

# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 23, 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 Daniel Gbundema 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 Michelle Yeoman  
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 Janette Trask  
City HR Director Desiree Ramirez  
City Public Works Director Mike Cracraft  
City Engineer B.J. Almberg  
City Fire Chief Pat Stork  
City Attorney Chris Arabia  
City Police Chief Scott Henriod  
City Building Official Don Hendrickson  
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; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Paula Carson; Vince Flieschman; Eugene Harper; and TLB Phone.

## ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: October 23, 2025

Print name below

Desiree Bamsan  
George Charchas  
Rev. Daniel Gbundema  
Melanie Petersen  
Don Hendrickson  
Mark Rasmussen

Print name below

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## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 7B-4, you are to consider the approval to waive landfill trailer disposal fees for the purchaser of the White Pine Mobile Park; that needs to be denied. I want to remind you, the City forced the closure of the Apacheche Trailer Park and put that woman out of business with so-called improper zoning causing her extreme duress. When she applied for waiver of fees to dispose of the remaining trailers, she was denied, stop the discrimination. The individual that bought the White Pine Mobile Home Park knew of the problem. If the city building inspector in the past, as well as City Council and City Clerk, had done their due diligence, there would not be a buildup as you have now. On your agenda item 7B-6, you are to consider the City of Ely's intention to exchange real property with White Pine County. There is no equal value, there has not been an appraisal, and you're violating NRS 277.050, item 3B. The City and the County must stop competing against the private sector. I want to remind you about NRS 281. I've got property that you're not allowing me and my family to use, as others are. I've applied for variances and been refused. Others are using their property without ever applying for a variance, with your full knowledge. That is what I call blatant and intentional discrimination. You might want to reference the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. On your agenda item 7B-7, you are to consider reviewing a contract for retention requested by the building inspector; that item needs to die. Special consideration for any one single employee is blatant discrimination against the other City employees. The Council must not give up their oversight of any department. You have selective enforcement now, just look at what is happening with the Railroad Museum, there are three steam engines down, the gas-powered trolley is down, and all they are doing is begging for more money. Those that seek employment with the City should not be seeking to enhance their position once employed, the rules were set when they applied. They should have done their homework prior to being interviewed, which wasn't done and then hired, or looked for other employment. The City now is top-heavy, and the tail is wagging the dog, and that needs to stop. You need to take care of the taxpayers and the residents and none of this self-serving.

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

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **➤ CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Arabia stated things are going pretty well. We've had two more trials on the criminal side and both of them were proven guilty, so I was happy about that. I think the message has been received that we're not going to back down, especially on DUI's and domestic battery. On the civil side there's a bunch of things in process, and I'm not going to go through them, but there's some interesting things going on, and I might comment on them when they're resolved. I also want to tip my hat to Don as we were working on some things earlier this week, and he's making good efforts. We have a meeting with Nye County on November 5th about the interlocal agreement, and we'll see what happens with that.

Mayor Robertson stated the interlocal agreement for the Council's benefit is for emergency services as Nye County kind of hangs out over here under White Pine County and is a lot closer for us to service. We end up servicing highway accidents and things kind of out in that direction, and so this is something I know the Fire Chief and Chris have been working on for some time to get someone to respond.

### **➤ CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated I submitted eligibility applications for our three CDBG projects last week. This week I submitted a revised budget to NDOW for the Shooting Range grant, with the federally-required 10% match. Our Secretary of State election training informed us that the Nevada Legislature passed: 1) AB 491 requiring candidates to be registered to vote in the jurisdiction they would represent no less than 30 days before the close of filing; and 2) AB73 requiring candidates to disclose AI use in election material.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated we have been helping out the landfill by doing some water samplings that the State wanted, based on some past results that we've been getting. Our office has been helping Jennifer with CDBG applications that she just discussed. Also, prior to this meeting, we attended the County Commission meeting and discussed the well agreement, and I thought that went well. We're anticipating that it will be up on both next agendas for possible approval. The NDOT project is very busy. The utility contractor is anticipating pulling out in about two weeks for the winter, and they'll be back in the spring to finish up. We had our pre-construction meeting this week for our Morley Sewer Project, and that work should begin shortly. People will truly see a difference when the Morley pump station project is done, because they have some low-pressure issues. Our water line projects always help the City, but people don't always notice what the difference is, but these people definitely will notice the difference when this is done, so that's kind of exciting.

Mayor Robertson asked are there other buildable lots up there that could be used once this project is done?

City Engineer Almberg stated there are a couple lots that probably could be created up there. The 7th Street Drainage CDBG Project was out for bid, but we decided to postpone it because of working through the design details of our pump station. We are going to move that pump station across the street to a different location, and we don't want to be working in an area where we've got brand new curb and gutter. Timewise, CDBG is okay with us postponing it, because we are so early in this project, and we are not going to be pushing the deadline for having that grant completed.

**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 a voting item, and I don't vote anyways.

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 September 2025**

1. Locomotive Status – No change
  - a. Locomotives in service: 250, 109, 801, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Staff and volunteers are working on Locomotive 802 with the goal of bringing it back to service this summer.
  - b. On Locomotive 81 work is progressing on the pilot truck.
  - c. Locomotive 93 suffered a hub liner and crown brass failure on axle 4. We have dropped the axle and taken it to Salt Lake. Fortunately, the axle can be turned. The axle has been turned and the locomotive bearing bronze has been ordered.
  - d. During an inspection of the Doodlebug, we found a crack in the power truck frame. We are in the process of make a repair and returning the car to service.
  - e. Locomotive 105 is out of service for radiator leaks.
  - f. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2027.
  - g. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201
  - h. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
  - i. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #80 and the military locomotives.
2. Rolling Stock Status – No change
  - a. Passenger equipment in service: #05, #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Baggage/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06 and Caboose 6.
  - b. Passenger Coach 5 is in service but it needs to be lettered in gold leaf.
  - c. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
  - d. Caboosees in service: #3 #6 and #22 are operational.
  - e. Caboosees out service: #5
3. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open.
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
  - c. Museum Branch is open.
4. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In September we carried 1,596 passengers, this was essentially the same as compared to the previous year.

**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

- b. So far this year we have carried 10,598 passengers, this was an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.
- c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 390,520 passengers.
- 5. **Economic Impact** – The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$174. Economic impact for September 2025 was  $1,598 \times \$174 = \$279,650$ . Economic impact year to date was  $10,598 \times \$174 = \$1,844,052$ . These numbers only reflect the economic impact of our train passengers and does not include visitors who did not ride the train.
- 6. **Social Media:** Our reach on social media continues to expand:
  - a. Our Facebook views was 1,604,799
  - b. Our Facebook reach last month was 603,798
  - c. We have 137,500 page likes.
  - d. 236,137 people follow our page.
- 7. **Santa's Reindeer Flyer** – For years we did the Polar Express as our Christmas Train. To do that train we had to license it through Warner Brothers and we had to pay a hefty license fee. On top of the fee, we had to do follow their story line for the train. Every year, they added some new requirement until doing their program became unreasonable and costly.

The decision was made to create our own program, which we named Santa's Reindeer Flyer. The story line was that Santa's reindeer came down with the flu and the Nevada Northern Railway saves Christmas with the help of Santa and the Magic Switch.

Our goal has been to do a children's story book tell the story of Santa's Reindeer Flyer and I think we struck gold. It was the combined effort of Angie, our superintendent, Jennifer, one of our volunteers and Shannon, a graphic artist that has done work for the railroad for years. Frankly I believe this will become an award winning book.

We are publishing the book through Kindle Direct Publishing, a division of Amazon. The book will be available here at the railroad, and through locations in town and of course Amazon. Attached are some sample pages from the book.

## 6. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILMAN TRASK

Councilman Trask stated this has been a week of meetings. I had a golf advisory meeting, Tour and Rec meeting, and School Board Meeting. Wednesday, I had lunch with Assembly woman Mosca out of Las Vegas who's helped pass AB 224, which is going to hopefully help build a new school here.

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated October 14th, I attended the Downtown Ely Road Construction Appreciation Barbecue Dinner and Drinks, and it was a wonderful dinner. It was nice to visit with the different crews, although I didn't know anybody without a hard hat. Thursday, October 16th, I attended the RPC, and the discussion was on the solar farm being constructed on private land behind Club 50. There were lots of people in attendance, and that issue did pass. Tuesday, I attended the Natural Resources Advisory Committee meeting. On the agenda there was another water grab by the Pine Valley Water Supply Project from Utah, and the ramifications it will have on the Snake Valley water and many of the surrounding valleys, if approved. Many counties will join the opposition to this project, and a recommendation will be sent to the County to participate. There was another presentation from the Center for Biological Diversity on the 235-mile Green Link North Transmission Line from Fallon to Robison substation and the impact it will have on the wildlife habitat. Seventy-five solar farms have an interest in building, and it was said Nevada will never be the same. There was a presentation on the Caltech radio telescopes, and there is no need to report on that, as we will hear that presentation tonight. Due to the government shutdown, there were no agency reports. However, NDOW did report that the Pike Out event at Cummins Lake was canceled due to the crummy weather. Stocking is still going on in the surrounding reservoirs, there will be an antelope capture and relocation starting, it is Bat Awareness Month, and of course, the Capital Christmas tree will be coming through.

### ➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated I was able to attend the railroad meeting on the 14th, and I just wanted to report that it looks like there may be a little light at the end of the tunnel for some of these lawsuits, in particular, the State lawsuit to come to a resolution. There are still some complications, but the conversations to settle on both sides are going pretty good, so I think that that should end soon. I did want to also report, based off of our conversations last time on the CRISI Grant, that the mine did join in, and Mark has had good conversations with them, and they are a full partner in the grant going forward.

The other thing I wanted to report is that the railroad is actually in the black through September of this year and their AP aging is actually in good shape; I don't believe it's always been like that. We had some concerns earlier in the year, but we were able to clean those up, so the bills are paid, and the railroad is in the black. I had brought it up before, but I think there will be a desire to come to the City Council to quick-deed land that is transferred from the BLM back to the foundation, and I think the idea behind that is it has to do with just keeping the structure of what we've got going together. I've still got a lot of questions, but I am going to try to meet with Mark one-on-one and see if I can get those answered.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I also went to the construction appreciation dinner, and it was great to see all of those folks out there that are working on this project. Saturday I'll be attending the major railroad meeting where we vote for folks.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated the Renaissance Fair sounded like it was a great success, and I'd just like to acknowledge and thank, Stephen Bishop and the Lions Club for all the work they do there. It continues to grow every year. I'd also like to take a moment to recognize, the City's longest-serving employee, Dale. It's his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday today and he has been an employee of the city since 1991 and is doing a good job.

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

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my granddaughter is an employee of the City of Ely Fire Department and my business received payment for work I did for the Fire Department.

Mayor Robertson disclosed my husband is a member of the Ely 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: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: Councilwoman Yeoman Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - September 25, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - September 24, 2025
  - September 30, 2025
  - October 03, 2025
  - October 13, 2025

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Robertson stated I will disclose that I am a part-time employee of Caltech, and as such, I will be turning the gavel over for this item to Mayor Pro Tempore Williams Harper.

**Mayor Robertson turned the gavel over to Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper.**

8. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson - Discussion Only – Presentation on the proposed Caltech Radio Astronomy Project DSA-2000 in Northern Spring Valley.

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated I'm based out of Owens Valley Radio Observatory outside of Bishop, California. That's where the California Institute of Technology has been operating the Owens Valley Radio Observatory since the late 50s, and it's still going strong. Showing kind of the old-school version of radio



telescopes, is quite large, visually stunning, but DSA 2000 will be very different, and this was the location where we, really were able to develop that concept and prove that it could work.

## The DSA-2000 Radio Telescope Project

*Ely City Council Meeting*



**Caltech**

Prof. Gregg Hallinan - Principal Investigator: [gh@astro.caltech.edu](mailto:gh@astro.caltech.edu)  
Dr. Katie Jameson - Lead Project Manager: [kjameson@caltech.edu](mailto:kjameson@caltech.edu)  
Kevin Hostert - Environmental Manager: [khostert@caltech.edu](mailto:khostert@caltech.edu)

  
Schmidt Sciences

## California Institute of Technology

- Caltech is a university in Pasadena, CA
  - non-profit corporation
- Caltech has operated the Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) since 1958
  - Located on 1100 acres near Big Pine, CA
  - A key part of the community (referred to as the Big Ears)
  - Mission to carry out radio astronomy research and to train students/researchers
  - Research includes studying the early universe and searching for radio waves from exoplanets



**Caltech**

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated DSA2000 will be the world's most sensitive radio telescope. The design that we have reached now is 1,650 20-foot dishes spread across a twelve by ten-and-a-half-mile area. So, this will revolutionize astronomy. This is the first time we've had the technological capability enabled by a couple key technological innovations developed at Caltech to be able to basically pull many, many small antennas together to work as one. The idea is that through these many antennas, you get enough broken pieces of the mirror, or reflector, across the ten-mile area, such that it can work almost like a ten mile in radius radio telescope. It will be the most data-intensive science experiment in the world. Passive instruments, so we are not emitting any radio waves, we don't do radar, or anything like that. And generally, we have tried to design it to be as minimally impactful to the environment as possible. It needs very dark skies, and that's what brings us here.

## DSA-2000

The world's most sensitive radio telescope

- 1650 x 20-ft dishes (12 x 10.5-mile area)
- Will revolutionize radio astronomy
- Most data-intensive science experiment in the world
- A passive science instrument for astronomy (no emissions)
- Needs very dark skies (in the radio)

Design: Funded by Schmidt Sciences  
Construction costs: ~\$230M  
Targeted construction period: 2026-2028

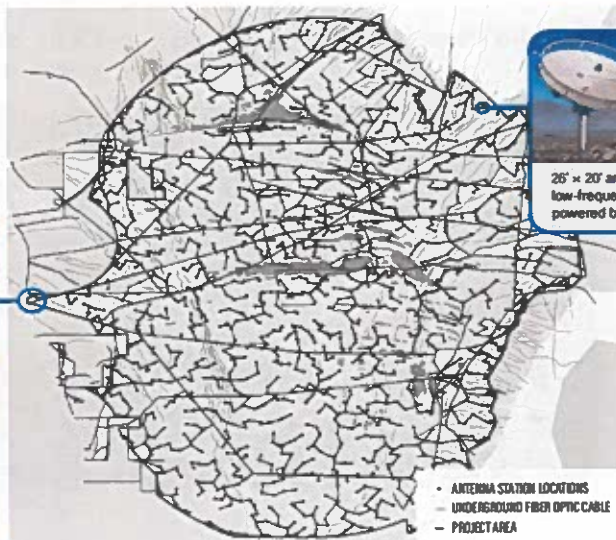
Caltech



DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated this is the array layout. The dots and the lines are not to scale, so each dot is one of these 20-foot antennas. With the antenna, there's, kind of an antenna station, so each antenna is individually powered by a few solar panels and then there is also the possibility for these low-frequency dipoles, shorter than me, but kind of looks like a metal Christmas tree, and that allows us to pick up the very longest wavelength radio mission that helps us study things like, when the first star is turned on in the universe. The paths, or the lines, are the fiber optic cable that connects all of the antennas together, and so we have to bring those radio signals, through the receiver at the focal point down along fiber optic cable, and then that brings us over to a site along 893, where we'll have four quite small buildings, and this is a major design change from what you might have heard a year or two ago. We've been able to pull most of the buildings and most of the human interaction or need for personnel out of the valley and into the Industrial Park and so all we need in the valley now are four storage container-sized temporary buildings. Two of those house the electronics to digitize the signals from each of the antennas, which then we bring along fiber backhaul, and then we are taking advantage of the middle mile network, which fingers crossed, gets installed before us, and we have bought some dark fiber that will be able to run that signal into, hopefully a property in the industrial park, where we'll have the computational processing, as well as our kind of maintenance building, and where most of our staff would go on a daily basis. The other two buildings are just, like, one place for the staff, and housing for all the maintenance that would be done with UTVs and overland travel to the antennas. Now, going out of the valley and into the industrial park, or near it, we have our data processing storage system. I just want to emphasize that this is not a big data center, and in fact, with some new GPUs that have been developed, as of this year, our power estimate is down to at most, 1 megawatt, and water usage depends on the cooling design. We are very aware of the water issues in Steptoe Valley, and so we're conscientious of that, but for full transparency, no evaporative cooling would land us at an approximate 100,000 gallons per year, and if we did full evaporative cooling, 3.5 million gallons per year, or 11 acre-feet per year.

## DSA-2000 Infrastructure in Spring Valley

- Equipment and housing for digitization of the signals from each antenna
- < 200kW power
- No water usage
- UTVs and equipment shed
- Maintenance team shelter



20' x 20' antennas and low-frequency dipoles powered by solar panels



# DSA-2000

## Data Processing And Storage System



### Current Design

- Located near or in Ely Industrial Park
- Low Power Usage
- Design options for low to moderate water usage
  - Low: 100k gallons/yr for no evaporative cooling (eq. to small family house usage)
  - High: up to 3.6M gallons/yr (~11 acre-ft/yr) for full use of evaporative cooling

### Comparison to other Nevada data centers:

	DSA-2000 Data Processing	Switch SUPERNAP Las Vegas	Flexential Las Vegas (North)
Power	< 1 MW (solar possible)	495 MW	9 MW
Size	~3,000 sq. ft. building	470,000 sq. ft.	110,000 sq. ft.

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated this is the fun science stuff, a radio opens up a whole new view of the universe. There are things that we can only see in the radio, and so here, on the left, is an image in visible light, like what you would see with your eyes, and taken with the Hubble Space Telescope, is a spiral galaxy, currently forming stars, similar to our own galaxy. I guess I should have said my background is in radio astronomy, so this is exactly what I used to do before. In optical, or visible light, we see the stars and a little bit of gas, and then on the right is what we see if we had radio eyes and that is showing us neutral hydrogen gas, and this is the basic fuel for star formation. So, without the radio, you couldn't really understand how stars form, which is what I did my PhD on. With the radio, you can understand the reservoir of gas and how it relates to star formation in the galaxies, and for me, kind of brings us back to how we got here in our own galaxy. It's taking quite a big lens on that question, but I feel like that's really why we're all working together as astronomers, to help answer that question in curiosity. Another fun thing about this one is that you can see that the hydrogen gas, the image on the right, you can see emission out further, than with just the visible light and with that you can look at the rotation of that spiral galaxy, and as you go further from the center of the galaxy, the velocity increases and then will flatten out. That flattening out is actually the signature by which we believe dark matter exists. So basically, you need a huge halo of a lot of material that we can't see in any light emission to explain that velocity and rotation of the galaxies. One of the best ways to do that is with hydrogen gas, like this, but it is a very difficult line to detect, so with the current observatories, we can't detect that many galaxies in hydrogen gas, but with DSA2000, I believe it's a factor of a thousand more galaxies will be able to be mapped with hydrogen gas. When you think 1650 antennas is a lot, it is, but that's how we get, you know, 100 or 1,000 times better than what we currently have with the existing observatories that are bigger dishes, but much, much fewer of them.

## Why build DSA-2000?

**Radio telescopes** are needed to understand the past and present of the universe by seeing beyond visible light.



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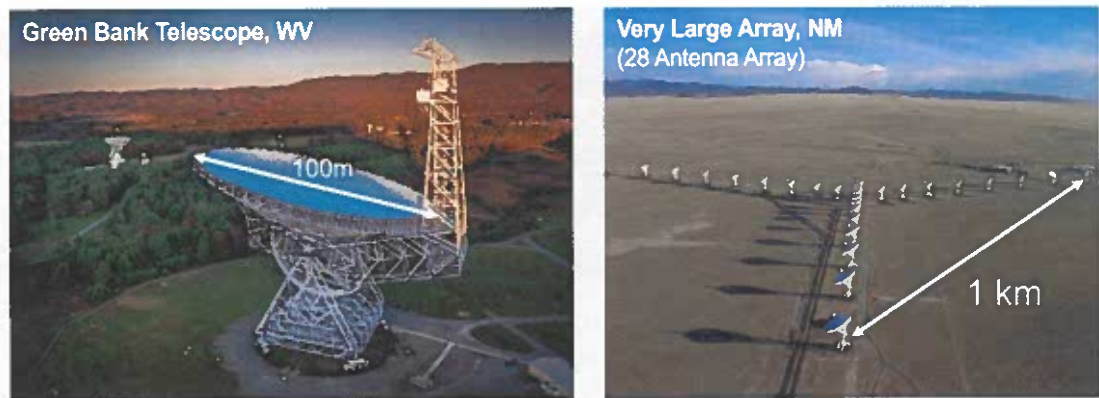


DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated that gets us to why do I need a 10-mile in diameter dish to look at radial light, and that is because the size scale that you can see on the sky actually goes as the wavelength of the light divided by the diameter of your dish. Because we are going to such long wavelengths of light that hydrogen gas emission is actually at 21 centimeters wavelength you need very, very big dishes to see relatively small scales, such that this dish is the Green Bank Telescope. It is the largest steerable radio antenna. It is the size of a football field, despite that; it still produces lower ability to see detail than the human eye.



DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated we have this idea of putting together, basically a broken mirror to be able to get to much longer distances and see smaller scales in the sky. On the right is the very large array in New Mexico. This is generally what you think of when you think of radio astronomy.

Radio Astronomy Telescopes



How do we build a bigger telescope?

Solution: create a “synthetic aperture” or pieces of a mirror to image the sky

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DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated the real challenge is just filling in the empty space and so with many of these smaller, lower-cost antennas, also lower impact, we can do that.



**DSA-2000**

Many small antennas are better than a handful of large antennas

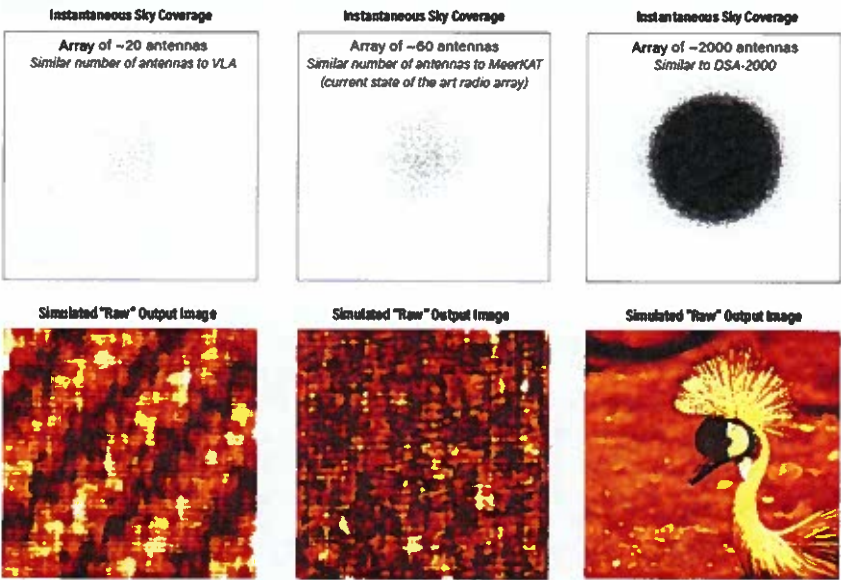
- Small, low-cost, low-impact
- Flexible positioning

DSA-110 dish in front of the 27-m dish at OVRO

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DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated we get to what we call now a radio camera. Please don't ask me why it's a simulated image of a bird, I still don't have the answer for that, but the three different images from the left to the right have a different number and intent. The left is about 20, which is similar to the Very Large Array in New Mexico, and the instantaneous image that you see it's the bird the whole way through, but you only see what we call noise. You can't actually piece together what the signals are. In order to do that, you need much longer time looking at that source in the sky, as well as a lot of very lengthy computational processes to try and piece together how the sparse sampling of the part of the sky actually comes together to a coherent image. In the middle there are about 60 antennas, and you still don't see anything. That is the state-of-the-art current radio telescope, like Meerkat in South Africa, or ASCAP in Western Australia. Then when you get out to these numbers, you know, over a thousand points looking at the sky, you can see the image almost in real time and that we can put all of that data together, reduce the data size very, very quickly, and produce an image, almost like an optical telescope or a camera. This is the first time we've been able to do that and that allows us to survey the entire sky very rapidly. It still takes us about three months to get through the entire sky, but that opens up a lot of study, as well as increasing sensitivity, so we can see much, much fainter sources, as well as much smaller size scales on the sky.

Why do we need so many antennas?



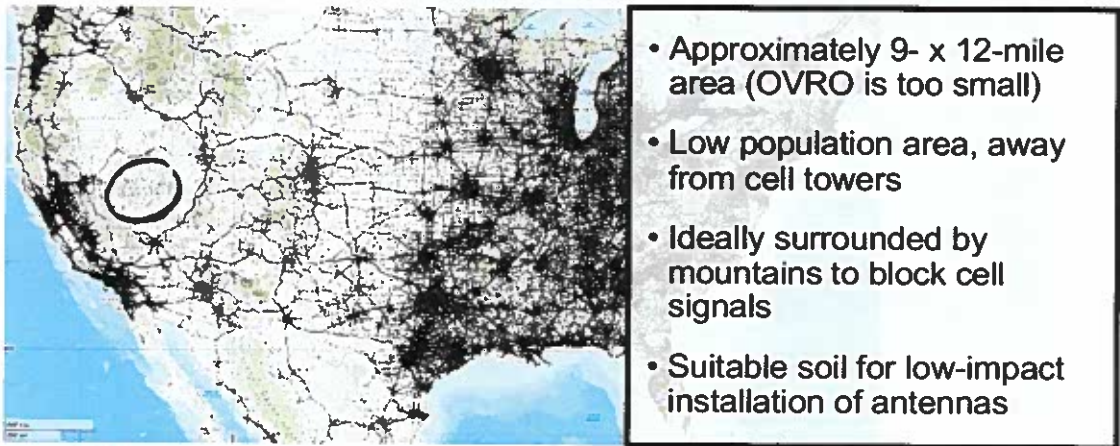
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DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated why Northern Spring Valley, which is an excellent question. I've had many people ask me; can't you go somewhere else? The answer is no. Cell phones emit in a similar part of the frequency where we want to look at the universe, where key answers to our current pressing questions about astronomy exist and so that means you have to go away from population density, and the mountains in Great Basin are actually excellent for blocking out the signals from cell phone towers from more distant, population areas.

Why Spring Valley?

Northern Spring Valley is the most suitable site for DSA-2000 in the U.S.



Caltech

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DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated we have done lengthy, actual visits to many different valleys. Ten and a half by twelve miles is actually quite large, and so it doesn't even fit in that many valleys. Then we have staff that have gone out over many years to take measurements and determine which had the lowest signals and Northern Spring Valley is the best site we have found. We believe it to be one of the remaining, probably in the world, near any kind of human population, so it makes it quite unique, particularly in the continental United States. So, when people ask me, can we move somewhere else? The answer is really no, not if we want to be able to have the science capabilities that we desire to answer some of the key questions that still exist.

Why Northern Spring Valley?



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DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated the geotechnical study is, I believe, fifty-seven different sites. It uses a cone penetration test, so it's not actually drilling. It's about an inch and a half to two inches in diameter. They push it down, and the key measurement is the pressure that that conical head feels and receives. That is critical information we need to understand whether or not our design for this 18-inch hollow pipe being driven into the ground with a vibratory hammer will be stable enough across the soil conditions in Spring Valley. So, we know the government shutdown is happening, so that isn't being processed yet, but we're hopeful to be able to do that as soon as possible. For the entire project, It was submitted to BLM in late 2023, so we are on and just completed our second year of surveys out there. We currently have the reports going into BLM. We are hopeful that we'll be able to start NEPA in the next couple months, then ideally our construction timeline would be to have site access by the end of 2026, and early 2027 start construction which would take two years, and then about a year of making all the antennas talk to each other and work, before we'd be hopefully fully operational by 2029.

Permitting Status



- SF-299 submitted in late 2023, still in pre-NEPA phase
- 2025 Spring Surveys concluding (second year of surveys)
  - Biological, Cultural, Botanical
  - No major findings for biological and botanical to date
- Anticipate starting NEPA by end of 2025
- NEPA will be complimented by Mitigation and Monitoring plans for specific resources during construction

Caltech

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Councilwoman Williams-Harper asked is there a plan for not just show and tell, but for real learning, and perhaps something that we might say as a school district that we need to have a course or two on something like this?

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated we are very interested in supporting the community, but in the way that works for the community, so I'm hopeful that through starting small, we can figure out manageable and useful ways to expand from there.

Councilwoman Van Camp asked will those telescopes bother the birds?

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated there are varying opinions. It depends on who you talk to. I've talked to a number of sage-gross experts. At their highest, they're about thirty feet, so it is possible that they would see them like trees and be scared because they're perching. However, we shifted the area to move away from the LEX, as well as the sagebrush habitat areas in the valley. So now the nearest LEX is over a mile away from the nearest antenna. So, we're hopeful that that's enough of a mitigation so that it doesn't directly affect the sage-grouse. Other birds, it's a very sparse layout with one every thirty acres. Construction will be disruptive; I think we know that. Another concern is migratory birds, so we've done a lot of migratory bird surveys at the request of Fish and Wildlife, and we're getting good data on that. We'll have those reports soon. I don't know what that report says yet, but I think our general understanding from at least our environmental consultants is that they don't think it should have a huge impact, because it doesn't really make noise. It moves, but it moves relatively slowly, and it's fairly minimal human presence added to the valley.

Councilwoman Van Camp asked they don't bother the migration of the bats?

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated I assume not.

Councilman Perea asked how do you maintain the pristine area and is there a life span of the telescope?

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated that it's to be determined now that the path to NEPA is becoming real, it hasn't been for quite a while. That's one of the key things that we have to look at now. So, one of those paths is, at the federal level, National Radio Dynamics Zone, and this we've actually been talking with the Department of Defense for a few years now, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation and their spectrum Management. National Radio Dynamics Zone is not a radio-quiet zone, but rather it's new, and so it means that any new kind of emitting things, like I think primarily it's targeted at cell phone towers, would just have to be done in collaboration with the project. So, we're not ruling things out, or having the final say, but if we can avoid that and find a better solution that doesn't affect us, that's our goal in that. Lifetime, the application to BLM is for a 20-year lease. However, our initial operations plan is only for the first 5-year survey to accomplish the scientific goals. We need these five years of surveys and beyond that we don't have a current plan in place, but, like the Owens Valley Radio Observatory, we've found it's continued to be scientifically productive seventy years later. We're hopeful that we will make use of the infrastructure that's there, and actually with this new kind of technological advance, a lot can actually be improved just with improved computational power and storage that we assume will continue to improve, so that you wouldn't have to touch anything in the valley. Yes, the idea is that we would not be able to do the science we want with any industrial developments within lines of sight of the project.

Councilman Perea asked do you have any concerns with the ranchers developing their property with private developments.

DSA-2000 Lead Project Manager Dr. Katie Jameson stated I don't have concerns, because I haven't heard that inclination from either of them.

**Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper turned the gavel back over to Mayor Robertson.**



9. Council Members – HR Director Ramirez – LP Insurance Services LLC Representative – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of healthcare coverage renewal proposal for the City of Ely, December 1, 2025-November 30, 2026.

HR Director Ramirez reviewed the following:

Service	Carrier	Current			Renewal		
		Effective	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Change
Medical	Sierra Health and Life	12/01/2024	\$41,756.00	\$501,072.00	\$42,903.00	\$514,836.00	2.75%   \$13,764
Dental	Kansas City Life	12/01/2024	\$2,483.00	\$29,796.00	\$2,483.00	\$29,796.00	0%   \$0
Vision	Kansas City Life	12/01/2024	\$477.00	\$5,064.00	\$477.00	\$5,064.00	0%   \$0
Basic Life	Kansas City Life	12/01/2024	\$166.00	\$1,992.00	\$166.00	\$1,992.00	0%   \$0
Total			\$44,822.00	\$537,924.00	\$45,974.00	\$551,688.00	2.56%   \$13,764

Plan Name	Current - 12/01/24		Renewal		SHL Alternate #1	
	Sierra Health and Life Ins Company, Inc.		Sierra Health and Life Ins Company, Inc.		Sierra Health and Life Ins Company, Inc.	
Funding Type	1 - SHL Solutions HSA PPO Silver 15/3200/0%		1 - SHL Solutions HSA PPO Silver 20/3600/0%		1 - SHL Solutions HSA PPO Silver 15/4500/0%	
Network	Fully Insured / Age Banded SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE		Fully Insured / Age Banded SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE		Fully Insured / Age Banded SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE	
Deductible (Ind. / Fam.) In	\$3,200 / \$6,400 EMB		\$3,800 / \$7,600 EMB		\$4,500 / \$9,000 EMB	
OOP Max. (Ind. / Fam.) In	\$6,000 / \$12,000		\$6,000 / \$12,000		\$6,550 / \$13,100	
Coinsurance In	\$1,000		\$1,000		\$1,000	
Deductible (Ind. / Fam.) Out	\$6,400 / \$12,800 EMB		\$7,500 / \$15,000 EMB		\$7,500 / \$15,000 EMB	
Coinsurance Out	50%		50%		50%	
Schedule of Benefits	In-Network		In-Network		In-Network	
Primary Care Visit	\$15 AD		\$20 AD		\$15 AD	
Specialist Visit	\$65 AD		\$65 AD		\$65 AD	
Preventative Care	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Diag. (X-Ray, Blood Work)	\$25 AD		\$25 AD		\$25 AD	
Imaging (CT/PET Scans, MRIs)	\$500 AD		\$350 AD		\$150 AD	
Outpatient Surgery	\$350 AD		\$350 AD		\$350 AD	
Emergency Room In/Out	\$500 AD		\$500 AD		\$500 AD	
Urgent Care	\$50 AD		\$50 AD		\$50 AD	
Inpatient Hospital	\$1,000 AD		\$1,000 AD		\$1,000 AD	
Outpatient Mental Health	\$15 AD		\$20 AD		\$15 AD	
Inpatient Mental Health	\$1,000 AD		\$1,000 AD		\$1,000 AD	
Prescription Drugs	In-Network		In-Network		In-Network	
Pharmacy Ded. (Ind. / Fam.)	Medical Ded. Applies		\$0 / \$0		Medical Ded. Applies	
Tier 1	Generic - \$15 AD		Generic - \$15 AD		Generic - \$15 AD	
Tier 2	NP Gen - \$15 AD		NP Gen - \$15 AD		NP Gen - \$15 AD	
Tier 3	Brand - \$35 AD		Brand - \$35 AD		Brand - \$35 AD	
Tier 4	NP Brand - \$65 AD		NP Brand - \$65 AD		NP Brand - \$65 AD	
Tier 5	Spec - \$350 AD		Spec - \$400 AD		Spec - \$400 AD	
Tier 6	NP Spec - \$500 AD		NP Spec - \$350 AD		NP Spec - \$350 AD	
Mail Order	2.50 x		2.5 x		2.50 x	
Costs	10 Enrolled		10 Enrolled		10 Enrolled	
Employee Only	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Employee + Spouse	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Employee + Child	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Employee + Children	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Employee + Family	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Monthly Costs   PEPM	\$41,755.64   \$1,159.88		\$42,903.12   \$1,191.73		\$40,605.04   \$1,127.92	
Annual Costs   PEPM	\$501,072.00   \$13,918.56		\$514,836.00   \$14,300.76		\$487,260.00   \$13,535.04	
%   \$ From Current			2.7%   \$13,757.76		-2.8%   -\$13,807.20	
Combined Costs	10 Enrolled		10 Enrolled		10 Enrolled	
Comb. Monthly Costs   PEPM	\$41,755.64   \$1,159.88		\$42,903.12   \$1,191.73		\$40,605.04   \$1,127.92	
Comb. Annual Costs   PEPM	\$501,072.00   \$13,918.56		\$514,836.00   \$14,300.76		\$487,260.00   \$13,535.04	
%   \$ From Current						



Dental (In Networks)

	Current - 12/01/24	Renewal
Plan Name	1 - DPPO   \$2000   100-80-50   MA...	1 - DPPO   \$2000   100-80-50   MA...
Funding Type	Fully Insured	Fully Insured
Contribution Style	Employer Paid	Employer Paid
Plan Type	PPO	PPO
Schedule Of Benefits	KCL Dental Alliance	KCL Dental Alliance
Claim Payment Basis	Neg. Fee Schedule	Neg. Fee Schedule
Deductible (Ind. / Fam.)	\$50 / \$150 Cal. YR.	\$50 / \$150 Cal. YR.
Annual Maximum	\$2,000	\$2,000
Preventive (I)	-	-
Basic (II)	-	-
Major (III)	50% AD	50% AD
Orthodontics (IV)	50% AD	50% AD
Lifetime Ortho Max	\$1,500	\$1,500
Waiting Periods I / II / III	N/A	N/A
Preventive (I) Excl. From Max	No	No
Additional Details	KCL Dental Alliance	KCL Dental Alliance
Rollover / Threshold / Limit	\$0 / \$0 / \$0	\$0 / \$0 / \$0
Cost / Fee	12 Enrolled	12 Enrolled
Employee	\$32.26	\$32.26
Employee + Spouse	\$63.83	\$63.83
Employee + Child(ren)	\$59.39	\$59.39
Employee + Family	\$112.58	\$112.58
Monthly Costs   PEPM	\$2,482.83   \$67.10	\$2,482.83   \$67.10
Annual Costs   PEPM	\$29,793.96   \$805.15	\$29,793.96   \$805.15
%   \$ From Current		0.0%   \$0.00
Rate Guarantee		



Vision (In Networks)

	Current - 12/01/24	Renewal
		
Plan Name	1 - 1	1 - 1
Funding Type	Fully Insured	Fully Insured
Contribution Style	Employer Paid	Employer Paid
Benefit Frequency	VSP	VSP
Benefit Basis	Rolling 12 Months	Rolling 12 Months
Eye Exam	Every 12 Months	Every 12 Months
Frames	Every 24 Months	Every 24 Months
Lenses	Every 12 Months	Every 12 Months
Contacts (in Lieu of glasses)	Every 12 Months	Every 12 Months
Plan Provisions	VSP	VSP
Eye Exam	\$10 Copay	\$10 Copay
Single Vision Lenses	\$10 Copay	\$10 Copay
Bifocal Lenses	\$10 Copay	\$10 Copay
Trifocal Lenses	\$10 Copay	\$10 Copay
Contacts In Lieu Of Glasses	Yes	Yes
Contacts Allowance - Elective	\$130	\$130
Contacts - Visually Necessary	\$10 copay	\$10 copay
Frames	VSP	VSP
Coverage Allowance	\$130 Allowance	\$130 Allowance
Coverage Above Allowance	20% savings	20% savings
Corrective Vision Services	VSP	VSP
Lasik Vision Correction	Average 15% off the regular price	Average 15% off the regular price
Cost / Fee	33 Enrolled	33 Enrolled
Employee	\$6.58 14	\$6.58 14
Employee + Spouse	\$13.16 6	\$13.16 6
Employee + Child(ren)	\$14.09 5	\$14.09 5
Employee + Family	\$22.51 8	\$22.51 8
Monthly Costs   PEPM	\$421.61   \$12.78	\$421.61   \$12.78
Annual Costs   PEPY	\$5,059.32   \$153.32	\$5,059.32   \$153.32
%   \$ From Current		0.0%   \$0.00

Basic Life & AD&D

	Current - 12/01/24	Renewal
		
Plan Name	1 - KCL Group Term Life and AD&D	1 - KCL Group Term Life and AD&D
Employee Coverage	Basic Life & AD&D	Basic Life & AD&D
1 - All Employees	\$25,000	\$25,000
Conversion	0	0
AD&D Benefit		
1 - All Employees	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rates	37 Enrolled	37 Enrolled
Life Volume	\$903,750	\$903,750
AD&D Volume	\$93,750	\$93,750
Life Rate /per \$1,000	\$0.180 37	\$0.180 37
AD&D Rate /per \$1,000	\$0.025 37	\$0.025 37
Monthly Costs   PEPM	\$165.02   \$4.26	\$165.02   \$4.26
Annual Costs   PEPY	\$1,980.24   \$51.12	\$1,980.24   \$51.12
%   \$ From Current		0.0%   \$0.00
Rate Guarantee	12/01/24 - 12/01/27	12/01/24 - 12/01/27

Basic Life & AD&D (Details)

	Current - 12/01/24	Renewal
		
Plan Name	1 - KCL Group Term Life and AD&D	1 - KCL Group Term Life and AD&D
Contribution		
Employee Cost	-	-
Employer Cost	\$166	\$166
Features		
Accelerated Death Benefit	Included	Included
Waiver of Premium	Included - SSNRA	Included - SSNRA
Benefit Reduction Schedule		
Tier 1	Age 35 - 35%	Age 35 - 35%
Tier 2	Age 70 - 50%	Age 70 - 50%

**City of Ely**

**10.23.2025 City Council Meeting**

**Subject: Approval of the City of Ely Employee Benefit Plans for 2025-26 Plan Year**

**Overview**

City of Ely's employee medical policy is renewing December 1, 2025. City of Ely's dental policy is in a rate guarantee through November 30, 2026 and the vision and life policies are in a rate guarantee through November 30, 2027. The below contains the applicable background information and management's recommendations.

**Summary**

Heading into the renewal, the City of Ely's medical loss ratio (MLR) is a 93%. Employee utilization is high and the rising costs of healthcare are providing less favorable claims experience.

Even with that experience, Sierra Health and Life (SHL) released the renewal at a 2.7% increase. LP presented a similar plan option with lower rates but would require increasing the deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for employees.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the medical renewal for the 2025-26 plan year as outlined above.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the healthcare coverage renewal proposal for the City of Ely, December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026 recommended by City HR Director Ramirez. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Mayor Robertson – White Pine County Social Services Director Desiree Barnson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for White Pine County Social Services to retain the remaining balance of \$7,300 of the \$10,000 donated by the City of Ely on July 24, 2025.

White Pine County Social Services Director Desiree Barnson stated we have got one left at the park right now. I was able to use my grant funding for the majority of moving people, which ended in September, and as of right now, I am waiting with everybody else for the feds to decide their budget to have funding. So, if you guys do let me retain this, it allows me to help with water bills and power bills until we get to the point where the feds decide to have a budget.

Mayor Robertson stated just so we're clear, the request is to use the \$7,300 for any of your regularly scheduled programming?

White Pine County Social Services Director Desiree Barnson stated yes, they have to meet income guidelines, of course.

Councilman Perea moved to approve for White Pine County Social Services to retain the remaining balance of \$7,300 of the \$10,000 donated by the City of Ely on July 24, 2025. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval to participate in the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act (WPCCRDA) Land Sale Round 3 Environmental Assessment as a cooperating agency.

Councilman Perea moved to approve participation in the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act (WPCCRDA) Land Sale Round 3 Environmental Assessment as a cooperating agency. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilman Trask – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely’s behalf to secure federal and State funding.

## Activity Report for The City of Ely

### FOR THE MONTH OF September 2025

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#### Appropriations Requests

- Resubmitted all requests from FY25 with updated applications and letters of support to Congressman Amodei and the Senate delegation.
- Senators Rosen and Cortez Masto submitted all requests to the appropriations subcommittees.
- First Responder Communication Equipment Upgrade was fully funded at \$5,000,000 in the Senate CJS Report Language.

#### Additional Grants

- Reaching out to the delegation to begin working through the Bureau of Reclamation to address the Water Meter Project
- Targeting the WaterSmart grant program with Bureau of Reclamation
- Have reached out to FRA Deputy Administrator for follow up meeting to discuss CRISI Grant, expected in early fall 2025.

#### Additional Activities

- Provided federal updates on a variety of topics important to the City of Ely, including pending action in the House and Senate, potential legislative updates, and updates on grant award announcements.

City Clerk Lee stated Porter has been keeping us informed regarding our grant funding, as it relates to the federal shutdown, and working with the Federal Railroad Administration to determine CRISI grant application requirements.

4. Councilwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to waive landfill trailer disposal fees for the purchaser of White Pine Mobile Park.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated I would like to bring attention to Ordinance 678 that states property owners who rebuild on the same lot within 365 days of the date of disposal shall be entitled to reimbursement of 100% of the landfill fees arising out of disposing of a demolished structure of the same lot. This ordinance was passed in 2015. This was discovered under further investigation of the request by the landowner. I would actually encourage the Council to strike this agenda item, since there is already the availability for the developer to receive reimbursement of his disposal fees of the Objects on the property.

Mayor Robertson stated I recommend this item is quashed as there are avenues that already provide this service.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to quash waiving landfill trailer disposal fees for the purchaser of White Pine Mobile Park. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) request for two City of Ely easements in order to proceed with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act (WPCCRDA) Land Sale Round 3, with possible approval of said easement agreements; the first easement is a road section approximately 625’ in length connecting Ely Auto Dismantlers Road to Bothwick Road and the second easement is a road section approximately 325’ in length located approximately 1,825 feet northwest of Bothwick Road, near State Route 490.

Bureau of Land Management Assistant Field Manager Melanie Peterson stated White Pine County has nominated three parcels for disposal, under the WPCCRDA and upon looking and working through this process, we noted that the City of Ely owns a couple of parcels and a current road crosses City of Ely Land. Our concern is when we put these parcels up for disposal, they go out for public auction, and if somebody purchases those, we want to ensure that there is public access or access to public lands, and so that is why we are requesting easements over City of Ely parcels.



Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve the two City of Ely easements in order to proceed with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act (WPCCRDA) Land Sale Round 3, with possible approval of said easement agreements; the first easement is a road section approximately 625' in length connecting Ely Auto Dismantlers Road to Bothwick Road and the second easement is a road section approximately 325' in length located approximately 1,825 feet northwest of Bothwick Road, near State Route 490. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Councilwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Resolution 2025-09, A resolution declaring the City of Ely's intention to exchange real property with White Pine County pursuant to NRS 277.050 and NRS 277.053.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my sister, Janet Van Camp, is a White Pine County Commissioner.

City Attorney Arabia stated I worked on this in cooperation with Ross from the DA's office, and it does comply with Nevada law.

Mayor Robertson stated this is the first step that's required by NRS to declare the intent.

Councilman Trask moved to approve Resolution 2025-09, A resolution declaring the City of Ely's intention to exchange real property with White Pine County pursuant to NRS 277.050 and NRS 277.053. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Councilwoman Van Camp – Building Official Hendrickson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Contract for Retention recommendation requested by Building Official Hendrickson with possible approval of one, several or all enumerated terms.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated recently I was offered another job and before accepting that and submitting my resignation, I was asked if I would reconsider without getting into full details of why and whatnot. I considered it very heavily, and did submit these requests to benefit myself, obviously, but also to benefit the City and the community.

Councilman Perea stated we have a competent and qualified building official and a tough position to fill, and I think that there's a conversation to be had about how we retain them. I don't believe that this is the mechanism for that. There are two items in there that are budget items that need to really go through the budget process. The other two items would be big departures from the way we generally do business, and I don't know if we would want to go there, and I think it would cause problems.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I agreed that I don't think this is a platform to do that, but that we should have that conversation.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to say that I have been working closely with Don on some redevelopment projects. He has a wealth of building knowledge, we're lucky to have him, and he's very well qualified. I find him very ethical, has attention to detail, and forward thinking. We have had discussions on his expansion of the building department, and he's a forward thinker and perfect for our community.

Mayor Robertson stated if the Council would like to have a different conversation, that would have to come back to the Council meeting. If the Council would like Don to have a separate conversation with either HR or myself, that can happen outside of this meeting.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated well, presumably those conversations were had, and then it was brought to us.

Mayor Robertson stated there were some conversations had. I've spoken with Don, I know Don has had conversations with the HR Director, and of course, with Councilwoman Van Camp, which is how this item got on the agenda. I would encourage

the Council to offer some guidance on the conversation, regarding if they're okay with these items, or they're just not okay with the venue, or they don't like the items entire or in part, or some discussion on where they'd like this to go, because Councilwoman Yeoman is correct, there have been some conversations, and as Don said, he was asked if there were things that could be changed that he would like to request, and this is how we ended up here.

Councilman Trask stated I think the part that concerns me a little bit is just the contract language. I don't know how a contract is enforceable. I wish this would have happened when we had our evaluations, as that seemed like maybe a time or mechanism to be able to do this.

Mayor Robertson stated the City has in the past done a contract for various employee positions and found it to be legally problematic, just from the enforceability standpoint. The other two items, I know the discussion has been that there's budgetary processes for those, and the main item that's left there would be the item of pay, which would need to come back separately to the Council.

Councilman Trask stated on item number one, one of the concerns for me is that's roughly a 20% raise, understanding that that would be frozen for four years based on this. If we could look at bringing back a plan that's not quite as steep initially and making sure that our Treasurer is on board with that as well, but just the sheer amount concerns me a little bit.

Councilman Perea stated on the second item I think there is a little bit of a consistency issue. We've got a public official and that's where I think that it's a departure from norms. I'd just like to stay away from those, and that's just my personal opinion.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated I guess it would be appropriate to add that I am on the timeline here, that I have tentatively accepted the position, and the reason why I'm here tonight is because I was asked to put together a request if I were to be retained. The last thing I ever want to do is depart on a bad status, and I feel you all are my supervisors and essentially this is your decision. HR can't make that decision, the Mayor can't make that decision, it is the Council's decision. With the request that I have submitted, I put great consideration to making sure that it's not just beneficial to myself, but it's also beneficial to the City and the public. I really want to key in on the question that Terrell had about the contract. I feel like that is important to make sure that I'm putting good faith into saying, okay, I'm going to stay with this in place as a promise to the City and to you as the Council and in return get the same respect. As far as the budgetary items are concerned, those were considered with some of the issues that I am facing right now in my department, and what I have a lot of concerns about. These are tools to improve upon those problems that I'm facing, and as to why I might have considered other employment. As I also did state that this is something that I wouldn't want to take place immediately, because it does face budgetary issues with this fiscal year, as stated in there. I feel that that is something that can be applied to the next fiscal year, which would come back for your approval anyways.

Councilwoman Yeoman asked, "How long were we without a Building Official before Don came?"

Mayor Robertson stated I want to say it was about four to six months.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated I think we just have to ask ourselves, given what Councilman VanCamp said about what a great job he's been doing, and I think everyone agrees, is it worth considering these terms to keep someone who's qualified for the position in the position.

Mayor Robertson stated it is genuinely difficult to find people for any of our City official positions. Finding someone who's comfortable in the community, as well as qualified, is two parts, and it's not always the easiest two parts to get in the same person. We appreciate not only the job Don has been doing, but his family's contribution to the community. They have been wonderful community members and have really jumped in

with both feet, so it would be upsetting to lose the entire Hendrickson clan. That being said, everybody has to do what's best for themselves and for their family. I know that's a discussion I've had with Don as well. Certainly, nobody would begrudge anybody doing that, whether that's staying or going. Everybody has to make their own decisions, but the Council needs to make their decision on not only what's best for the position, but what's best for the organization, and whether that's staying with norms that we've previously put into place, or considering other terms, that's the Council's job there, as Don pointed out.

Councilman Perea asked can HR Director Ramirez and you go back within the frameworks that we've used in the past, have the conversation, and bring it back within those norms. This is a big departure from how we do business.

Mayor Robertson stated if the Council's direction is to do that and discuss how we could fit those requests into our typical timeframe and norms, we're happy to do that. As Don pointed out, he has a timeframe constraint, and we won't be having another meeting until the 13th of November. I would assume that if we can have that conversation, that's either going to work for Don or it isn't, and we will know within a few days, whether that comes back, but we're happy to have that conversation, if that would be the direction of the Council.

City Attorney Arabia asked, “are you able to say what your absolute last day is that you have to know how this is going to go?”

City Building Official Hendrickson stated to be straight with you, I need to know now. The reason for that is it's a move across country and I need to be able to plan for that, and my family needs to be able to plan for that. What is on the table right now, I feel is reasonable given the status of what I've provided, and what I'd like to do going forward with the Building Department. My tentative start date is the end of November which means I need to be able to get out of here in a timely manner and find housing in that location for my wife and child.

Councilman Perea moved to quash review of Contract for Retention recommendation requested by Building Official Hendrickson with possible approval of one, several or all enumerated terms and asked that any last-ditch efforts are made by the Mayor and HR Director Ramirez. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Council Members – Building Official Hendrickson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Update on White Pine Motel’s abatement of Dangerous Building violations, with possible approval to add the following condition which must be met by the property owner prior to issuance of the building’s Certificate of Occupancy: Limited Re-Opening.

Mayor Robertson stated I understand you had the last inspection prior to the meeting sometime this week.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated yes, I did, and it is my recommendation to this Council that we reinstate Mr. Moattar’s business license for the White Pine Motel. He has met the minimum requirements to get an occupancy permit. We've seen a lot of work happen there this summer. It has a new roof and there's a lot of new drywall and other materials that were corrected. There have also been mold abatements done, but given the track record of the property, I do believe that it is in the best interest of the City to put a requirement on his reinstatement of his business license to have quarterly inspections to make sure that he is maintaining that property in the proper manner.

Mayor Robertson asked has the Fire Department also inspected?

Building Official Hendrickson stated not recently.

Mayor Robertson asked do they need to before we offer the final say-so?

Building Official Hendrickson stated no, because this was from the Building Department, but I would encourage that the Fire Department is included in those quarterly inspections.

Councilman Perea stated not to change the deal that I think we made, but can we also require that he's up to date on all of his other fees and all of his properties in the city?

Mayor Robertson stated that is a requirement to have a City business license is to be current on all your fees.

Councilman Perea asked so he will be current on all of his properties?

Mayor Robertson stated I don't know that we can link all of his properties together.

City Building Official Hendrickson stated he does have property in the County that we don't have jurisdiction to mandate on.

Mayor Robertson asked can we extend that kind of admission to the rest of his property not related to this case?

City Attorney Arabia stated why would we do that?

Mayor Robertson stated I think Councilman Perea, if I may, is only saying that because we've had problems with this property owner in other places, and he's trying to get some compliance with the rest of the properties as well.

City Attorney Arabia stated that's a fair point. Don and I have done a lot of work on this. There was a problem at the White Pine Motel that was attacked individually, there was a problem at the trailer park, as we all know, and we just went individually and as you said, inspections can be done pretty much any time. I just don't see the benefit, because I think that there's been some good things done with the trailer park, and then the same thing with the White Pine Motel. Personally, I never thought that he would repair the motel to a point that Don could stand in front of you and say you can reinstate the license. I think that the way we've been doing it is good. Because of the public nuisance situation, he has a criminal charge that's in a state of abatement, but the condition is no further nuisance-related violations over the course of the next year, or that becomes a conviction.

Councilman Perea stated I hope this is our last problem with Mr. Moattar.

Councilwoman Van Camp asked will all of the rooms in the Motel be open?

Building Official Hendrickson stated yes.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve reinstating the White Pine Motel's business license with quarterly inspections for one year by the City Building Official and the Ely Fire Department. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Consideration of complaint of Unsafe Conditions in Corner Tracks Saloon & Stage, based upon Building Department and Fire Department inspections, with possible citation of licensee to appear at the November 13, 2025 meeting of the Ely City Council to show cause why his Class III Liquor License should not be suspended or revoked.

Mayor Robertson stated I will let the Council know that Mr. Alfieri canceled his business license and closed his business last month, so this is a non-issue at the moment.

Item died due to lack of motion.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding not receiving a copy of letters that the City sent to Ralph Jones, Tina Templer, Jeremy Lilly, Doug Lilly, Kelly Gubbine, Elaine Blackham, Chris Walker, and Jane Montgomery stating standards they needed to meet to get a refund; 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; the Contract Change Order for the Bell Avenue Project and the damage to his property not being addressed; who authorized the City crew to work on the sewer line at 785 Bell Avenue; the sewer problem he took care of at his residence located at 681 Parker; and that he would like the selective enforcement and discrimination to stop.

Vince Fleischman stated the gentleman in the green shirt, I don't know your name, but you're on the right track. You have an individual who has shown himself to be a horrible landlord, not just, slightly bad, not this one accident, but this guy on purpose has made living conditions dangerous. I've been to his rentals, and many things don't work such as electricity, heat, and all those things. You're on the right track because where there's smoke, there's fire and it's only a matter of time before one of his places burns down. A bunch of people are going to die because this person is just a bad landlord, and he doesn't care about his tenants at all, and that's very, very blatant. So, I'm totally in favor of increasing the standards on landlords in general. This individual has shown himself to be highly irresponsible.

Mayor Robertson stated the Capitol Christmas tree will be coming through Ely on November 3rd. I will point out that there are only four stops that they're making in the state of Nevada before it heads to Washington, D.C, that being Carson City, Elko, Ely, and Las Vegas. It's a big honor, and we're excited to have it from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

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

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 6:32 p.m. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
ATTEST

  
MAYOR

