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## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cynthia Davis stated on items 5 and 6 I am curious if you grant the Ely Shoshone Tribe this money what fund will it be coming from?

Mayor Robertson stated this is public comment so there is no responding at this time.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 6B-3 regarding the possible \$300,000.00 donation to the Ely Shoshone Tribe to complete its townhouse project; I support that and had requested that you put me 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 7B-5 you are to consider the Ely Shoshone Tribe's request for a \$260,000.00 donation; I support that request and I requested that you put me on the next agenda for consideration of a \$250,000.00 donation to compensate me for the lost revenue where I was not allowed to rent my property and not being granted permits as others were allowed. The donation would allow me to complete my life center. On your agenda item 7B-9 you are to consider a \$25,000.00 grant to the Railroad Foundation to pay for a consulting group to write a Raise Grant and this needs to be denied. The Railroad needs to pay their own expenses. They do not operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law, and they spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' monies, but they fail to show how it is spent. They have a nepotism problem with Mr. Bassett being the manager and his wife being the bookkeeper. The rumor of tens of thousands being embezzled has yet to be answered. Councilman Alworth and Councilwoman Williams-Harper cannot fairly represent the Railroad and the City's interests at the same time.

Mayor Robertson asked Mr. Chachas please keep your comments to the agenda items.

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

Councilman Carson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **➤ CITY PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I just want to bring you up to date on the lift station. It started off bad this morning as our pump quit working, so we called the mine, and they brought down a pump and to get everything back up and going. The company working on the pump will be here tomorrow and the parts showed up today so hopefully by next Wednesday everything will be back up and running. As far as the landfill dozer, there is no oil pump in site so not sure if we are going to get it.

Councilman Alworth asked is it just the pump we are after and is it because it is an old dozer?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated we have had the motor and the transmission rebuilt, but they can't get an oil pump. Wheeler Machinery's website under parts doesn't even show it anymore. They told us not to worry, they will put something together to make it work. They just don't know when that will be, and it is because of the age.

### **➤ CITY BUILDING OFFICIAL**

City Building Official Peterson stated I was contacted by rPlus Energies this week and they have submitted their final application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the pumped storage project so we will continue to monitor that. The County has budgeted for a new vehicle which is a plus. Beans and Brews is moving along quite well, and I have been contacted by another development firm that is looking at doing another convenience store/RV Park on the other side of the Holiday Inn. I look forward to a little more development.

## **5. NNRY FOUNDATION REPORT**

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to disclose I am a part time employee of the Foundation, but this is not an action item, and I don't vote.

NNRY President Mark Bassett 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](http://www.nnry.com) • E-mail: [info@nnry.com](mailto:info@nnry.com)

**Monthly Operations Report for January 2023**

1. Locomotive Status – No change
  - a. Locomotives in service: #81, #105, #109, #204, #310, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Locomotive 93 is out-of-service. She needs repairs to her valve chest.
  - c. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2024.
  - d. Locomotive 801 still needs some work to bring her into compliance with modern locomotive standards.
  - e. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201 and #34
  - 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 – Updated
  - 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. Caboosees in service: #3 and #22 are operational.
  - d. Caboosees out service: #5 and #6. Caboose #6 needs a 50-year waiver.
4. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In January we carried 137 passengers, this is a 10% increase compared to 2022.
  - b. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 347,965 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 January 2023 is  $137 \times 80\% \times 140 = \$15,344$   
Economic Impact Year To Date is  $137 \times 80\% \times 140 = \$15,344$   
These numbers only reflect the economic impact of our train passengers and does not include visitors who did not ride the train.
7. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand, in the last 28 days:
  - a. We reached 5,338,329 people.

**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

- b. Post engagement was 1,134,164.
- c. We have 129,485-page likes.
- d. 177,414 people follow our page.

**8. Major Event**

On January 10, 2023 our beloved shop cat, Dirt passed away. The out pouring of support have been phenomenal. Because of all of the interest, we are having Dirt Memorial Day on May 28, 2023. We are having two bronze statues made one for over his gravestone (Dirt is buried on the grounds) and the second will be in the machine shop.





## 6. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN ELLIOTT

Councilwoman Elliott stated I went to Reno last weekend and attended a training for newly elected officials which was helpful and beneficial. I also attended an eclipse meeting that will be happening on October 14, 2023.

### ➤ COUNCILMAN ALWORTH

Councilman Alworth read the following report into the record:

State of the Street Department  
Mid-Year 2022-2023  
Ending 1/31/2023

As the Liaison for the City of Ely Street Department I am providing this report to inform not only the Council and Mayor but also the citizens of our fine City the efforts being put forth to maintain and improve the 52 miles of streets in the City.

Budgeted revenue to fund the department are as follows:

• Gasoline Fuel Tax	\$ 168,596
• County Road Contribution	\$ 22,540
• Robinson Mine Storm Drain	\$ 20,000
• Public Transit Funding (P/T)	\$ 605,150
• RTC Funding	\$ 996,028
• Miscellaneous	\$ 900
• General Fund Transfers	<u>\$ 80,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,893,214

Take note that Public Transit contributions cannot be used for labor expenses. Currently and in the past the RTC revenue is being used to fund special street projects for material, contractors, engineering, etc. As of this update no City employee wages have been expensed from the RTC revenue. Robinson Mine revenue is to help maintain the storm drains where the dewatering from the Robinson Mine flows through. County contribution is just that, money contributed by White Pine County Road Dept.

The Street Department has 3 employees with a budget for labor costs in the amount of \$276,634. Simple math will prove the gasoline fuel tax alone, will not cover labor costs for the 3 employees. The shortfall between gasoline tax collected (\$168,596) and labor cost (\$276,634) is budgeted to be \$108,038. My projections are this shortfall will increase before year end.

The Street Dept. for the first 5 months, beginning July 2022 performed their duties as outlined in their budget. November started the winter season with the first snowstorm of size hitting the City on election day, giving the crew time to familiarize themselves with the streets when plowing. However, Mother Nature was getting ready to test their grit and determination by lining up a series of Atmospheric Rivers to hit our area with snow, rain followed by freezing temperatures along with more snow followed by a short warming trend with additional rain with more freezing temperatures. The 3-man crew performed outstanding, proving to Mother Nature that working long hours, being called out to work and being away from their families they can handle what she dishes out in order to keep the streets open for emergency services, home deliveries of on-line orders, postal services, trash pickup and the delivery of home heating fuels along with the streets plowed for the citizens.

Mother Nature blasted us on New Year's Eve with a snowstorm that hasn't been seen in our area probably for a decade. Deep snow along with blowing winds caused amazing drifts. The battle was set for our Road crew, and they took on the battle, giving up holidays and working long hours once again. The City Clerk reported, it was time to call for "All hands-on deck" to join the effort. Unfortunately, we

could only get 2 additional City employees with CDL's to join in. As most everyone witnessed, the effort was working, clearing, and hauling snow from the streets. But Mother Nature did it again and again, more snow and winds causing drifts throughout the City. A swarm of citizens helped attacking the problem with their plow mounted ATV's cleaning paths, sidewalks and driveways for the folks who were snowed in. This group were invaluable to the citizens after the snowplows passed, in helping clear blocked driveways, etc. Alley use was almost completely shut down and would have to be addressed later.

The crews quickly ran out of areas to haul the snow for disposal. City Hall and the Public Works Supervisor started receiving complaints about snow being dumped on empty private property lots, resulting with the crews having to haul the loaded snow outside the City to dump on areas NDOT approved for them to use. As usual, in a matter of time, there will always be folks that deem it ok to push snow from private properties back into the street that was clear of snow, causing hazards and extra work. In one incident, the individual was confronted about this practice by the Public Works Supervisor and things got heated. The situation was defused but it should have never got out of hand. This is a violation of a City Municipal code, to push snow into the City streets. Mother nature will have the last say after the snow is cleared and warmer weather arrives the streets will have plenty of potholes.

Back to the shortfall of gasoline tax verses labor costs. White Pine County pursued and were able to have the State collect and remit to the County .05 cents on every gallon of diesel fuel sold in the County and City. For F/Y years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 there has been an average of \$375,000 per year collected from this diesel fuel tax, the current F/Y years is also expected to receive \$375,000. This revenue is being recorded into the RTC budget for use by both the County Road Dept. and City Street Dept. This fuel tax, like all gasoline taxes can be used for labor expenses as well as contracts for RTC projects. The unaudited diesel fuel tax fund balance as of January 31, 2023, is \$1,512,124 with additional revenue forthcoming.

As in past years, the General Fund transferred funds into the Road Fund to keep it fiscally responsible. As you can see in the one spread sheet I included, the amount being transferred is increasing yearly and I am projecting this transfer to exceed the budgeted amount of \$80,000. My estimate is closer to \$140,000. This being based on the snowstorms labor expense. The use of Landfill diesel fuel is also needed to be properly back charged to the Street Dept. What are the true costs to manage the Street Dept? In my opinion, it is not proper to use enterprise funds to subsidize the operations of other departments.

Diesel motor fuel is sold in the City of Ely, McGill and in the Baker area. Where are the most gallons pumped? Are there other ways to fund and support our Street Dept. other than transfers from the General Fund which take away from the operation of the City? Question is, can the City secure additional financial assistance to cover the shortfall between the gasoline tax and labor costs by using the \$.05 cents diesel fuel tax? This current year's snow event expense was not budgeted and there could be a possibility to have this unbudgeted expense receive additional funding. This funding request would not be reimbursable till F/Y end to ensure a more accurate dollar amount and hopefully it would carry on into future years.

STREET FUND

FUEL TAX REVENUE VERSES WAGES AND BENEFITS EXPENSE

Gas Tax Revenue	Fiscal Year Ending 2022	Fiscal Year Ending 2021	Fiscal Year Ending 2020	Fiscal Year Ending 2019	Fiscal Year Ending 2018
2.35 cent	\$ 123,927	\$ 123,407	\$ 120,138	\$ 124,003	\$ 123,927
1.00 cent	\$ 30,116	\$ 30,789	\$ 28,155	\$ 30,827	\$ 28,595
1.75 cent	\$ 13,155	\$ 15,522	\$ 13,491	\$ 14,664	\$ 17,985
Total	\$ 167,198	\$ 169,718	\$ 161,784	\$ 169,494	\$ 170,507
Less: Wages/Benefits	\$ 250,078	\$ 217,085	\$ 204,642	\$ 242,586	\$ 220,517
Shortfall	\$ (82,880)	\$ (47,367)	\$ (42,858)	\$ (73,092)	\$ (50,010)
Transfer from G/F	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -

2022-2023

STREET FUND

FUEL TAX REVENUE VERSES WAGES/OVERTIME & BENEFITS EXPENSE

2022-2023	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	*June/EOY	Act./Est.	Budget	Variance
Gas Tax Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Actual Revenue	Est. Revenue	Est. Revenue	Est. Revenue	Est. Revenue	Est. Revenue	Total	Total	
Received for month of:	July	Aug./Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June/EOY				
2.35 cent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,327	\$ -	\$ 20,654	\$ 10,327	\$ 10,327	\$ 10,327	\$ 10,327	\$ 10,327	\$ 10,327	\$ 30,981	\$123,925	\$ 123,927	\$ (2)
1.00 cent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,538	\$ -	\$ 4,964	\$ 2,499	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,431	\$ 7,893	\$30,983	\$ 31,577	\$ (594)
1.75 cent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,061	\$ -	\$ 2,061	\$ 1,116	\$ 972	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,091	\$ 3,273	\$12,047	\$ 12,091	\$ (244)
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,947	\$ -	\$ 27,679	\$ 14,138	\$ 13,648	\$ 14,049	\$ 14,049	\$ 14,049	\$ 14,049	\$ 42,147	\$ 167,755	\$ 168,596	\$ (841)
Wages	\$ 22,498	\$ 13,851	\$ 14,039	\$ 15,088	\$ 14,096	\$ 22,081	\$ 15,233	\$ 14,836	\$ 14,836	\$ 14,836	\$ 14,836	\$ 14,836	\$ 191,066	\$ 178,037	\$ 13,029
Benefits	\$ 10,277	\$ 7,369	\$ 7,746	\$ 7,948	\$ 7,555	\$ 10,589	\$ 8,486	\$ 7,858	\$ 7,858	\$ 7,858	\$ 7,858	\$ 7,858	\$ 99,260	\$ 94,297	\$ 4,963
Overtime	\$ 265	\$ 884	\$ 896	\$ 530	\$ 636	\$ 759	\$ 9,887	\$ 358	\$ 358	\$ 358	\$ 358	\$ 358	\$ 15,807	\$ 4,300	\$ 11,507
Total	\$ 33,040	\$ 22,104	\$ 22,781	\$ 23,566	\$ 22,347	\$ 33,429	\$ 33,606	\$ 23,052	\$ 23,052	\$ 23,052	\$ 23,052	\$ 23,052	\$ 306,133	\$ 276,634	\$ 29,499

\* 2 months of revenues are received in the next fiscal year and reversed in year end entries to be properly recorded in correct year.

Shortfall \$ (138,378) \$ (108,038)

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to note the City Treasurer and myself will be meeting with the County Financing Director tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to talk about an issue with the RTC funding. In Fiscal year 2018 and 2019 in my opinion the financial condition of the City was the worst it has ever been. When some other staff and I left the budget balance was around \$800,000.00 and it got down to just over \$200,000.00, a new regime came in and it went the other way. In Fiscal Year 2018 the short fall the City had to fund was around \$50,000.00, in 2019 it was up to \$73,092.00, it started coming down with a change in management to \$42,858.00, in year ending 2021 it was \$47,367.00, and the fiscal year we just went through the shortfall was \$82,880.00. They go through and make the transfers, but a lot of times the transfers are not going to do it. When you look at the overtime and wages spreadsheet you can see when the storms started. The City Management Team needs to come up with a way to try and alleviate taking money from the General Fund every year to subsidize the Street Fund, it is just not working. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been transferred over the years and I think there is a way for us to go outside the box, work this over, and not be stuck in a paradigm of this is how we have always done it and we don't want to rock the boat. We have to rock the boat because our citizens deserve better, and we need accountability and not just going with the flow. I will say we have great guys on the Road Department and for our fifty-two miles they have done an outstanding job.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I am part of the Career Technical Education Program, and we want our students to learn how to use some of the newest equipment that is out there. One of the things we have been talking about is we can't find people with CDL's, and we have kids that want to learn. I plan to come to you all in the spring with a plan. We went to the marketplace to see what was out there and I hope at some time we are going to find money to buy some of the equipment that they can learn how to

use right there in the schools. I also attended a meeting as being part of the Railroad Commission working out some issues with the City and the State and those things aren't settled yet, but they are in the works.

**7. 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 7A-1 Minutes and 7A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Alworth Second by: Councilman Trask Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes

- January 12, 2023
- January 26, 2023

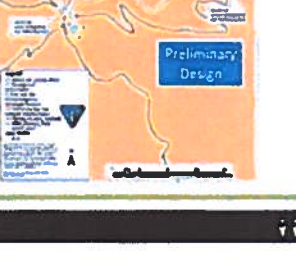
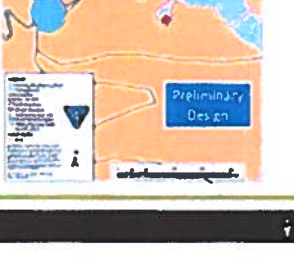
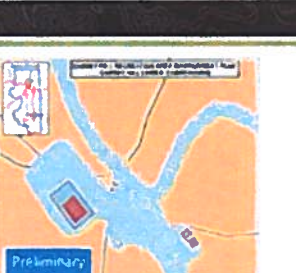

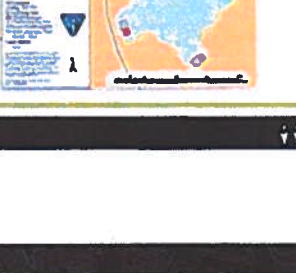

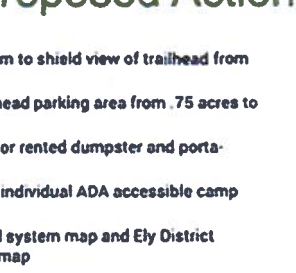
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.

- January 24, 2023
- January 27, 2023
- February 3, 2023




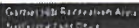






<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Garnet Hill Trailhead and Campgrounds Overview</b></p>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Garnet Hill Trailhead Day Use and Outdoor Educational Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade structures</li> <li>• Vault Toilet</li> <li>• Dumpster</li> <li>• Outdoor Classroom/Educational Area</li> <li>• Improved access to rockhounding area</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>																		
<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Garnet Hill Area Proposed Westside Campground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 individual campsites w/ shade structures</li> <li>• 1 group campsite w/ shade structure</li> <li>• vault toilet</li> <li>• dumpster</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Garnet Hill Area Proposed Eastside Campground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 individual campsites w/ shade structures</li> <li>• 1 group campsite w/ shade structure</li> <li>• vault toilet</li> <li>• dumpster</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>																		
<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Egan Crest Trailhead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of an earthen berm to shield view of trailhead from Hwy 50</li> <li>• Expansion of the existing trailhead parking area from .75 acres to 3-5 acres</li> <li>• Installation of a concrete pad for rented dumpster and porta-potties</li> <li>• Construction of 1 Group and 3 individual ADA accessible camp sites (potential fee use area)</li> <li>• Installation of a kiosk with trail system map and Ely District Recreation Opportunity Guide map</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Egan Crest Trailhead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 individual campsites w/ shade structures</li> <li>• 1 group campsite w/ shade structure</li> <li>• Porta Potty</li> <li>• Dumpster</li> <li>• Mini-bike Course</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>																		
<p><b>Preliminary Proposed Action</b></p> <p><b>Egan Crest Trailhead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play Area</li> </ul>  <p><b>Preliminary Design</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary Schedule</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Milestones</th> <th>Timeline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public Workshop</td> <td>December 7, 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present Preliminary Proposed Action to City, County and County appointed committees</td> <td>January/February 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On-site field tour</td> <td>Late Winter - Spring 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EA Public Scoping Meeting</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Draft Preliminary EA and RAMP</td> <td>Late Spring - Early Summer 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preliminary EA/RAMP posted to NEPA Register (if Planning)</td> <td>Summer 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BLM finalizes EA/RAMP</td> <td>Late Summer - Early Fall 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Issue Decision Record and Appeal Period</td> <td>Fall 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project Milestones	Timeline	Public Workshop	December 7, 2022	Present Preliminary Proposed Action to City, County and County appointed committees	January/February 2023	On-site field tour	Late Winter - Spring 2023	EA Public Scoping Meeting		Draft Preliminary EA and RAMP	Late Spring - Early Summer 2023	Preliminary EA/RAMP posted to NEPA Register (if Planning)	Summer 2023	BLM finalizes EA/RAMP	Late Summer - Early Fall 2023	Issue Decision Record and Appeal Period	Fall 2023
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 <p><b>Input received at the Public Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directional use signage on singletrack trails</li><li>• Access across private and/or City land</li><li>• OHV width use on trails</li><li>• E-bike use</li></ul>	 <p><b>How to Participate</b></p> <p>After this presentation, submit your comments to BLM via:</p> <p><b>Mail to:</b> BLM Bristlecone Field Office 702 N Industrial Way Ely, NV 89301 Attn: Garnet Hill RAMP</p> <p><b>Email to:</b> <a href="mailto:blm_nv_ely_ghra@blm.gov">blm_nv_ely_ghra@blm.gov</a></p>
	

Councilman Alworth asked in this area will hunting be restricted?

Bureau of Land Management Outdoor Recreation Planner John Miller stated no, hunting will still be allowed, but there will not be any shooting at the campgrounds and main trailheads.

2. Mayor Robertson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to participate in the Garnet Hill Recreation Area Management Plan Project’s Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) as a cooperating agency.

Councilman Carson moved to approve participating in the Garnet Hill Recreation Area Management Plan Project’s Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) as a cooperating agency. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to host Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities retreat in June 2023, exact dates to be determined.

Mayor Robertson stated my understanding is this is tentatively planned for the third week of June and will be the third such retreat the League has hosted. They have done one in Fallon, Elko, and we would be the third. This is separate from their conference in August. This is a small conference lasting just a couple of days with workshops and a chance for us to show them around our area. If the Council approves this we will be working with Tourism and Recreation, the Railroad, and other entities and assets in our community to make sure we put our best foot forward and show other leaders from around the state what we have out here.

Councilman Alworth stated I think it is a good idea having them come here to see what rural Nevada has to offer and hopefully garner some support in the future.

Mayor Robertson stated so if this is approved by the Council my plan is to get with Wesley regarding the dates, work up a proforma agenda and plan and bring that back for approval to the Council.

Councilman Trask asked is there any fiscal side we are going to have to pay?

Mayor Robertson stated they usually have a registration fee for those that attend. I am going to talk further with Wesley on that and see what we can get donated. If there is any expense, I am hoping it is minimal to none.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve hosting the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities retreat in June 2023. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Instruct Public Works Supervisor and Street Lead Person to identify two (2) miles of high traffic roads in need of cold lay chip seal, to be completed in 2023 and funded by Community Service Funds not to exceed \$300,000.

Councilman Carson stated I know that is a pretty tall order, but like Councilman Alworth stated earlier, we only have three employees in the Road Department and right now we are fortunate we have more money than manpower. The two miles definitely won't get done this season, I just wanted to have a plan for the future. I don't think we will spend the full \$300,000.00, but we could put a little extra in there in case we run short on time this spring or summer. We are going to have to think outside the box and maybe hire a contractor to help us out with some of it. I know we have a good interlocal agreement with the County and hopefully they can help us out a bit with man hours. It is still a plan in progress, but before the busy season I would like to work on getting a package together and the ball rolling on it.

Mayor Robertson asked would this \$300,000.00 come out of the \$1.8 million we have set aside for infrastructure?

Councilman Carson stated yes.

Councilman Alworth stated Kurt when you mention completed in 2023 that means through the construction period of 2023 as in the end of October and is not tied to this fiscal year?

Councilman Carson stated no, it is the end of the construction period and not fiscal year.

City Attorney Cahoon stated I have a minor alteration to the wording of the agenda item to comply with the code. If passed the motion would be to direct City Clerk Lee to instruct Public Works Supervisor and Street Lead Person to identify, to follow the chain of command.

Councilman Alworth stated I have no problem with it coming out of that \$1.8 million, but if the next budget is approved and there is funding in the Street Improvement/Fire Department Improvement Fund, could funds possible be used out of there which would lower the amount to take out of here or just be done and take it out of the \$1.8 million?

Councilman Carson stated my thoughts were to take it out of the \$1.8 million because the other fund they usually use to invest in equipment.

Mayor Robertson stated my hope would be if we found more money that we do more road. We mentioned there are fifty-two miles of road in this city and after this winter there is going to be no shortage of projects or things we need done.

Councilman Carson stated it is kind of bad timing with all the potholes in the roads, but it would sure be nice to get some patching done to improve them.

Councilman Alworth stated I guess we use the \$1.8 million as the balancing of the bottom line plus the Fire Department, housing, and General Fund, and the earmarked funding. Was the \$1.8 the balance, I can't remember.

Mayor Robertson stated as I recall out of the \$1.8 million B.J. had identified some projects in our conversation when it was before the Council and had more projects than just the \$1.8 million identified. Some that were identified were for water, sewer, and other infrastructure.

Councilman Carson stated I think that was more of a wish list.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to direct City Clerk Lee to instruct Public Works Supervisor and Street Lead Person to identify two (2) miles of high traffic roads in need of cold lay chip seal, to be completed in 2023 and funded by Community Service Funds not to exceed \$300,000.



5. Councilman Alworth – Ely Shoshone Tribe representative – Discussion Only – Review of Ely Shoshone Tribe’s request for a \$260,000.00 donation to complete its Life Center.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight to talk to you about our proposals. We understand there might be some funding available, and we have two projects. The one we are most interested in is our Life Center.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated we always try to look for partnerships whether it is federal, state, county, or city to help with economic, health, education, and housing. The Life Centers goal is to provide education for the management and prevention of diabetes for patients and families. The objectives we will be implementing are diabetes education, exercise and wellness, community garden, diabetes counseling and support, and diabetes prevention. The project is about a \$900,000.00 project and we are requesting \$260,000.00 from the City of Ely to help complete the Life Center. To date the tribe has invested \$640,000.00 into this project.

Mayor Robertson opened item 6.

6. Councilman Alworth – Ely Shoshone Tribe representative – Discussion Only – Review of Ely Shoshone Tribe’s request for a \$300,000.00 donation to complete its Townhouse Project.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated the Townhouse Project will be an addition to the current housing project on the Sagebrush subdivision on the Ely Shoshone Reservation. We are proposing a townhouse that is two thousand (2000) square feet which is typical to the White Pine area. The need is based on the extensive waiting list the Tribe currently has. We currently have thirty families waiting for housing. The Tribe has the capacity to take this project on with over thirty years of experience from administration to contraction. The total cost for this project is \$300,000.00 and is based on \$150.00 per square foot.

Mayor Robertson asked is that the actual cost it has been costing you guys to construct those?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner stated yes.

Councilman Alworth stated both of these items are discussion only to enlighten us on these projects. Will this Life Center be located in the Newe Medical Center?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated it is a separate building adjacent to the Newe Medical center on a ninety-acre parcel. We currently have the foundation and floor joist installed and then winter came, and we are at a stop right now.

Councilman Alworth asked how important is the community garden? Gardens are tough to grow around here. Is it a greenhouse type garden?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated the garden is more of an activity to get people out that are interested in learning how to grow your own healthy foods. It is more for education and just one of many activities the Tribe is proposing to get more community members involved.

Councilman Alworth stated when you say community members, what about non-tribal?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated while this is really important to tribal members, diabetes is outrageous with native people along with everyone else. We propose to have all the things this life center would provide available to all community members, even non-tribal. I don’t believe there is a diabetes center in Ely right now and we are hoping to provide that to all.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked do you have to get special permission to do that because that would be a concern for those types of dollars. I just want to know that nobody would be turned away in the community if we make this kind of investment.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we do not have to get special permission for that. We believe we have the ability to make those decisions on our own. As long as we are providing for all of our tribal members, I believe we are able to provide them for non-native folks too.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked would it be a question of tribal members would have to come first or would there be a distinction of who would be seen first?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated I don't think we are big enough to have to make those priorities at this point.

Councilwoman Elliott stated the Life Center is set to cost \$900,000.00, you guys have contributed \$640,000.00 and you are requesting the remaining \$260,000.00 from the City. Have you gone to the County or what other plans do you have for funding?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated hopefully the Tribe can have further discussions on this project with the City of Ely. We are going to reach out to the mining district and other entities to also help fund this project.

Mayor Robertson stated so if the City couldn't fund the entire balance, but maybe a part you would have other options to make up the difference?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated yes.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated do you have a plan of what you are planning on asking others such as the County or the Mine so we can see what others are willing to contribute?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated yes, the Tribe would reach out and this would be an open conversation between the Tribe, the City of Ely, and other partners that want to invest in the Life Center.

Councilman Alworth asked have you expended all of your money that you mentioned?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Project Manager and Planner Michael Dalton stated that pot of money is not empty right now, but as construction costs keep rising, we would like to have a little piggy bank to help assist. If you would like further discussion, we would be more than happy to sit down and tell you what we budgeted and how much of a balance is left in that fund.

Councilman Alworth asked the funding you have listed for the Life Center is some of that funding also for the Townhouse Project?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated no, that is just for the Life Center.

Councilman Trask asked how will the Life Center be staffed?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we will have a diabetes manager there that is full-time. The Center is adjacent to our Newe Medical Clinic and the Clinic will have a medical provider there at all times. We also hope to do some Zoom classes and telehealth with Renown Health to provide educational services.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked so this would be more of a nutritionist type person that would be staffed because you already have a medical person.



Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated she wouldn't be a nutritionist she would be able to organize and provide where that nutritional specialist would come in. This person would be the overall manager of the Life Center.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked what kind of credentials are you thinking they would carry?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we are going to be able to contract with the professionals and that is what this person, the manager, is going to do.

Mayor Robertson stated just noting for the Council and speaking on behalf of the Tribe here, they have been great partners with us over the last few years that I have been aware. They helped the City with COVID testing during the worst of the pandemic which was invaluable. I personally have had family members that have been seen at the Clinic who are not tribal members and that has been helpful. They have been good partners in the past and I have no reason to believe they wouldn't be going forward. I do have a question about the Townhouse Project. How many units is this encompassing?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated one townhouse with two units.

Councilman Alworth stated you mentioned you have thirty families needing housing, where are all the brothers and sisters at right now? We have a need for housing in the community so this would be an effort. Are you wanting to put them back into the tribal community?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated that is what we are hoping to do. We have a waiting list of folks wanting to come back. A lot of our housing is low income so that is a hard situation to deal with because some of our people in White Pine County and on the reservation are low income, but some are not. The ones that are not are hard to place and we are hoping to help these folks in our community, some that are wanting to move back to our area, graduating folks that want to be independent from their parents, and a variety of other people that want housing.

Councilman Alworth stated say the City gives you \$300,000.00 that is one building with two units and a tribal member comes to you ready to move in; how do you determine what the price is?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated right now with our low income it is like all low-income housing in that we have guidelines we have to go by. It would depend on their income on what their price will be to live there. We hope to have a project of homes that we can determine as a tribal council and not directed by HUD or other officials to be able to allow mid-income folks an opportunity to get into a home. That would mean we would set the standards a little higher such as those folks that work at the mine or others.

Councilman Alworth stated in a recent trip I went to Hawaii, and they also have needs for housing. They have Native Hawaiians like you have Native Shoshones and if you have a Native Shoshone father or husband and a non-Native are they able to stay there or do they have to be 100%?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated under our priorities if you are Native, you get put on the list and if you are an Ely Shoshone Tribal Member you get the priority. Other Natives are on the list as well. We have a point system. If you are a non-native mother who has Native children, you are able to live in that unit.

Mayor Robertson stated I think the best way forward is for us to sit down and have further discussion. I would like to see us help with some of this project if not all just for the reason anytime a house gets built in our community it frees up a house somewhere else. I think housing is such a universal issue whether you are in McGill, Ely, Ruth, or on the Reservation. We have been looking for opportunities to help with the housing situation. These are big asks, and I don't know if the City could encompass all of them with some of the plans they already have, but that is really a decision for the Council to

make. I think once some of the questions are answered it can be brought back in front of the Council as a proposal.

Councilman Alworth asked you have two homes right now that are not finished, correct?

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we have four homes.

Councilman Alworth stated I think it would be good to sit down with them and go over the pros and cons.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Chairwoman Diana Buckner stated we would love to do that. Mayor, I appreciate your comment about us offering to bring the COVID Testing to everybody. The mine and Converse County folks came to us for that need, and we didn't turn anybody away that needed COVID testing during that time. We were glad we could offer it and want to be good community members.

7. 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 with Cameron again this week and we are in crunch time to give him some ideas for future projects. Councilman Alworth and I are asking the other three Council Members to maybe come up with a couple of other projects you would like to see. They have a couple different avenues of funding so you have water, infrastructure, and we will send along what they have basically earmarked to see other projects they have already approved to get ideas from. Right now, we have the Firehouse Energy Project, water meters installed throughout the City, and possibly redoing Campton Street. We want to put it out to you all as well and see if there are any projects we can apply for because there are various lines of funding we can apply for and potentially get all of it, and we want to diversify that.

Mayor Robertson stated there are various committees under the congressional projects where these pots of money come from. We put in and successfully won a number of water and sewer projects. Our lobbying firm recommended that we diversify a bit, and my thought was a street project. I know we have increased pedestrian traffic on Campton and that is one of the streets that does not have as much lighting as it needs and could use sidewalks for safety as it is a narrow road. We need to run these ideas by B.J. because he has to put this data together. The timeframe to get some of these items in is very short.

Councilwoman Elliott stated the timeframe is before the end of the month, so we were wanting to get ideas in the next week.

Mayor Robertson opened item 8 and 9 together.

8. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – Update on the RAISE grant for \$45,000,000 to open the Nevada Northern Railway for freight traffic from Ely to the transcontinental railroad interchange at Shafter a distance of 121 miles.
9. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Grant the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation \$25,000 to pay the National Rail Consulting Group to write a RAISE Grant for \$45,000,000 to open the Nevada Northern Railway for freight traffic from Ely to the transcontinental railroad interchange at Shafter, a distance of 121 miles.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the RAISE grant was announced in January and when we started, we were focusing on the southern part of the line where we do our excursion trains and as I got more and more into the RAISE grant the actual push for the RAISE grant is to open up the railroads to freight traffic. Doing this for tourist operations was not going to work. The other thing we can apply for with the RAISE grant was a study. We could study the railroad and see how to open it. The railroad has been studied to death. We have studies dating back to the 2000's so if you want to know about the railroad, we have a book on that. As I researched this more it turns out the best and the highest use of the RAISE grant would be to open up the Railroad to commercial



traffic. To give you a brief synopsis, when the railroad was built in 1905 and 1906 it was laid with what we call sixty-pound rail, and the Union Pacific now runs on one hundred-and forty-one-pound rail. We can't handle modern freight on that rail. Kennecott improved the track between Keystone (KGHM) and McGill with heavier rail because that is where the trains went, but the entire railroad is still the 1905 construction. As I mentioned the railroad has been studied to death and it is one of the prime objectives of the 2022 Rail Plan to rehabilitate the railroad to service the City of Ely and White Pine County. In opening the railroad to freight traffic, it not only benefits the City of Ely and White Pine County, but also Eureka County and Nye County. In Eureka County the hay growers actually load containers in their fields and their hay is shipped across the country and also to Ely. In Railroad Valley we have the refinery and we have had conversations with the refinery. They said if we got the railroad open, they could triple their business. We have had discussions with KGHM, and they are very excited about the possibility of opening the railroad. One of the principal reasons for this is you have all seen the ore trucks headed down through our town and if we have three of those trucks, we can fill one railcar. The other thing is a railroad can move a ton of freight five hundred miles on one gallon of fuel; it is that efficient. Here we have a bulk commodity, be it iron ore, copper concentrate, or hay and we can move it great distances and save money. One of the things railroads look for is balance by wanting loads out and in. Currently the Mine burns a million gallons of diesel fuel a month and that fuel comes right down the center of Aultman Street. This can all be moved to rail and the Federal Government has recognized the need for improving railroads in rural America and so that is where the RAISE grant comes from. Fifty percent of the money in the RAISE grant has to be allocated to rural projects like us. The City of Ely is a co-owner of the Railroad and the Foundation in this particular situation cannot apply for this grant, it has to come from the City of Ely. The Foundation as a non-profit can accept donations and apply for other grants to make this entire package work. In putting this all together you may ask why the big push now and it is because a variety of factors have seemed to all come together at the same time. I drove down Aultman Street this morning and noticed fuel went up ten cents a gallon over night so fuel is not coming down and if we don't have the railroad open, we are dependent on trucks to bring in food, propane, building materials, and stuff like that and that is only going to go up. The name of the grant has changed with administration and used to be known as the tiger grant. We did apply for the Tiger grant in the past and on our first go around we didn't get it, but we did call and find out how close we were and if they awarded thirty grants, we were the thirty-first; we were that close to success. Unfortunately, the S & S Lawsuit came in and we have not been able to apply since the lawsuit was filed back in 2014. It is very obvious that the Mine, the refinery, and the hay growers need it. I have been having conversations with Sheldon Mudd of the Northeast Nevada Rural Development Authority and it turns out about thirty percent of his inquiries are for land and rail access and there is not any available. I also spoke with GOED about the same thing and mentioned Sheldon's numbers. They said nowhere in the State of Nevada is there really rail and land access. So, by opening up the railroad not only supports the Mine and other businesses, but it gives our community an opportunity to bring in new businesses. If you drive up to Elko to the Osino Exit there is the Elko Rail Port. I love railroads and railroading and the whole bit and when that project was first suggested I thought "really?" I have to eat those words because this is an excellent case of build it and they will come. The Rail Port has been wildly successful, and they just got another manufacturer that purchased 21.7 acres of land there to build a manufacturing plant and that brings in jobs. Ely is here because the railroad came in 1906 and if we get this railroad up and running again Ely will go into an economic renaissance and it is going to bring economic prosperity to the community. It is probably the best it has seen in one hundred and seventeen years. We are on the cusp of phenomenal change. We are going to apply for the grant, and I don't know if we will get it on the first go around, but we can apply again. There is another grant program called the CRISI grant that follows right behind this. The information we prepare for the RAISE grant will be used for the CRISI grant. The City's underwriting of the RAISE grant is a \$25,000.00 investment in the future of Ely. If we want our best and brightest to stay in town, we have to provide them with jobs that will give them the quality of life they want, and opening up the railroad will be one of the things to do that. I have been successful in writing grants, but as I got into this, I realized it was beyond my expertise and so I reached out to a company called FMW solutions who has a background in doing these types of grants. The \$25,000.00 is to hire FMW Solutions to write this grant. The

thing about FMW Solutions is the grant writing is part of their other operations which involves heritage railroading like the Nevada Northern Railway, but also commercial projects. They have the expertise and background to actually put this all together, so we wind up with a turnkey operation. In doing some of this research this project checks all of the boxes and I am cautiously optimistic that the RAISE grant will be approved and if not, we go onto the CRISI grant. The end game is to open up the railroad to freight traffic.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I notice this date is quickly approaching for this to be done and if my fellow council members were interested in this and want to do it, but said we don't have the full \$25,000.00 would you be able to garner some dollars from the Mine or elsewhere?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated yes.

Councilman Alworth asked do you have a list of your grant writers' successes?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated it is in the information that was handed out. They did a CRISI grant just recently and have had success. When I called them up, we actually started the process because of the timeline. When I first talked to them one of the things I asked them, was when reading the funding opportunities, I thought the tourist aspect is not going to work and asked them their thoughts and they said no. I said then I want to change gears and go with opening up the railroad. The grant is due by February 28<sup>th</sup> and I asked them if we could do it and they said yes, they can.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated Janette I don't want to put you on the spot, but my question is, is there money somewhere for us to do this with?

City Treasurer-HR Director Trask stated right now your best bet would be taking it from the Community Support Funds as that is the only place, I know of that we have that kind of money.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to add, my fifty years here in this community I know the train will do it. We have delivered diesel and propane to the Mine in the Kennecott days, concentrate from Montana was brought in by rail, and we shipped out blister copper all the way to Baltimore out of this community. We had a CDBG grant we were awarded for inter-moto unloading crude from the Railroad Valley to the railroad and that worked out to be good. Silver Lion wants to run on propane so we could run a spur into there and Bath Lumber has a spur in their yard already so this will work. I could see a vision of a distribution center out in the industrial park, which is so underused, with unloading here by train and trucking it to Las Vegas and so forth. It will bring people here and then we are going to have to figure out where we are going to house them, but let's get this thing done and we will worry about the housing when the time comes.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the other thing is everything has a cost. You mentioned that Bath Lumber has a spur to have building materials brought in by rail.

Mayor Robertson stated one of our housing problems right now is the cost of the building material.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated you can do things many different ways, but again the steel wheel on the steel rail is the least expensive way of bringing bulk materials anywhere.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked if we were to approve something like this is it something we have to go out and advertise and say look at what we have, or will people just know?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated Sheldon Mudd of the Northeast Nevada Rural Development Authority is all set to do it for us and GOED.



Mayor Robertson stated it should be noted that GOED has had this project on their radar for a number of years and I think this is one of the only easily openable rail lines there is in the State, and it is low hanging fruit for the State to support.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated I have had conversations with GOED too about if we need additional funding where it can come from and everywhere I have gone it seems like this is one of those incredibly rare moments in time where everything is coming together. This is what I would call a cascading event with one thing after another is falling into place and the only thing we have to do is go for it.

Councilman Trask asked is the \$25,000.00 just a fee they are going to charge us, and they are not going to go over?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated we will have a contract with them for \$25,000.00 and normally they get fifty percent at the beginning of the contract and then fifty percent upon completion, but because of the tight timeline that we are under we have been working on this for about two weeks already.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve granting the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation \$25,000 from the Community Support Fund to pay the National Rail Consulting Group to write a RAISE Grant for \$45,000,000 to open the Nevada Northern Railway for freight traffic from Ely to the transcontinental railroad interchange at Shafter, a distance of 121 miles. Councilman Alworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of support letter from the City of Ely to Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, in support of the RAISE Grant to open the Nevada Northern Railway for freight traffic from Ely to the transcontinental railroad interchange at Shafter, a distance of 121 miles.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated to strengthen the grant we are asking for letters of support. We are requesting letters of support from our entire congressional delegation so when this goes in front to the Department of Transportation, they will see the entire Nevada congressional delegation supports it. We are working on letters of support from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, GOED, Elko County, Nye County, Eureka County, Lander County, and the Mines. The list of requested letters of support includes about thirty of them.

Councilman Alworth stated I know you are hooked up with the PORTER Group and are they assisting in some of this letter writing campaign?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated yes, absolutely. In fact, we had a meeting with Cameron at 2:00 p.m. today and he is the one helping me with the letters of support from the congressional delegation. We are doing this really fast, and we don't know the total cost of the project yet, but it is probably going to be over \$45 million and will have to find additional funding so he is helping me with that too. Once we have all the funding in place it will be nine to twelve months to rehabilitate it. The Railroad is jointly owned by the Foundation and the City so environmental studies are minimal which we have already done. They will be announcing the grant award in June.

Councilman Alworth asked we pay the grant writer \$25,000.00 to get going on this and then if we go for the CRISI Grant do we have to pay another \$25,000.00?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated time is money and if we go to the CRISI Grant ninety percent of it will be written. There will be a cost to do it and I have not talked to them about that. One of my principal jobs is raising money for the Railroad. It would be very easy for me to go to another partner and say the last time we did this the City of Ely stepped up to the plate and ask them to help cover those costs.

Councilman Carson moved to approve a support letter be sent from the City of Ely to Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, in

support of the RAISE Grant to open the Nevada Northern Railway for freight traffic from Ely to the transcontinental railroad interchange at Shafter, a distance of 121 miles. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melody VanCamp stated I am here to voice a complaint regarding the 2021/2022 Murry Street Project that JCR was the contractor for. My home is located at the very end of that project. Months before they were finishing up; all my sidewalks, driveway access, and curb and gutter were torn out and were replaced months later in December of 2021. The houses that were located at the beginning of the project that had driveway accesses; JCR put back the original driveway access. When it came to my house and a couple others around the neighborhood, I did not get access to my driveway instead I got a very steep curb, and the curb goes the length of my property. I am unable to get my bike, scooter, and my little pickup over the curb and into my driveway and struggle to get my car up there, so I have resorted to placing lumber in the gutter and have had to do that for a few months. It has done a job on the alignment on my truck. I called B.J. several months ago about this problem and talked to the mayor on several occasions. The curb is sinking and has been slowly for several months and this concrete work is only a year old. In the last two months the curb in front of my house has sunk over two inches. I guess if I wait long enough it will drop and I will get my access back. There are also numerous cracks in this brand-new sidewalk and curb. I just wanted to make you aware of the problem I have in that they did not put back the driveway access I had originally, and I am not able to use it. My next trip up here will be when it really drops and there may be a problem with the road.

Cynthia Davis asked if you approve the money the Tribe is asking for, what fund would that money come from?

Mayor Robertson stated once again Ms. Davis this is public comment and we do not have discussion. You can ask your question; you are just not going to get a response. If you would like to interview one of the Council Members you can do that outside of public comment.

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the billing for his property located at 490 High Street; his request for reimbursement on the sewer problem he took care of at his property located at 681 Parker Avenue; alleges there was improper installation of the water pits at his property located at 729 and 733 Great Basin Boulevard; alleges Q & D caused damage to the water shutoff valve at 745 Great Basin and have not compensated him; his request for the name of the person mentioned at a previous meeting owning thirty or more properties in the City of Ely that refuses to sell any of them; his request for a list of permitted RVs in the City and if they are paying utilities; and his request for a permit to be able to park behind the sidewalk on his property located on Great Basin Boulevard as others do.

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

Councilman Alworth moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **6:41p.m.** Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST