

CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 24, 2025, 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. Paul Podborny offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Terrill Trask
- Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
- Councilwoman Samantha Elliott
- Councilman Dennis Perea
- 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 Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Attorney Chris Arabia
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Building Official Don Hendrickson
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following people attended via video conference: Geri Wopschall; Eugene Harper; and Wyatt Cox, KELY.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: April 24, 2025

Print name below

Print name below

Andy Danner
Dean Reynolds
George Chakas
PAUL PODBORN

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 8B-7 you are to consider a Saturday morning cleanup using volunteers. Something like that was done in the past, and only three to four streets were cleaned up. Consider a city cleanup campaign from May 1st through the 21st or the end of the month because there are many people that work different shifts and can't participate. Also allow the disposal of all items, big or small, vehicles, tires, appliances, with no monetary charge of fees during the cleanup campaign period. If the City allowed that, someone would be hard pressed to not participate in the cleanup campaign. Only three days to volunteer; you are going to get very little. On your agenda item 8B-6 regarding the possible enlarging of the area of the Redevelopment Plan, if approved when will it take effect? Thank you.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Arabia stated on the criminal side Judge Hibbs is now running the show, and we had a good first week. I just wanted to say, without getting too specific, we've been working on nuisances with criminal angles, and there's been some good progress. So, I think that's going to be an effective strategy and a good example of two departments of the City cooperating.

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated NDOT notified me last Tuesday that the Federal Highway Administration confirmed our Campton Street Improvement earmark; I am currently working with our Congressional Delegation on clarifications NDOT requested to finalize the funding agreement. EPA gave approval yesterday to start our East Ely Water earmark application, which I've done. PORTER Group submitted our Senate/House CPF applications during the last two weeks, which were prepared and finalized by City staff.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer AlMBERG stated one of the main projects is the Aultman Street Project keeping everyone busy. The other thing that we've been working on is getting our CDBG presentation for the 7th Street project, which is this year's CDBG application, ready to be presented in Carson City mid-May. I have also been busy with the Golf Course agreement that was proposed to you guys. Last week it was on both the County Commission agenda and the Resource Advisory Committee; I attended both of them. I tried to be well prepared, answer all their questions, but the result wasn't quite what we were hoping for yesterday. We are still working on trying to finalize the agreement. The Commission was concerned that the actual agreement was not in front of them; it was just bullet points of a plan. They tabled it until there is an actual agreement. We will work out the finer details to get something that we feel comfortable and present to both boards and Council and hopefully get everybody on board. As I've said before, I think this is a great plan for both the City and the County.

Mayor Robertson asked, "Who will be drafting the agreement?"

City Engineer AlMBERG stated they wanted Cody Odgers, who is the chairman of the Resource Advisory Committee, and Jeremy Drew who is a consultant for the County and does a lot with their natural resources throughout the County. Kathy Workman was going to get together all those people and myself. I also want Mike from the City and Courtney from the County side to be included in this meeting. The reason I feel that it's so important is at the end of the day, if we actually do get this well in place Mike and Courtney are the ones running this operation and doing this work. My assumption is this committee will work through and get a general plan and then get the City Attorney and the District Attorney's office to draft an agreement that hopefully will be comfortable for both sides to approve eventually.

5. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated on Tuesday, April 15th I attended the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, and the main discussion was the Golf Course water rights issue. It was a lengthy discussion, and the Board was very thorough with questions, but in the end the Board did agree to the concept that more information was needed. The Forest Service reported tough times and there's a freeze on hiring. There's continual work being done on the Kalamazoo Campground. Timber Creek campgrounds are open. Water is questionable in the campgrounds this year. The Ward Mountain trails are open. Jose Noriega is retiring so congratulations to him. Cave Lake, Comins, and Ilipas were stocked with fish last week, and the big game reports look really good. I also attended the Regional Planning commission meeting.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN ELLIOTT

Councilwoman Elliott stated I attended the City Tree Board meeting.

➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated Councilwoman Williams-Harper, and I attended the Railroad meeting last week, and it sounds like there may be some agenda items coming before the Council in the next couple of weeks on for-profit revenue generations.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I was privileged to sit in a meeting with Melody with some people running ideas by us for more housing. It was quite exciting, but they have a lot of work to do before they get in front of us.

➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I've spent some time in Carson City earlier this week. I spoke with Senator Melanie Scheibel, who's the chairwoman of the Senate Judiciary Committee trying to work on our weekend bail hearing issues, together with what's coming out in the Governor's Crime Bill. We had some productive conversations there. I was able to go on the air with Wyatt Cox and we had a good conversation about budget processes and our new Municipal Court Judge.

6. GEORGETOWN RANCH QUARTERLY REPORT

Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:04 AM
To: Jennifer Lee <CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov>
Subject: Quarterly Report 1/1/25- 3/31/25

Hi Jennifer,

Here is the quarterly report. My son broke his leg in January so needless to say very minimal was done in that month that's note worthy.

2/8/25 Brought 3 bulls into Georgetown.

2/19/25 Met with NRCS to discuss the use and repair funding for Ragsdale Spring @ Ragsdale Spring along with solar panel well possibility.

2/15/25 Bought seed to reseed sections of Georgetown

2/21/25 Meet with City for clarification on a couple items for lease to make sure I was on track with expectations and requirements. I learned a lot and felt it went well. Very appreciative for all the help I've been provided with from the City.

3/9/25- Started fixing ditches with backhoe. Getting ditches ready for upcoming irrigation.

3/10/25 Tried to burn sagebrush in the Southern field by radio station and a small area in the sagebrush area in the Northern section across the road. Didn't do much still to damp to clean up anything.

3/10/25 Brought in a truckload of hay in the late afternoon.

3/19/25 Brought in 11ea replacement heifers

Most of this quarter was spent when weather had been good on fixing fencing and ditches. Moved the cows and heifers to top bunks to feed hay. Moved bulls to temporary corral in areas where they were placed to keep separate and hauling hay to them and watering.

Future thoughts on improving Georgetown. Improving ditches and putting in pipe to efficiently irrigate with less evaporation loss. Possible wheel lines in southern portion of hay production section until where wastewater is diverted in the hay field, middle section then flood irrigation in the northern half with wastewater and excess creek water. Would meet with City before moving forward on these ideas to keep up with codes. Continue to improve and clear out brush field areas and seeding. Getting with Rope Ashworth (Tri County Weed) and Courtney Thormal (Public Works & Maintenance) to coordinate spraying of noxious weeds at Georgetown and Golf course. Cleaning up garbage and repairing fences. Haying this summer and using BLM AUM's for livestock if sufficient water is available.

Total number of livestock currently at Georgetown. 18 total. 3 Bulls, 1 cow with new calf (3/18/25) 13ea heifers

Thank you,
Betsy K Vogler

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

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

1. Member Van Camp – City Building Official Hendrickson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Recommendation to Ely City Council to amend the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan Map, enlarging its Area Boundary by adding a section of Aultman Street, East Aultman Street and Great Basin Boulevard commercially zoned properties, and a residential area in East Ely that is currently undeveloped.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) recommended approval of this expansion with five in favor, nobody against, and one abstention. It is now in front of you to approve if you choose.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve amending the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan Map, enlarging its Area Boundary by adding a section of Aultman Street, East Aultman Street and Great Basin Boulevard commercially zoned properties, and a residential area in East Ely that is currently undeveloped as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission. 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.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Robertson disclosed 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.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my granddaughter is an employee of the City of Ely Fire Department.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 8A-1 Minutes and 8A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: Councilman Trask Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - April 10, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - April 11, 2025

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Sherrie Marquez's resignation as an Ely Municipal Utilities Board member.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to accept Sherrie Marquez's resignation as an Ely Municipal Utilities Board member. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Bill Wolf's resignation as a City Tree Board member.

Councilman Trask moved to accept Bill Wolf's resignation as a City Tree Board member. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Harry Rhea’s resignation as a City Tree Board member.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to accept Harry Rhea’s resignation as a City Tree Board member. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Retroactive approval of Letters of Support for the Nevada Department of Transportation’s \$10M transportation earmark to improve US6 to Majors Station; the letters were sent to Congressman Amodei, Senator Cortez Masto, and Senator Rosen.

Mayor Robertson stated I would just like to note for the Council and public’s benefit that the retroactive approval was due to the deadlines. They announce the openings of those programs and give you like three days to apply, and it ended up happening between our meetings. Unless there are any strenuous objections, I would appreciate a retroactive approval of the letter.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to retroactively approve Letters of Support for the Nevada Department of Transportation’s \$10M transportation earmark to improve US6 to Majors Station; the letters were sent to Congressman Amodei, Senator Cortez Masto, and Senator Rosen. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Trask – 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 like City Clerk Lee stated we did get our earmark applications submitted.

Mayor Robertson stated Brian has been filling out a lot of that paperwork. We appreciate his help and certainly appreciate Clerk Lee, Patti, and B.J.’s work on getting all sorts of other stuff, like letters of support, proofreading Brian’s stuff, and making sure those details that Brian missed got in there. It was a collaborative effort, and we appreciate all the work to get that done.

6. Councilwoman Van Camp – City Building Official Hendrickson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 761, Bill No. 2025-01, An Ordinance amending the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan Map, enlarging its Area Boundary by adding a section of Aultman Street, East Aultman Street and Great Basin Boulevard commercially zoned properties, and a residential area in East Ely that is currently undeveloped.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated the intent of this ordinance is to take effect approximately mid-June, twenty days after the second reading, if approved up to that point. At that point, everything will be turned over to the assessors for those new additional boundary areas and properties to go into effect. Then, according to the existing ordinance, new areas would be available for funding in July of 2026.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 761, Bill No. 2025-01, An Ordinance amending the City of Ely Redevelopment Plan Map, enlarging its Area Boundary by adding a section of Aultman Street, East Aultman Street and Great Basin Boulevard commercially zoned properties, and a residential area in East Ely that is currently undeveloped. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Councilwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for the City to sponsor three Saturday morning cleanups to be held May 3rd, 10th, and 17th with the City purchasing high visibility safety vests, disposable gloves, and trash bags for volunteers.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I put together a cleanup campaign and I hope to work on the trash, tackle the weeds, and of course, clean up the City property where needed. We'll try for three different Saturdays and hopefully get participation. I canvassed the whole city and looked at different areas for the cleanup. My plan is I'll use the social media, the public radio, and the newspaper to get the word out. I will keep a count on how many volunteers and take pictures. I met with Judge Hibbs and Mike Cracraft, and we're going to share the community service folks all summer long and into the fall to continue cleanup efforts. Hopefully this endeavor will be successful, and we can try it again next year. We figured we would spend approximately a couple of hundred trying to get the bags and everything. People have no excuses because I will give them the vest, the bag, and the gloves. Each Saturday we will start at 8:00 a.m. A couple of years ago my sister and I picked up an empty lot behind McDonald's. The two of us were at it for five hours and we had two truckloads. There is a lot and it's something that can't be done in a couple of hours, but we will work on the worst areas and hope for the best.


Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve for the City to sponsor three Saturday morning cleanups to be held May 3rd, 10th, and 17th with the City purchasing high visibility safety vests, disposable gloves, and trash bags for volunteers. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated the Golf Course needs to pay for itself. The taxpayer now is heavily subsidizing it. They need to step up to the plate. They wanted eighteen, they got it, and they said it would pay for itself; that's not happening. Do not screw up the industrial water rights that were given to the County for a golf course, no trade. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the safety issue at the Golden Gate RV Park with it needing a fence between the park and working railroad; his request for a complete list of properties and individuals that the city has permitted and allowed to park RVs on the city lots and streets while living in them; 582 Highway North 93 property hooking up to City sewer, water, and has not put in a fire hydrant; his request for the address and a contact name regarding the Bell Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project CDBG 22/pf/04 and who inspected the project; his concern of his fence being damaged on Bell Avenue and who is going to repair it; and his concern of selective enforcement.

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

Councilwoman Elliott moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **5:28 p.m.** Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST