



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
[Cityofelynv.gov](http://Cityofelynv.gov)

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 26, 2023, 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 5:01 P.M.; led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Terrill Trask
- Councilman Kurt Carson
- Councilwoman Samantha Elliott
- Councilman Jim Alworth
- Councilwoman Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper

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

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask
- Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Building Official Craig Peterson
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon (Zoom)
- City Municipal Court 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, and Michael Couch.

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: January 26, 2023

Print name below

Print name below

George Chachas  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
TONY GONZALEZ

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Robertson stated as a reminder this public comment is for items related to the agenda and if you have other items you would like to comment on you can do that at the public comment at the end of the meeting.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 6B-3 regarding the possible \$300,000.00 donation to the Ely Shoshone Tribe to complete their Townhouse project; I support that, on the condition of my request to be on the next agenda for approval of a \$300,000.00 grant to complete my Georgetown Project on High Street. I want equal access to federal funding. On your agenda item 6B-2 you are to consider Ely Shoshone Tribe's request for \$260,000.00 donation to complete its Life Center and I support that request as long as you put me on the next agenda for a \$250,000.00 donation to compensate me for lost revenue when I am not allowed to rent my property and not being granted permits as others were allowed. On your agenda item 6B-1 on the suggested revision by Councilman Carson that is a farse. What is suggested and written selectively implies and potentially discriminates against certain people in the City; you need to change that. You need to change the public comment to all items and not just agenda items because you are restricting people you serve.

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

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the agenda with the removal of items B-2 and B-3 under new business and have them put on the February 9, 2023 agenda. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

➤ **CITY FIRE CHIEF**

City Fire Chief Stork stated we have been out today cleaning around fire hydrants. We did from 7<sup>th</sup> Street all the way through Central Ely, High Street, and Lyons Avenue. The question I have is the hydrants on the business' property, do those belong to the business owner or the City of Ely because I have heard both.

Mayor Robertson asked can you give us an example of one?

City Fire Chief Stork stated for example there is one at McDonald's in their yard and you can barely see the top of it sticking out of the snow. They have plowed all their snow to the corner of that lot which hides that hydrant. We cleared out the one by La Fiesta today. I know when Ridleys did those it was up to the business owners to put them in, but I don't know if it then reverts back to the City.

Councilman Alworth stated that is a good question.

Mayor Robertson stated my understanding is yes, the businesses put them in, but just like curb and gutter they become the property of the City. I don't know for sure. We will have to talk to Leo and get a better answer on that.

City Fire Chief Stork stated we don't want to waste all of our resources if it is the responsibility of the property owner. Can we send them a letter to remind them to clean around them? I know the Volunteers have put something on Facebook, we have been cleaning around them, and Jim has gone and cleaned some out too. Mineral Heights were really buried, and I got a hold of the County Public Works, and they went yesterday and got all of those dug out.

Mayor Robertson stated we will look into that.

➤ **MUNICIPAL JUDGE COSTER**

Municipal Judge Coster stated I was able to complete my annual required training with the Judiciary this week, concluding today.

➤ **CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**

City Public Works Supervisor stated we were supposed to have the parts by tomorrow for the lift station and now they are saying they will be shipped on February 8<sup>th</sup>. On the

dozer at the Landfill the pump has been back ordered and there is not a date on when that will be delivered.

Councilman Alworth asked who is going to repair the lift station?

City Public Works Supervisor stated it will have to be hired out and Mountain Land Plumbing out of Cedar City will do the work.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Alberg stated we got our SHPO approval for our CDBG Project in Central Ely and Bell Avenue. We will package it up with our EA and ship it off to CDBG and I think that approval will go pretty well; we will then be waiting for the weather to clear. Once we get the EA approved, CDBG will approve us to get to work on that. On the Aultman Street Project, as I have expressed before, I am working with them on reimbursement on those improvements that will go along with this project. They are required to pay because our infrastructure is older than theirs. They are anticipating they will have that contract back to us by the first meeting in March to get approval on that.

Mayor Robertson asked where is the historic sewer plaque that has to be mounted going?

City Engineer Alberg stated it will go at the end of Murry Street on a display post as required by SHPO to report the history of that sewer line we just replaced.

Councilman Alworth stated it is pretty interesting and a nice read.

**5. REPORTS**

➤ **COUNCILMAN ALWORTH**

Councilman Alworth stated I will be putting an agenda item on for the next meeting to discuss what we can do with the excess snow. City Public Works Supervisor is under a lot of scrutiny of where he is putting the snow. This is abnormal from what we have had for the last fifteen years, but we need to find places to put the excess snow because it is causing issues in certain parts of the community.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN ELLIOTT**

Councilwoman Elliott stated I attended the Natural Resource Board Meeting and the Emergency Planning Meeting this week, but nothing to report on those.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated I was invited to Washington D.C. for Senator Cortez Masto's swearing in, and I was happy to go. I had some good conversation with Senator Masto and also Senator Rosen. I also ran into Congressman Amodei and we talked for a minute. I think things are going great and we have a real responsive group. I think we have some good political footing to get some things done at the State and federal level.

**6. 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.

Mayor Robertson stated my spouse is a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and is not treated any differently than any of the others so I will not be abstaining, and I also don't vote.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 6A-1 Bills.

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

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills

- January 10, 2023

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review and approval of draft mission statement and survey to be distributed to City employees for input.

Councilman Carson stated the current mission statement is six or seven years old and definitely needs to be revised. The former Council put the last one together and I feel like the staff really stepped up to the plate this time and have a desire to revise it. I think they are off to a good start, and I am interested to see what they come up with.

Mayor Robertson stated I think that is a great suggestion to send it out to staff as well to see what input they have.

Councilman Carson stated this Council will come and go and staff really needs to take pride in it and have something to follow. I think it is a great idea.

Councilman Alworth asked will we be able to ask questions of what they came up with and the intent behind it?

Councilman Carson stated absolutely.

City Clerk Lee stated the one provided is just a starting point. It could be completely scrapped if the Council thinks there are better ways to say what you want. At the end of the day you are trying to convey what the Council is trying to accomplish in this City with what we do.

Councilman Trask stated I personally would like to see it shortened. If they are going to be invested, which I think they will be, I want them to have it on the top of their head so they know what that mission is. I like where we are going with it and I think the intent is good, but just needs shortened up.

Councilman Carson stated I think the idea behind this is to let people know what the City is liable for and what they do.

Councilman Carson moved to send out the survey to staff for further input and table the approval of the draft Mission Statement at this time. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Councilman Alworth – Councilwoman Elliott– Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely’s behalf to secure federal and State funding.

Councilwoman Elliott stated we met again with Cameron and there is the Raise Grant and some various other avenues of money that we are going after. He also sent everything that has been awarded so we are going to go through that with our group and see what other things we can apply for, for the City.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated your Planning Commission Staff are not sending out meeting agendas in a timely manner. I got my notice on the evening of January 18<sup>th</sup> by mail and the meeting was held that evening. I missed the meeting because I was not notified in a timely manner and didn’t receive a courtesy call as others have gotten in the past. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for the name of the individual that owns the thirty properties that Councilman Alworth referenced in a past meeting; his request for a permit to park his vehicle behind the curb at his property on Great Basin Boulevard; not being able to use his properties as others are allowed and feels the City is trying to force him to sell or go broke paying taxes; the trailer park that he feels is still not compliant; his request for a list of permitted RVs in the City and if they are paying utilities; Jennifer Lee’s fence encroaching on the City sidewalk; the encroachment by Q & D on Avenue L and M; his request to have a copy of the complaint filed on his brothers property located at 842 Aultman Street; and the ADA access at 894 East Aultman Street, which is a closed business.

**8. 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 **5:22 p.m.** Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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MAYOR

  
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ATTEST

