



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

[Cityofelynv.gov](http://Cityofelynv.gov)

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 28, 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 **5:00 P.M.** Joshua Baek offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson 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
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork

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, Kevin Rains, Chris Stanko, Marvin Griff, Micheal Couch, Shane Bybee, Kaylynn Roberts McMurray, and Phil Herring

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: September 28, 2023

Print name below

Print name below

J Kyle Horvath  
 Mark Passet  
 Kerri Pinter  
 Scott Lee  
 George Chachas  
 Maria H Gonzalez  
 Joshua Baek  
 Tony Enriquez  
 Yvonne Davis  
 Ashley Gonzalez

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Kerri Pintar**  
**1417 Mill Street**

**New Business Item #4 - Performance Evaluation of Public Works Director Mike Cracraft. As you all know, I have been present for all but one performance evaluation for the city department heads since July 2023. My stance on acknowledging these individuals that serve this board and the residents of the City of Ely is unwavering in my support of your job to recognize and reward each and every one for a job well done and tonight's evaluation for Mike is no different.**

**Mike, as well as all your other department heads, are wonderful assets to this board and the community at large. These are the frontline folks who keep this city running on a day in day out basis. My personal dealings with Mike are met with his prompt attention when I have questions or concerns...and I usually have many 😊.**

**Having only been appointed as the Public Works Director since July 1, 2023, I would say Mike was doing this job all along and was only recognized with an upgraded title and small bit of compensation for the work he's been successfully doing for quite some time. I understand there is only a \$2000 cap until he reaches the top of the pay scale for his position and I would urge you tonight to award him the increased compensation for a continued job well done.**

**Furthermore, I would invite this board to review the pay scales for all of your department heads and their respective employees to see if in the next budget biennium there is room for growth as the city will be hard pressed to recruit replacements for these jobs given the prevailing wage of other employers in this community. Please invest the time now during the "off-season" to work on finding ways to keep the city moving forward in a positive direction by retaining these individuals who make this community a better place to live.**

**Public service is a thankless job. That said, I'm sorry to see Craig move on from the building department; he too was an asset to the city and his humor on his fencing presentation was a welcome relief from the monotony of some of these meetings. So, thank you Craig, for your service to the city and county building departments; you will be missed.**

**And, of course it goes unsaid far too often, the challenges each of you face as a sitting member of this council and as mayor highlight your decisions are never met with 100% satisfaction from the public at large, me included, but it is admirable you continue to show up and take responsibility for your elected position. Thank you to each of you for your service to this community.**

**Scott Lee stated I live at 2351 Campton Street, and I wanted to speak to all of you about the proposal to allocate grant money for the Redevelopment Area. I think it is an amazing idea. I have spoken with others that are in the same position as myself, that are rehabbing properties or searching for properties, that have ideas for businesses that would be unique to Ely. I have spoken to a mountain bike company that wants to put a franchise here. I have had Rene with the Health Department to my space to get me lined out, to hopefully produce alcohol. There is a reason these old buildings are not being rehabbed. I am working days off and lots of overtime to fund this and if there were funds available that would be amazing not only for myself, but for others to be able to take the steps to invest in downtown. Obviously when there is a core of business, and all buildings are inhabited there is a life and a vitality to downtown that attracts more. I saw there is also a proposal to include residential properties and residential goes hand**

and glove with commercial development. In my building there is residential space upstairs and there are other buildings set up the same. It will allow for the footprint of rooms available that we have been looking for. It is going to free up housing so that our larger commercial entities like the mine, prison, and other businesses already established in town can attract employees. That is one of the sticking points of attracting people to Ely is there is a housing shortage, so every bit of funding that goes towards helping us all establish alternate housing is going to immediately affect their ability to recruit and grow the economy. I am a huge fan of allocating the funds, I think it is going to be nothing but good.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 6-1 you are to consider using \$200,00.00 or an amount to be determined of Redevelopment Funds for residential and commercial improvement grants on infrastructure and façade. I oppose using Redevelopment Funds for residential and commercial improvement because for years I have asked for permits for my family so we can use our property as others do around us. On the one hand you claim a permit is required, yet I have not seen one applied for or approved. I am a member of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) as well as a public member and have attended meetings for years, I have yet to see one permit applied for or approved to date. The City needs to stop selective enforcement and discrimination. I have applied for various variances and been denied. I have applied for permits for years, but all I get is citations and told to evict my renters. I want to know when the City Council created the so-called Redevelopment Advisory Committee; in the past it was only the City Council. On your agenda item 7B-2 you are to consider joining the litigation brought on by the State of Nevada against the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation; this needs to be rejected. The Foundation is poorly managed and evidence of failure to collect track rental fees for approximately fifteen years or more. They have cost the City and themselves a million or more dollars in legal fees with no positive resolution. The City has failed miserably in addressing malfeasance, nonfeasance, and misfeasance regarding the Foundation. They don't operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. They have failed to answer if they have been embezzled for tens of thousands of dollars. They spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' dollars, yet the public is not allowed to see how they are spent. The Mayor has a conflict being an employee and Council Members Alworth and Williams-Harper have conflicts because they serve as directors and cannot represent the City fairly. In going over your bills, you are paying Sharp Ambulance Billing \$1961.36 which is way too much considering what you are paying the City Fire Chief that billing should be done in house. When I walk up and down these streets, I am not seeing any improvement and that comes back on you guys. If you don't fund the different departments in the proper way, all you see is weeds, broken windows, no conformance, and no compliance, only selective enforcement.

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

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

**4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

➤ **CITY ATTORNEY**

Councilman Alworth asked are we making any headway on the liens?

City Attorney Cahoon stated we have, and I have been meaning to calculate how much we actually have gotten. I want to say I have had a minimum of six to ten people who have turned around several thousand dollars.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Councilman Alworth asked can you give us a quick update on the lift station at the Industrial Park?

Public Works Director Cracraft stated it is going well. We are pumping and hooked a two-inch line up to the sewer line to drain it and we drained it today. We are going to do some more tests on it tomorrow to make sure. The pumps are in Cedar City and the

contractor is just waiting on a few more things. It looks like at the end of October they will be installed.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer stated I got an email from NDOT the other day and they are really pushing on the Aultman Street Project. They are hoping to have everything one hundred percent wrapped up by the end of October as far as engineering and putting a package together so the work can begin the first part of next spring.

Mayor Robertson asked are they still planning on putting that out to bid this winter?

City Engineer stated that is the debatable part. They want to have it put together early so they can potentially put it out this winter, but what they are waiting for is things like easements and the right of ways they are dealing with.

**5. REPORTS**

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN ELLIOTT**

Councilwoman Elliott stated I just got back from Elko for my day job. I was at NACo which is the Nevada Association of Counties, so all the county commissioners were doing their conference and I got to meet Chris Porter from the Porter Group. We talked about some projects we have coming up and he is looking at potentially coming out with Bryan, our liaison, soon.

➤ **COUNCILMAN CARSON**

Councilman Carson stated on Tuesday I attended Tourism and Recreation and Kyle, and his crew are knocking it out of the park and doing a fantastic job. Last night we had the Soil Conservation Board and that went very well.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated we are still advertising for the City Building Official and, in the meantime, both Craig Peterson and Brad Christensen are doing fill in work under the contract the Council approved last year. The services will be getting covered. The contract for Craig will be brought back on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October for ratification by the Council and this is the same arrangement we made with Brad just to make sure we are covering the basis while they are gone. Jennifer Leshner in the Building Department office will be taking care of the scheduling and as Craig and Brad are available, they will be covering those inspections, so we keep things moving. We had someone from Long Beach here today looking at the position and have had a couple local people interested.

Councilman Alworth asked do you think you made any headway with the car charging stations?

Mayor Robertson stated the RV plugs down at the Railroad are one of the highest rated charging stations on the platform. I did speak to two people at NDOT, and they are looking at doing some repairs on the one at Rplace and they are going to be talking to Bryan with the Porter Group, regarding the State's plan. They have been very responsive, and I am excited to talk to Bryan about that on Monday too.

**THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY**

**6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY.**

1. Councilman Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of proposed plan to use \$200,000, or an amount to be determined, of Redevelopment Funds for Residential/Commercial improvement grants, Infrastructure and Downtown facades.

Councilman Trask stated this came about from the last meeting in that we have \$600,000.00 in the Redevelopment Fund and we were going to come up with ideas. My idea is to have a Redevelopment Advisory Committee which would be appointed officials

by the Council. We would have to come up with that and can address that at a later date. The reason I went with \$200,000.00 is we have \$600,000.00 and we are currently putting about \$90,000.00 into it each year. We can then address this again when we spend the \$600,000.00 because we obviously won't be able to sustain \$200,000.00 once that is gone. You can see I have \$20,000.00 for residential, and I like the grant idea with a 50/50 match being reimbursed after completion; \$80,000.00 for commercial properties to try and jumpstart the commercial side of things; and then \$80,000.00 for infrastructure that we can decide how to spend; and \$20,000.00 for downtown façade improvement which Tourism and Recreation has \$20,000.00 available as well and possible Mainstreet will get involved. This is the proposal I came up with.

Mayor Robertson stated I like the framework and bringing in people from these other organizations that deal with these areas as well. I guess we won't really know how much we need in this until we see how many people end up using it and we can always go back and make changes.

Councilwoman Elliott stated I think you did a great job with this, and I think we should keep going and expand.

Councilman Alworth stated I think one thing we need is a bigger map, the ones we have are so hard to read.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I also think down the line the things that Janette did with us for COVID with how we gave out money is maybe something we could resurrect because that worked well when she put that together.

Councilman Alworth moved to Approve the proposed plan to use \$200,000 of Redevelopment Funds for Residential/Commercial improvement grants, Infrastructure and Downtown facades. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF ELY AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**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 Ely 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.

Councilman Trask stated I would like to disclose I am owner the of one of the bills being paid, but it is just for reimbursement and feel I can vote in the best interest of the citizens of the City.

Mayor Robertson stated my husband 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 Minutes and 6A-2 Bills

Moved by: Councilman Carson Second by: Councilwoman Elliott Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - August 17, 2023
  
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - September 11, 2023
  - September 13, 2023
  - September 20, 2023



**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval of support letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Bald Mountain Mine Expansion Juniper Project.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve the support letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Bald Mountain Mine Expansion Juniper Project. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Joinder by the City of Ely in litigation brought by the State of Nevada against the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation; appointment of Maupin, Cox & LeGoy as legal counsel for the City of Ely along with City Attorney; and funding of litigation.

Mayor Robertson stated I will disclose that I am a part time employee of the Foundation, but I am not a voting member and will not be abstaining.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the problem goes back over thirty years. The City of Ely gave the East Ely Depot Building and the Freight Depot Building to the State of Nevada. The deeds only go out approximately fifteen feet from the building walls and everything surrounding that is owned by the City of Ely and the Foundation. When the City gave these two buildings to the State of Nevada there was a clause in the deeds and the clause essentially says the Foundation retains the right to use the buildings to sell tickets and any other purposes the Foundation desires forever. The other thing is when the City signed the deeds to the State at that particular time the City Council also acted as the Trustees of the Foundation. This is why it is very important that the City join this lawsuit because at that time they were not only serving as the City Council but as the Trustees of the Foundation. I should also state we have also tried to mediate with the State and the most recent mediation we attempted was at the convention center in early February and we were not successful. We have gone to the legislature trying to resolve the problem there and also have not been successful there. The State did sue the Foundation about a week ago, last Friday. Because this is so critical to the Foundation, the Foundation will be paying all the legal bills on this matter. We will not be asking the City for any money on the State lawsuit.

Councilman Trask asked since the State is suing the Foundation how would the City go about joining?

City Attorney Cahoon stated my understanding is there will be a motion to dismiss, and the State will likely sue the City as well. It won't actually be an action the City takes it will just be preemptively anticipating the State will join the City as a necessary party.

Mayor Robertson asked if I could offer a little bit of clarification? Currently, this lawsuit is specifically at the Foundation regarding a rental agreement that is no longer existent. The State appears to be trying to avoid bringing too many people in to draw attention to it and quietly resolve the issue in their favor. The attorneys for the Foundation have looked at this and said there is no way the courts are going to let this go on, and the two board members are well aware of this, so we are going to make a motion to dismiss. This got put on the agenda in anticipation and it is important that the City decide whether to be a part of this or not in concept because the State is really trying to avoid it. This is something that is critical to our community, it's critical to our tourism industry, and it's critical to how our facilities develop here. The State is trying to avert the real issues by going in a side door. The anticipation is the Foundation attorneys are going to have a motion to dismiss and that the judge is going to look at that and say yes, you are going to have to dismiss this because you haven't brought in the City of Ely who is a critical party of this lawsuit. As Mark pointed out, the City was the Foundation when this deed issue happened. I am hoping that gives the Governor's Office another opportunity to look at this and say this is a bad idea, let's resolve this some other way. Another critical thing is the head of museums who initiated this has since left or will be leaving in a couple weeks. There are facts I just don't think the State can get around; they're trying to. Tonight's agenda item, I will be honest, is a political move. If the City can voice their

support, it gives the Governor’s Office that much more reason to say look this is a bad idea, we have a window with this dismissal, and let’s resolve this without litigation.

Councilman Alworth stated what I am understanding you to say is if the City’s name gets drawn in then everybody is going to be upset at the State government for suing the City, but it’s okay for them to drop a bomb on the Railroad.

Mayor Robertson stated the issue is instead of dropping a bomb they are trying to take a shot; they are trying to be a little more surgical about this. They haven’t brought in the other issues. They haven’t brought in the issues of the deeds, the MOU on the artifacts....

City Attorney Cahoon stated Mayor, I don’t want to get too much into the details of the litigation or the strategy going forward, we could maybe reserve that for a later time.

Mayor Robertson stated fair enough.

Chris Stanko, Esq. with Maupin, Cox and Legoy stated Paul Anderson couldn’t be here tonight. He is the lead Counsel from Maupin, Cox, and Legoy for the Foundation with respect to this lawsuit. We don’t know how things could go from a civil procedure standpoint in terms of motion practice and how different parties come in. We do feel confident that the City is an indispensable party in resolving these issues. There was discussion much narrower than what was on the agenda item of the City quote/unquote is just a voice of support, but that’s not what the agenda item states. I want to make sure that everyone is clear in the flexibility of how the City enters the suit. I am not sure how the whole procedure is going to evolve here in the next couple of months, but we do feel confident that one way or another the issues are going to be litigated. The State has only raised a subset of the issues as the Mayor has stated and that the City is indispensable in resolving those issues and they will have to be joined. We have a paradigm for how this will work and of course it is the S & S case, so we would conduct it very similarly to that for the funding which would be a bill only to the Foundation and not a joint bill.

Mayor Robertson stated I would also assume that as this develops, and changes need to be made, that it would come back to the Council.

NNRY President Bassett stated absolutely.

Councilman Carson moved to approve a Joinder by the City of Ely in litigation brought by the State of Nevada against the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation; appointment of Maupin, Cox & LeGoy as legal counsel for the City of Ely along with City Attorney; and funding of litigation will be by the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to set a cap for Thompson Hine Legal Fees at \$35,000 for future expenses in regard to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filings involving the White Pine Pumped Storage Project, to protect the interests of the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation and the City of Ely.

Councilman Carson asked will Leo reach out to Thompson Hine to let them know we have set another cap?

City Attorney Cahoon stated yes.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve setting a cap for Thompson Hine Legal Fees at \$35,000 for future expenses in regard to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filings involving the White Pine Pumped Storage Project, to protect the interests of the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation and the City of Ely. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Annual Performance Evaluation of Public Works Director Mike Cracraft to include, 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, reprimand, reduction or increase in pay, promotion, endorsement, engagement, retention, or “no action.”

Councilman Alworth stated on May 11<sup>th</sup> when we had the agenda item to appoint him to the position and so forth it got into discussion on salaries. I said see what happens in six months and Councilwoman Elliott said go with five percent and in three months review it. Councilman Trask made the motion to accept the Mayor’s selection of Mike Cracraft for appointment as the City Public Works Director effective July 1, 2023 with a salary of \$73,000.00 and duties to include supervision over the Water/Sewer Department, Landfill, and Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as all other departments he currently supervises, which will be updated in the City Code; a performance review will be conducted at the end of September 2023. Is that the performance review from the time he started until now that the three of us talked about. I am prepared and Mike has my questions, but annual is twelve months.

Mayor Robertson stated I think the objective was to get all of our City Officials on the same schedule, so we are doing them all about the same time rather than trying to remember who’s when and spreading it throughout the year.

Councilman Alworth stated if we are going to do an agenda item, we need to be clear on it or our administrative people need to say you need to do the review we said we were going to do. My idea was let him go for six months and give him retro pay, but the Treasurer don’t like doing retro pay and Terrill made a comment at the end of September having a “review.” It didn’t say anything about the whole annual performance, just how did you do from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of September. Again, I am not splitting hairs, but I don’t want to get into my thing if it is premature because what I have is almost like a years’ worth of questions for only three months.

City Clerk Lee stated for clarity any time a City Official is reviewed that language from the NRS has to be used, correct Leo?

City Attorney Cahoon stated yes.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I would like to say it has been a busy summer and with limited Public Works staff it has been a lot of work to get the streets fixed from last year’s snowstorms, Lift station leg work at the Industrial Park, the WWTP current issues, and keeping up with the daily operations. I am fortunate to have competent leads for each department and workers that I can trust to do the job and do it well. I have had many learning curves in my new position with learning more clerical skills to provide documents when needed and doing desk work over being in the trenches. However, I believe the years that I have spent out in the field doing the work and working side by side with many of the service workers has taught me to appreciate the work they all do and be more understanding of the many projects that we have going on and where I can be the most help. I am hopeful in the next few years of the many positive changes that are coming with the much-needed upgraded infrastructure. The grant money and federal money that is available and has been approved will in time fix some of the problems that keep our departments busy maintaining on a regular basis right now and create better services for the residents of Ely. In the upcoming year I hope to grow my skills even further and improve and define processes even further.

Councilman Alworth stated I would like to make a disclosure that I hired Mike Cracraft for the Parks and Animal Control Supervisor in May of 2006, and my comments and thoughts will in no way interfere with the decision made by this Council on this performance evaluation. Mike was hired as the Parks and Animal Control Supervisor in May of 2006 and a change in City Council changed his job title to Parks/Cemetery Lead Person in November of 2013 and during the March 2019 meeting his title was changed to Public Works Supervisor. As Public Works Supervisor he never had a written job description, as far as I know, and he reported to the City Clerk for direction, job duties, and so forth. At the beginning of July of 2023, he was appointed as the Public Works



Director. Mike has a written job description that details his responsibilities which include director supervisory role over the Street Department, Water/Sewer Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Landfill Department, and Animal Control. He currently has twenty employees under his supervision and is responsible for their duties and actions outlined by City Codes and Ordinances. It is important to get a feel for Mike moving into a “management position” in the City of Ely business structure. It is also important, in my opinion, how Mike will deal and handle the additional stress and tough decision making required and expected not only from the Mayor and Council Members but from the citizens of the City of Ely. My questions to Mike that he now is in a management position are as follows:

- 1. Were you sworn into your position by the City Clerk and if so, what was the date?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated it was on June 30, 2023, by Mayor Robertson.

Councilman Alworth stated I say that because in a previous meeting I mentioned the oath you take means a lot to me, and I am sure you take it verbatim per word. It is a serious thing like saying the Pledge of Allegiance, so thank you.

**Regarding your Character:**

- 1. Your disposition, regarding your moods and attitude towards the City of Ely codes and Ordinance’s and the employees you oversee?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I believe the City Codes and Ordinances are put in place out of good faith and reasoning at the time they are approved. I feel when taking the oath for this position it is my duty to uphold those Codes and Ordinance’s and expect those that work under me to do the same. If there is a Code or Ordinance that I believe is no longer relevant or working for a certain situation I will bring that to the Council’s attention for evaluation and conversation to have my input heard regarding the best interests of the City of Ely.

- 2. Your temperament, how you will handle an employee or groups when having to deal with difficulties and how you would handle the situation(s)?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I have had situations dealing with difficulties whether that is getting parts to get a system back in operation, or dealing with unexpected things that can and do go wrong. I am by no means perfect and can sometimes let the frustrations of a day cause me to be short or show my frustration as is true with anyone under pressure. I think with limited staff and plenty of work for everyone to do we can all let our emotions get the best of us, but I am working on that and trying to be a role model to those I supervise to work on solutions together, whatever the situation may be. The City has competent employees that work under me and listening and sharing our expertise on projects to come to a reasonable solution can create a pleasant work environment. If there is a difference of opinion, I think it is good to talk with the employees and try to find where the breakdown of communication is and inform people as much as I can. In regard to dealing with difficult situations I feel I have a good temperament by being firm, but understanding, and wanting a positive outcome.

- 3. Your Character, as the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves, refers to the moral qualities, ethical standards, and the principles the person possesses. Describe your character.**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I believe my character is what you see is what you get. I am approachable and accessible to be reached by the staff under me, as well as Elected Officials and other staff in the City. I feel I am professional in the workplace and work well with others. I have lived in the City of Ely my entire life and feel by being in a position of a City servant I want people to enjoy living here as much as I do. I believe you do that by being genuine and not someone you are not,

being ethical in every situation even if it is not what someone may want to hear, and always having the best interest of the City residents at hand.

**4. Your Personality, list a few qualities that distinguish yourself from other individuals.**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I feel my personality is positive and I tend to see the light at the end of the tunnel even in difficult situations. I hope by being positive it encourages those around me to work together for the betterment of the City.

**5. Your views on Transparency, transparency requires that any information addressed to the public be concise, easily accessible, and easy to understand, clear and in plain language. How does this fit into your new position?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I do admit there are projects that are completed that the public has questions on and feels as though they were not informed as they should be. My views are to be as transparent as possible by putting out notices when there is work that will be done that may affect residents and keeping them informed of the progress by putting those notices at the residence it affects, on our website, our lobby board, and front door. If there is going to be a road closure or water shut off for a period of time the radio stations will also announce that as a public service announcement. I feel transparency is very important in keeping people informed of what is going on and how their tax dollars are being spent. I also feel being transparent decreases questions that cause people to have doubts of what the City is doing and reassures them they are a part of our success.

**6. What are your plans to empower the workforce that report to you, to inform you of problems they are aware of in the City limits, and that are outlined in City codes and ordinances?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I feel I can empower those that report to me by informing them of things daily as I start my day every day at 5:30 a.m. I meet with each department to see what their needs are and what I can do to help them do their jobs independently. There are lead positions that have recently been filled by employees that have worked in the field for several years and I think noticing the work they are doing, and positive reinforcement can go a long way. I believe the staff is comfortable informing me of problems they are aware of, and we can brainstorm to come up with solutions. Each department continuously does trainings to learn more about their jobs and doing their jobs safely. City Codes and Ordinances that affect the public works staff are reviewed if needed and made available to them.

**7. What is your position and feelings on how complaints from citizens regarding the departments you oversee are first given to the City Clerk and then she directs them back to you to address or are you just happy to go with the flow? Is the current process working as implemented, start to completion?**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated since taking on my new position, I have put in place a work order process and complaint process. I meet with Administrative Assistant Cobb on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. to review current complaints and update those as needed. By meeting weekly, we are able to address situations quickly, follow up when needed, and keep those needing to be informed done on a timely basis. The complaints that come in as work the City needs to do are documented in a work order and tracked on a spreadsheet that I am putting in my report monthly for the Council to review. I believe the process is working well. It has made it easier when questions are asked to have documentation to refer to. I am open to suggestions if there are things I may be missing.

Councilman Alworth asked the way it is going right now, if I have an issue that I see I still have to contact the City Clerk? I don't understand and I am asking what your thought is, but why can't I just call you?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated you can, and I have done that. I also receive emails. I have two binders of complaints depending on how they are submitted with the outcomes filed with them.

- 8. Your seventeen plus years of employment with the City of Ely, no doubt, has exposed you to different management styles and a wide variety of personalities. What would you like to suggest to the current Mayor and City Council to improve the operation of the City?**

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated I feel I can approach the Mayor and City Council Members and hope they feel they can also come to me with questions and concerns. I have been employed with the City of Ely for 17+ years and am invested and committed to the betterment of the City. I have worked with a variety of personalities and management styles over the years. I also believe I have seen many situations that have not worked because of personality conflicts, misunderstandings, and the lack of ability to communicate. One thing I would like to see improved is when there is a breakdown of information and arguments that they are dealt with at the level they need to be and not cause a ripple effect that affects other staff and causes employee moral to go down. I feel we all have strengths to offer and if we keep the best interest of the City of Ely as the highest importance in all decisions we will progress in a great way.

Mayor Roberson stated you have talked about your transition of being in the trenches to being in the office and is there anything that would help with the transition?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated I would like to see better communication at a professional level. I also want to remind the Council that I appreciate the complaints turned in so they can be addressed, and I will prioritize them as I see fit to accommodate the needs of the City.

Mayor Robertson stated I have to say I can never fault Mike for his dedication to get the job done as that always seems to be one of his highest priorities. I don't know of a department that deals with extenuating circumstances, personnel, acts of God, and exploding pipes more than public works does. Handling and juggling all those things takes some bobbing and weaving and that is the nature of the job.

Councilman Carson stated I would like to add Mike is a pleasure to work with and he really strives hard to get the job done. It is amazing what you get done so thank you, Mike.

Councilman Trask stated I want to echo that and say thanks for stepping up into this position and I am sure you will continue to grow in the clerical tasks and embrace it even more.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I have had a lot of good comments about you Mike from our constituents, so thank you for that. I often notice that things get done pretty fast, and I appreciate that.

Councilwoman Elliott stated I would agree. The parks are looking good, the roads look good until the winter hits again, so I think you are doing a good job, and you have a big role to fill.

Mayor Robertson asked how do you feel about the staffing levels in your departments?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated we seem to be short all the time.

Mayor Robertson asked because there are positions that need to be filled or you need more people.

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated positions that are unfilled, and it is difficult to compete with the mine to fill those positions.

Councilman Alworth stated I think Mike is doing a great job and has plenty of years of experience. It is just the management position; you just have to stay focused and keep in mind the City is your number one priority along with its constituents.

Mayor Robertson asked is there anything else you would like to add?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated I believe I have shown I am committed to the City of Ely and trying to learn new things to be more efficient at my job by improving daily on all the characteristics discussed previously. I am willing to continue my responsibilities and am asking to be compensated with an annual salary of \$75,000.00 that was budgeted.

Councilman Alworth moved to approve the Annual Performance Evaluation of City Public Works Director Cracraft including an increase to his salary of \$2,000.00 bringing his annual salary to \$75,000.00. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 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 meet with Bryan on Monday, but I don’t have anything to update on right now.

6. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – White Pine Chamber of Commerce monthly report.

Mayor Robertson stated I will disclose the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce is my husband and it is a report that is not voted on anyways.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Shadrach Robertson stated the Chamber of Commerce is busier than ever as we enter the busy season of the year. We are busy advertising small businesses and supporting businesses not only in Ely, but across the County. Our calendar for October events includes the community bon fire on October 13<sup>th</sup> that will be at and with the Nevada Northern Railway at 8:00 p.m., the next day on October 14<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Ely Lions Club Annual Punkin Chunkin event, the Chamber is partnering with about fifteen different downtown businesses to put on a Great Eclipse Pub Crawl that will benefit all those businesses in the downtown sector from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a concert at The Space to follow. On October 27<sup>th</sup> Ely will be host to “Trick or Treat the Street” an annual event that sees about two to three thousand gremlins invade the streets of downtown Ely. We are making room in the convention center for businesses out of the downtown area that want to participate. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be having the White Pine Small Business Expo that the City of Ely is partnering with the Chamber on at the Bristlecone Convention Center. These two days we will be helping businesses coordinate, and network with agencies across the State. On November 4<sup>th</sup> during this Expo the Chamber is hosting a special spotlight on women leaders in the County. There will be keynote speakers and special programs to highlight and award women across multiple industries including government. November also kicks off the “Shop Local, Shop Small” season and it is part of the Chamber’s Best of White Pine’s Contest. December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the tree lighting in downtown Ely and the Holiday at Home Parade is also on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last Saturday the Chamber Executive Board met for their annual retreat to plan their next twelve months of projects, programs, and community boosting events and initiatives. That is the long way of saying it is our pleasure to serve the community. As our membership continues to grow, we get stronger with more partnerships and are able to serve more members across the County. The City of Ely is a Chamber member, and we are happy about that partnership and happy to make our Executive Board available in the facilitation, coordination, and distribution of any of the commercial infrastructure downtown façade grants. We are bonded and it is the Chamber’s specific mission to help. Currently, we have seen over \$65,000.00 distributed into the White Pine County community through the Chamber Buck Program, and I am working on securing another \$100,000.00 to be distributed at the end of the year for the Christmas season.



Councilman Alworth asked do you see any opportunities of using that redevelopment funding in your effort.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Shadrach Robertson stated absolutely, it is right up the Chamber's alley. Over the last one hundred and three years the Chamber of Commerce has distributed grants to small businesses. We have specific expertise in coordinating and helping promote small businesses. The Chamber also helped with COVID grants a couple of years ago. Our Executive Board, including Dr. Williams-Harper and Samantha Elliott, are also very well versed in grant distribution. I run my own non-profit outside of the Chamber and am also very well versed in writing and being reimbursed with grants on both sides, taking and giving.

7. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Consent to Verizon's equipment modifications, pursuant to the City of Ely's lease agreement with Verizon Wireless.

Councilman Trask moved to approve consenting to Verizon's equipment modifications, pursuant to the City of Ely's lease agreement with Verizon Wireless. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Council Members – Public Works Director Cracraft – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review and possible approval of City of Ely surplus property list and direction to City staff to receive bids for said property.

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated I put the minimum bids based on the Kelly Blue Book recommendations.

Mayor Robertson stated this will be by sealed bids and the bids must meet the minimum bids.

Councilman Alworth asked are we going to put all these in one area?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated they will all be at the Landfill.

Councilman Alworth asked how many days are you planning on accepting bids?

City Public Works Director Cracraft stated we do have lists of what is wrong with each piece of equipment.

Mayor Robertson stated we would be opening bids at the last meeting in October. Would that give everyone enough time?

City Clerk Lee stated yes, we could do that.

Councilman Alworth asked what is the rules on acceptable form of payment?

City Treasurer/HR Director Trask stated cash or cashier's check.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve City of Ely surplus property list and direction to City staff to receive bids for said property. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated I asked in the past and am asking again who paid for the paving on Avenue H and I have yet to receive an answer. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding information he requested about complaints on 701 East Aultman Street; his request for information on the alleged encroachment on 1033 Bell Avenue property; his request for information regarding fence heights and handicap access with construction going on at 295 Ely Avenue; his request for a complete list of RVs that have been permitted in the City and if they are paying utilities; and alleged City Code violations being addressed by the Regional Planning Commission or members of the Ely City Council. The Community Choir building is putting in

an elevator and in the past Bill Wilson stated the elevator meets ADA requirements and it does not meet proper ADA as you have to have exits out of that basement and required signage.

Jennifer Lee stated Jodi and Kerri Pintar were kind enough to provide me with copies of the survey they paid for which clearly shows my track steel fence is on private property and is not in the City right of way. I am respectfully requesting that comment not be allowed to continue.

Mario Gonzales stated based on the ordinances we have for animals in the City it states if it is okay with your neighbors three hundred feet around where you live you are okay to have animals and it describes the animals. Does that have to be written consent or how do you go about that?

Mayor Robertson stated we are not in the position to answer questions, but if you connect with City Clerk Lee, she will get that question answered for you or you can hang out until after the meeting and talk to City Attorney Cahoon.

**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 **6:18 p.m.** Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST