



CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 8, 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.** Pastor Joshua Beck 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 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; and Mike Coster

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: May 8, 2025

Print name below

George Chachas

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 7-1 you are to consider the removal of past utility fee penalties in the amount of \$2,775.55 from Avenue A in McGill for Elaine Blackham. I'm requesting a copy of the letter that was given to Ms. Blackham, outlining the terms requested of her for consideration of writing off penalties and interest on her property. I want to know, did she pay the total amount of \$4,457.22, so she could be considered, and then be eligible for a refund of \$1,681.67? I want to remind you that I was made to pay in full the amount on one of my properties in order to be considered, and only then was I given a refund for the difference. I'm still waiting for the letters you sent to Ralph Jones and Tina Templer outlining their terms. Selective enforcement is not good Mayor, you better read your Title VI. On agenda item 8-1 regarding the Redevelopment Agency, I've not received agendas for meetings nor the minutes for months. What's the problem? I attended a couple and now nothing, there's a problem there, Mayor. On your agenda item 9B-2 regarding the Ely City Hall renovation, that item needs to be put on a City ballot so the taxpayer can have a say in the possible expenditure of \$6 to \$7 million over a remodel that is not needed. Where are your priorities? The Fire Hall is sufficient for City meetings, and it also helps the Volunteer Fire Association with rental income to help offset their costs. On your agenda item 9B-3 regarding possible adding of townhomes, C-2 commercial districts, and the C-3 highway commercial districts as a special use why didn't you present this before the Regional Planning Commission for input? Why have the Planning Commission if you're not going to give it any kind of consideration.

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 CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated RNMC Provided the City Negotiation Team with a dewatering update of their 2024 activities and we have a meeting date set for June.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated Aultman Street is very busy with lots of things going on as part of that project. They have completed a good portion of the sewer and rerouted some lines. Today they connected to Fay Avenue, that was a very big main line that went through people's backyards and if we ever had any problems, we would have had difficulty fixing it. They actually bypassed it today down the new line, then there is one more connection which I think they'll finish tomorrow, and then everything on the north side of Aultman Street will be bypassed around all those locations. The portion of water line on Ogden, by the museum, is completed, pressure tested and sampled. After submitting to the State, they gave the go ahead to go live with that line. There is still a lot to construct, but it is moving along every single day. The other thing that we're working on is our Morley Avenue CDBG Project. We have been working with the Water Department to try to locate that existing water line on that road. The reason that we're trying to get so precise is because that sewer up there is going to be extremely deep so that trench is going to be very wide, and we need to know where it is to try and not impact that water line. They were able to get some of that together this week. As Jennifer said, we met with the Mine about what they've been pumping last year, and what it sounds like to me is they have reached their point of dewatering and now it's just a matter of maintaining.

5. NNRY FOUNDATION REPORT

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

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



Nevada Northern Railway Foundation
A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation
Depot: 1100 Avenue A, Ely, Nevada 89301
Mailing Address: PO Box 150040, Ely, Nevada 89315
Voice: (775) 289-2085 • Web: www.nnry.com • E-mail: info@nnry.com

Monthly Operations Report for April 2025

- 1. Locomotive Status – Updated
 - a. Locomotives in service: 55, 93, 109, 204, 310, 801, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
 - b. Locomotive 81 is out-of-service with running gear and boiler issues. The staff and volunteers have done incredible work on Locomotive 81. The Federal Railroad Administration was here and passed all of the boiler repairs.
 - c. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2025.
 - d. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201 and #802
 - e. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
 - f. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #80 and the military locomotives.
- 3. Rolling Stock Status – No change
 - a. Passenger equipment in service: #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Baggage/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06 and Caboose 6.
 - b. Passenger Coach 5, painting is complete. Next issue is rebuilding the coach steps and lettering the car.
 - c. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
 - d. Caboose in service: #3 and #22 are operational.
 - e. Caboose out service: #5 and #6.
- 4. Track Status – No change
 - a. Keystone Branch is open.
 - b. Adverse Branch is open.
 - c. Museum Branch is open.
- 5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
 - a. In April we carried 608 passengers, this was an increase of 11% compared to the previous year.
 - b. So far this year we have carried 1,235 passengers, this was an increase of 15% compared to the previous year.
 - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 381,157 passengers.
- 6. Economic Impact – The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$170. Economic impact for April 2025 was 608 x \$170 = \$103,360.

Award Winning Destination
Best Adrenaline Rush in Rural Nevada – 2020
Best Historic Railroad of the West – 2023, 2022
Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2022, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008
Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Economic impact year to date was 1,235 x \$170 = \$209,950
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:
 - a. Our Facebook views was 1,956,964
 - b. Our Facebook reach last month was 723,317
 - c. We have 135,300 page likes.
 - d. 203,609 people follow our page.

8. Upcoming Events
May is the start of our Astro-tourism trains. Our date night trains, the Sunset Stars and Champagne trains operate on Thursday and Saturday evenings starting May 15th. The Great Basin Star Train pulls out on Friday evenings starting May 16. And our Saturday afternoon special event trains begin May 17, with the Silver State Express. And on Mother's Day all mom's ride FREE!

In April, our BOGO50 promotion and along with the Doodlebug is working well. People are purchasing tickets to ride both trains on Saturdays. As we get into the season, I expect the momentum to continue.



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						10:00a Steam V 1:00p Steam R
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:30a Steam R						10:00a Steam V 1:00p Steam R
11:30a Steam R	12	13	14	15	16	17
11:30a Steam R				4:30p Robinson Cyn	6:00p Steam V 4:30p Steam R	10:00a Steam V 1:00p Steam R 4:30p Steam V 7:15p Steam R
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11:30a Steam R				6:00p Steam V 4:30p Robinson Cyn	6:00p Steam V 4:30p Steam R	10:00a Steam V 1:00p Steam R 4:30p Steam V 7:15p Steam R
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
11:30a Steam R	9:30a Steam R	9:30a Valley Vista	9:30a Robinson Cyn	6:00p Steam V 4:30p Robinson Cyn	6:00p Steam V 4:30p Steam R	10:00a Steam V 1:00p Steam R 4:30p Steam V 7:15p Steam R

6. REPORTS

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper I would just like to publicly say congratulations to Mr. Trask. He will be the new CFO for White Pine School District, and I think we're all ecstatic. He's a wonderful, smart young man.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

Councilwoman Van Camp stated Wednesday, April 30th, I had an invitation to the meet and greet at the Art Bank from NDOT and the Road and Highway Builder representatives, and it was wonderful with food, drinks, and the artists renderings were on display. After all this construction we'll have a beautiful downtown area and something to be very, very proud of. On Thursday, May 1st, I attended the dedication of the new fire station in Wendover, Nevada, with the Mayor. It was really well attended, and they really have a beautiful building. Saturday, May 3rd, we had our first community-wide cleanup. We had seven people and myself. We concentrated on the area around the post office roadways and the perimeter of the empty lots. We collected twenty large trash bags, and we had two loads of miscellaneous rubbish and large debris. We did all that in less than two hours. I'll get the City to send out letters to those property owners to clean up the middle and keep their properties free of trash and debris, because the neglect of those areas is really disgusting. The next cleanup will be this Saturday, and we'll probably be going out to the golf course area. I also attended the Utility Board meeting this morning.

➤ **COUNCILMAN TRASK**

Councilman Trask stated I also attended the NDOT presentation, and it was fun to see the renderings and hear their presentation. I also went to the Mine with our Negotiation Team, listened to the dewatering project, and got a little tour of a couple of the pits.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated the event in Wendover was nice to be invited to. I know our Fire Chief and one of our assistant chiefs went to support. The State Treasurer, Zach Conine, was there and it was good to talk with him about a few things. I was able to give a welcome address to the Basin Range Exchange, who are in town this week; If you see them around, welcome them. It brings people from urban areas out to the rural areas. I think it's set up by the Nevada Arts Council and it is kind of exchange, how tourism is going here, and how it works in the big areas.

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

1. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,775.55 from 24 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Elaine Blackham.

Councilman Trask moved to approve removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,775.55 from 24 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Elaine Blackham. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Member Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review and Approval of Redevelopment Grant Plan Revision to reassign \$20,000 allocated annually to Downton Façade Improvements to Nuisance Abatements in Redevelopment Areas.

Councilman Trask stated we are getting close to the end of the fiscal year, and we haven't spent this money. This seems like a program that I would like to explore a little bit in the redevelopment area, especially moving into the new budget time to see if this works. I believe Attorney Arabia has been working on this as well. There is a property that we

wanted to get abated before the end of the year and looking for money to reallocate to get this done within the redevelopment area. This allows the Public Works Department and the Building Department to move forward and we've had no requests for this \$20,000.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve Redevelopment Grant Plan Revision to reassign \$20,000 allocated annually to Downtown Façade Improvements to Nuisance Abatements in Redevelopment Areas. Councilwoman Van Camp 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.

9. 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. I will also disclose I received payment for sewing I did for the City of Ely Fire Department.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 9A-1 Minutes and 9A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Second by: Councilwoman Elliott Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - April 24, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - April 22, 2025
 - April 29, 2025

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Kelly Jackson as a member of the Municipal Utilities Board, fulfilling a term through December 31, 2026.

Mayor Robertson stated Kelly Jackson works for Mt. Wheeler Power, and I think having her expertise in working for a local utility on that board will be good.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Kelly Jackson as a member of the Municipal Utilities Board, fulfilling a term through December 31, 2026. Councilwoman Elliott seconded them motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion Only – Update on the Ely City Hall Renovation Project.

Mayor Robertson stated I had this put on the agenda after our conversation and our visit to Wendover. Like I said, I had an opportunity to speak with State Treasurer Conine, and we discussed the State Infrastructure Bank. This was a \$13 million project for the City of West Wendover, and they had put together I want to say at least five different funding sources to get this across the line, some we hadn't entertained yet, principally the State Infrastructure Bank, which I'd heard about before but never seemed to get a good answer on what exactly it was. State Treasurer Conine stated if you guys have a project you are trying to get across the line we do gap funding, and this is the kind of stuff we fund. I didn't think they would fund very big projects, but he said the largest project they funded was \$24 million. Where we are currently is, we did make a Community Project Funding (CPF) request with our Congressional staff for funding this project. The funding would come through USDA, and they did verify through USDA that this was an eligible project

and that if funded in legislation, the USDA would be funding up to seventy-five percent of the project cost. The estimate that we got from our architect was just under \$5 million for completion of this project. The number I've been shooting for is \$6 million to have available, because costs always go up; It is never cheaper than they say. We probably won't know anything about our CPF request until later this fall. I have been working on a \$2 million dollar request through State Legislature, but as you may be aware, from the economic forum last week, the State is about \$190 million in the hole for this legislative session so there is some shifting there; I haven't given up on that. I'm talking with our legislators and the Governor's office to see if there's somewhere to slip that in, which if that got funded and our CPF got funded that would essentially cover the cost of the project. I think more than likely it's going to be three or four different funding sources, a lot like they had to do in Wendover. My objective at this point is to work through this legislative session, see how things go through the summer with our CPF request this fall, and then start to put something together, so that hopefully we can have funding in place in one form of another and start putting this out to bid next spring. I'm open to suggestions. We are working through some other grant opportunities through Save America's Treasures and the Nevada Conservation Fund. I will be keeping you guys updated as we get closer to the fall.

3. Councilwoman Van Camp – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 762, Bill No. 2025-02, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 12 Zoning Regulations, Chapter 6 Commercial Districts, Section 2 Uses to add Town Homes in C2 General Commercial Districts and C3 Highway Commercial Districts as a Special Use.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 762, Bill No. 2025-02, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 12 Zoning Regulations, Chapter 6 Commercial Districts, Section 2 Uses to add Town Homes in C2 General Commercial Districts and C3 Highway Commercial Districts as a Special Use. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding 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; the Bell Avenue Project change order; Title VI needing reviewed; the Great Basin RV Park not being zoned correctly; who paid for the excavation and paving at 901 Avenue H and 1100 Avenue L; 582 Highway North 93 property hooking up to City sewer, water, and has not put in a fire hydrant; Code violations by members of the Planning Commission, some City Council Members, some County Commissioners and staff; and the drainage off of the Bath property draining onto his property at 622 High Street causing erosion.

11. 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 5:27 p.m. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST