job, I think when they come to us and ask for things that are reasonable and if we want them to stay and continue, we need to oblige them if we can. I agree with an increase to \$72,500.00 as you have been doing this a long time. That still gives you a ways to go, but I know we have had this conversation in that sometimes we can never pay people what they are worth, but we honor people with what we can.

Councilman Spear asked what was your original request going to be?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated \$70,000.00.

Councilman Spear stated I am ok with the \$72,500.00 because the top was \$82,500.00.

Mayor Robertson stated that is a twelve percent increase to what you are making now?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I didn't figure the percentage.

Councilman Alworth asked is it in the budget?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated no.

Mayor Robertson asked what was in the budget?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated three percent which would have been around \$66,000.00, but as we all know we have hired other people in the past couple of years and it was not in the budget, and we managed to work it out.

Councilman Spear stated I think that is a very reasonable request, Janette.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated keep in mind my wages are split four ways between Enterprise Funds and the General Funds.

Mayor Robertson stated \$70,000.00 would be about an eight and a half percent increase.

Councilman Alworth stated the one thing I requested, you read it to me, but I wish the Attorney would have given me the split that I asked for, so I knew what your last raise was.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated my last raise was...

Councilman Alworth stated I know, but I asked him to give that to me, so I had something to look at. Here I am again looking at what you are telling me. It is the fault of the Attorney in my opinion.

City Attorney Cahoon stated I don't recall you asking for that.

Councilman Alworth stated I sent you an email and I will send it again to you tomorrow. I said it would be nice to have it on hand when we got to this discussion, so we know how much and when the last raise was.

City Attorney Cahoon asked why would I be the point of contact for that?

Councilman Alworth stated because you were the one who sent the email out about doing this closed personnel session.

City Attorney Cahoon stated that was in regard to the notice. Why would I know her past raise? That would be a question for another department, not my department.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I did bring this and handed the document to Councilman Alworth.

Mayor Robertson asked that is the ranges?

Councilman Alworth asked how did you find out, because I thought you said Jim asked for something.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated it was part of my notice I got.

Councilman Alworth stated ok how did she get that in the notice Mr. Attorney if you didn't know about it?

City Attorney Cahoon stated it was in her notice.

Councilman Alworth stated and who sent her the notice?

City Attorney Cahoon stated I did, but I don't have an answer to that question, and I don't know why you are asking me that.

Councilman Alworth asked how did she know that I was going to ask about this? It was part of the notice about wages. I sent you my comments and then a day later I emailed you and said it would be nice to know what her last raise, present wages, midpoint, etcetera.

City Attorney Cahoon asked why would I know what her present wage would be?

Councilman Alworth stated because you would ask her to do what she did right here.

Mayor Robertson stated if the Council would like to see that prior to awarding a raise we could have that at the next meeting.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated when I was hired in 2019 and started at \$55,000.00 because that was the maximum for the treasurer position and then when I took on the HR position, I got a raise to \$64,000.00.

Mayor Robertson asked you haven't had a raise since then until the one you are asking for right now?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated yes.

Councilman Alworth stated this position is so important to the City and we have already seen what happens when we had a mass evacuation in 1999 of educated people in the City. The City almost went under and we have that back in line. She is very knowledgeable about what she has done and the midpoint at \$72,500.00 is fine, I like that. I think she is well worth it and the good thing about it if I feel she is slipping we will call another personnel session. I don't think that will happen, but we have that ability.

Mayor Robertson stated I would tend to agree with the comments from Councilwoman Williams-Harper and I have had discussions with HR Director Trask in that making sure the City is consistently increasing what they pay so when we do have to replace people we are not looking at a huge jump.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to add one more comment. I am glad you never brought up the survey of how you compare to Wendover, Elko, and Vegas or wherever. It is the darndest thing; we are out here completely different from Wendover, Elko, and Vegas so I am glad you never went out and did one of those surveys because they don't mean anything to me in the position you are doing here. We just have to look at what we need in our City.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the Annual Performance Evaluation of City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask including an increase to her salary to \$72,500.00 annually. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Councilman Flangas – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to issue a bid invitation for the City's antique playground toys OR select alternative disposition method(s).

Councilman Flangas stated this came up regarding the question of what we are going to do with the old equipment when we get money to redo the Broadbent Park. I would like to see them go to the Murry Street school if they could use them.

Mayor Robertson stated for clarification Councilman Flangas, and Mike if you could participate here, this is the original equipment that came out of Broadbent Park and the items we had to take out of Jack Caylor Park such as the horses? I like the idea of donating if some place could use it, but I am also concerned they might not take it due to insurance issues.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated it costs more insurance wise because you have to have certified people to install the equipment, it can't just be City employees, or it will mess up the school's contract. I just want to make sure that Ernie understands that playground equipment for schools is a big sore and costs so much. The insurance has to approve it and we always end up going out and buying brand new playground equipment so it will be insured and the people that we buy it from have to have insurance, and they have to install it. Lawsuits from playground equipment not being properly installed is a nightmare.

Councilman Flangas stated I understand that, but if there was somewhere that wasn't a school or a park that might accept it. I don't like to see something worth while just junked.

Mayor Robertson asked have we had anyone approach the City that is interested in those items?

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated no because nobody knows about them.

Mayor Robertson stated for the benefit of the Council what would the process be of selling them?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I assume we would do a silent bid auction for the items.

Councilman Flangas stated that is a great idea.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to have a silent bid to give the public a chance to buy these wonderful things. Councilman Flangas 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.

There was not an update at this time.

6. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of 2022 Debt Management Policy and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated this is a yearly document that has to be done that shows our debt. I got a hold of USDA today and they will be paid off by the end of the month which includes the ambulance and the fire station. The ladder truck has already been paid for.

Councilman Spear stated on the second page under the current debt position I didn't really understand what that first sentence, it says, "Direct net tax-supported debt consists of debt services consists of debt serviced.... What is that supposed to say, and can we condense that somewhere?"

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated I have just been going off of what has been there for a long time. I will fix that.

Councilman Spear moved to approve the 2022 Debt Management Policy and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan with mentioned correction. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 10-1 and 10-2 you approved removing penalties on past due utilities on 48 Keystone Street #1 in Ruth and 8 Avenue A in McGill. I support the consideration, but the Council is discriminating it its actions. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding if the City ever collected in full for water, sewer and landfill services from the Historical Railroad when they owned the White Pine Trailer Park; if the City collected in full

from Garnett Mercantile; if the City collected from former Mayor Bob Miller for licensing fees and utilities; and his requested list of RVs permitted in the City and if they are paying utilities.

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

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **6:27 p.m.** Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST