



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**June 26, 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.
- 2.

### Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson  
Councilman Terrill Trask  
Councilwoman Melody Van Camp  
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 Fire Chief Pat Stork  
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 on the following page) and the following people attended via video conference: Geri Wopschall; Councilwoman-Elect Michelle Yeoman; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Susan Schulz Stark; Eugene Harper, Lena Ocasio, USDA; Kelly Higgins, BLM; Robbie Purdie; and Tristan.

## **ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST**

**DATE: June 26, 2025**

Print name below

PAUL PODBORN  
Paula Carson  
Dary Saunders  
Stephanie Saunders  
Trez 214  
Dean Reynolds  
Janette Trask  
Katy Green  
Pat Robinson

Print name below

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Carson stated I do live in White Pine County, not the City, but I would like to speak about the agenda item regarding the water agreement between the City and the County. I am not opposed to the concept, but I would like to say that our constituents rightfully expect us to be well prepared and well informed. This particular item has been under consideration for many years. It is our duty to ensure that we are inclusive of the entire community and that we do our utmost for the greater good. I spent some time today, and I'm sorry I haven't had more time to work on this, but I was surprised to find out that at least five of these eleven permits are for effluence and not groundwater. Effluence, as listed on the State Water Engineer's website, is associated with treated or untreated wastewater that is discharged from sources such as sewage treatment plants. I would implore that the Council consider not only this concept, but also the neighboring people who have wells, the lessee of the Georgetown ranch who pays income to the City, and others who will be affected by this. I talked to a contractor who actually built a mile and a half of pipeline from the northernmost sewer pond that goes out to the Georgetown Ranch, and it has a head gate every 500 feet to flood the fields. Given this is effluence rather than groundwater, I just have concerns about that, and I hope that you all are aware of that. Thank you.

June 22, 2025

Nathan Robertson, Mayor  
City of Ely  
501 Mill Street  
Ely Nevada 89301

Dear Mayor Robertson:

I am pleased to write in support of the appointment of Michelle Yeoman to the open City Council position. I have known Michelle since her arrival in Ely in 2015 as a seasonal employee of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition. Over the intervening years I have watched Michelle succeed at everything she has participated in. She is the type of person who succeeds because she applies herself to the work at hand, does the necessary research to understand the problem and makes the right decision. I have watched her through good times and difficult ones; she maintains her positive attitude and I have never seen her lash out at anyone which is something that was a problem on past Councils. I've no doubt that she will be a productive and engaged councilwoman and so be an asset to the community.

Sincerely,



William Wolf

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

1. Mayor Robertson - Council Members - City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Selection to fill Ely City Council Seat 3; Nominees for seat: Trezevant Adair Rice, Doug Saunders, and Michelle Yeoman.

Mayor Robertson stated the way I'd like to proceed is that we will hear from each nominee one by one, as they're listed on the agenda. The Council can speak on behalf of any of them, ask any questions, and then we'll entertain motions after everybody's been

heard from. If you'd like to start by introducing yourself and just talk a little bit about your experience and what you think you'll be bringing to the position.

Trezevant Adair Rice stated I've been living in Ely for over a year now so I am quite new, and I know that can be kind of scary for some. I moved out here from Georgia after getting my master's degree in geology from Ohio. I was looking for a job to take me out West, and I took a job at the Bureau of Land Management where I am a geologist. I've always loved small towns. This is the smallest place I've ever lived, and I really love it here. You're forced to do things when you don't know anyone, and you move to a new place. You get involved in different ways and help people and see what people are like and I've learned a lot about this town within that time. I've also learned that it is kind of unique in that I feel like a lot of people in this town aren't long term residents. There's a lot of staff turnover at the Mine and the Bureau of Land Management. A lot of my friends haven't lived here for more than two years, and I think that a lot of those kinds of viewpoints on the town are important. My girlfriend, Emily, is moving out here this summer to become a teacher. We're looking to make this our home. I already have a very public facing position, and I understand what it's like to deal with people that might not always agree with you. I understand in a small town. It can sometimes be hard to separate those agreements from your personal life. I really enjoy people and the community, and I want to be an instrument, a cog in the machine, if you will. I know I'm also on the younger side, which is good and bad. I really didn't know anything about this until Sam told me about it. I've been to Council meetings several times watching her and what she's done, and it really made me interested in kind of taking up the mantle and helping. So that's my introduction, and who I am.

Mayor Robertson asked, "have you had any prior experience serving on any boards or working on committees or things like that?"

Trezevant Adair Rice stated I've worked on multiple boards. I've been president of a geology club at two different universities. I've served on different academic boards as treasurer/secretary at different positions in my lifetime. Nothing big with local involvement in the city, officially, like a position like this, but I've also been involved in smaller political campaigns and things in different towns I've been in. It's really important for me to get involved.

Councilman Trask asked, "Any experience with budgets or governmental finance; and knowing that many of us did not have it coming in, but I was just wondering.

Trezevant Adair Rice stated I have been treasurer for several different organizations and dealt with a lot of money issues. Even in my job now, I look through a lot of spreadsheets on data and budgets and make sure that x's are crossed and t's are dotted, and all of those things.

Mayor Robertson asked, are there any other questions or anything else you would like to add?

Trezevant Adair Rice stated I'm just happy to be here and I think that you guys have a lot of great candidates.

Doug Saunders stated my wife, and I moved here in 2021, so we've been here for a few years, but also not lifelong. We moved here from Las Vegas shortly after Covid and quickly fell in love with this place. We like the outdoors, but, more importantly, we like the potential that Ely has and White Pine County at large. Since we moved here, I have involved myself pretty quickly with as much as I can to make things better where I can. I believe within the first six months I started writing for the local newspaper, Bristlecone Tribune, and I've been reporting for Teresa since the summer of 2021. In this last election cycle, I did run for County Commission seat 2; I guess that's a quick introduction. I have some background in administrative law aside from my experience at the newspaper and reporting. As of today, I just finished and published a housing report that I've been working on in the community for two months. Some of you have received that via email and I hope you enjoy what I've written and what I've discovered. I like to have as much involvement as I can and continue to include myself in and help build the community is what my interest is.

Mayor Robertson stated one question I had was, do you feel it's going to be a conflict having to be a reporter and be someone who should be reported on?

Doug Saunders stated not at all. I've had discussions with Teresa about this already and my approach is to pretty much step back from reporting.

Councilman Perea stated I know with spouses and whatnot there's always some conflict and whatnot, and having to firewall off discussions. Do you see an issue in the short term with your wife's role in the Grand Jury?

Doug Saunders stated I appreciate that question as well. I'm surprised no one's asked it already. No, we have no issues with that. What business she has, and what interviews and discussions she has must be kept private for the sake of anonymity. What she's doing on the Grand Jury has nothing to do with me, and we're more than capable of respecting those boundaries.

Mayor Robertson asked, "you have lived within the City limits for at least a year?"

Doug Saunders stated yes, the entire time we have been here.

Councilman Trask asked, "Do you have any background in budgeting?"

Doug Saunders stated we help with our church's finances from time to time and I have done some finance work in the private sector before, but nothing administrative, as far as governments go.

Mayor Robertson asked, "have you had any past experience on boards or committees, or working in any sort of local governance?"

Doug Saunders stated not in local governance, but for the company that I work for now I am on a wellness committee, but as far as a public office no.

Michelle Yeoman stated hello everyone, my apologies that I couldn't be there tonight, but I did have a prior engagement. Just to provide a little bit of background about myself. My name is Michelle Yeoman, and, as was mentioned in the letter, I first came to Ely in 2015 to work for the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition. I worked for ENLC for many seasons, and it was with that job that I really fell in love with Eastern Nevada and Nevada in general. I got a really good insight into the more transient community in Ely, those people that Tres had mentioned that come and work at the BLM and work these other jobs. Currently, I work at Robinson Mine, and I started there in 2020. I am an Environmental Engineer in the Environmental Department. I'm also an active member of the Mine Rescue Team. I really appreciate my previous job that I had in Ely, because I got to meet so many people, but it was really through my work at the Mine that I started to feel really integrated into this community. I have got to meet so many people who have lived here their whole lives, and whose families have been here for generations, and maybe they've worked at our local mine or one of the other mines that aren't too far away. I just feel so fortunate to have experienced both sides of that coin. My partner and I recently bought a house, and it is my first house so we're very excited about that. There are many reasons that I love Ely, but I'll just list a couple of them. I think my biggest reason I love Ely is that even though we're a small community, we're such a diverse community with so many different interests here. There are so many different community events that are held, and I really try to go to as many as I can. I love learning more about the connections between all of our residents. I appreciate that people come from far and wide just to ride our train, I have enjoyed learning about the history, I love that we have a walking mural tour, we have artists and musicians in this town, new businesses coming in making things happen, and overall, I just think it's a really exciting time to be in Ely. Since I have been here, I've seen some ebbs and flows, but I know there are lots of passionate people that are here right now that want to contribute to this community, and if given the opportunity, I would just love to contribute more and continue to make this a place that we all love to live.

Councilwoman Van Camp asked have you been to any Council meetings or do you pay attention to it on Zoom?

Michelle Yeoman stated I have been to a meeting recently and trying to get more involved.

Mayor Robertson asked, “do you have any prior experiences serving on any boards or any sort of committee work or working with a group in that kind of capacity?”

Michelle Yeoman stated I don't, but I do fancy myself a quick study. I work really hard at what I do, and I like to learn new things, and I like to think I learned them quickly, so I have no doubt I would pick it up.

Councilman Trask asked, “Do you have any budget experience?”

Michelle Yeoman stated outside my personal budget I am just starting to get roped into that out at the Mine, but it is very early stages.

Mayor Robertson asked, “what, exactly, is kind of your day-to-day responsibilities with the Environmental Department just so we can get an idea of kind of your professional experience?”

Michelle Yeoman stated I've been in the department for three years. I started doing more of the compliance duties; so, gathering the data and compiling it into reports that are going to go to our State Regulators and also to the BLM and now, I'm moving more into the permitting sphere. So, helping my supervisor just make sure that we are able to get any permit changes pushed through that we need, and working more with our State and federal regulators.

Mayor Robertson stated I'm so pleased to see so many well-qualified and interested applicants with such a great background, and certainly a lot of experience in dealing with a wide variety of things they could be bringing to the City organization.

Councilman Perea moved to appoint Michelle Yeoman to fill Ely City Council Seat 3 to fulfill the term through November 2026. Mayor Robertson seconded the motion.

Mayor Robertson stated I think her background in permitting will be helpful as we have a lot of EIS and environmental things coming across our desks with all of power development, solar panels, transmission lines and things. I think having some experience looking at some of those things would not be a bad thing at all.

Councilman Perea stated I have worked with Michelle when I was up at the Mine, and I just thought that she was competent, warm, professional, and engaging. I think that she's strong enough to disagree, but I think she has the decorum not to be disagreeable. I just had a lot of faith in the fact that they are making a life here, buying property, and she's been here a better part of a decade at this point and is engaged in the community. Quite frankly, we need an infusion of sorts, and all of these candidates do that.

Mayor Robertson stated I was really pleased to see all the candidates mention interest in representing some of the transient population as well, the people who may not have been here as long as some of us, and I think that's important as well.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. SWEARING IN NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICER BY CITY CLERK**

1. Mayor Robertson - Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Swearing in of Council Member for Seat 3 to serve term until City elections are held in November 2026.

Michelle Yeoman was sworn in by City Clerk Lee as City Council Member Seat 3 of the City of Ely for a term until City elections are held in November 2026.

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

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

## 6. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### ➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated at NDEP's request, City Engineer Almberg and I met with them regarding our CAP grant application last Tuesday; they informed us the City will need to provide minutes of regular water rate reviews by the City Council and have an approved Asset Management Plan in place by project completion. We had a successful CDBG Monitoring of our Parker/Bell grants; they commended Basin Engineering's thorough environmental/construction files, and I'd like to thank Patti for her hard work on those grant binders. Janette, Patti, two Basin Engineering employees and I attended CDBG training this week and learned that they can assist with ADA improvements on the outside of buildings housing government offices and need to be involved from the outset on projects with multiple funding sources.

### ➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated the office staff attended the CDBG training that was here this week. We do a lot of CDBG projects, and to be eligible for that, we all need to go to training. We were very fortunate that the training was here this year. I assisted Chris a little bit this last week with this well agreement. Our Aultman Street Project is keeping us very busy. The other thing is we are finalizing our plan set for Morley Avenue Sewer project and we're sheeting it to get it to set, and we'll get it to CDBG for approval. We cannot put it on the street for bid until we get their approval.

## 7. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I have been to both of the meetings that we've had for the businesses to talk about what's going on with all of the construction and so forth. I found them very informative and so thank you to those folks who are doing that. I found that people are really drilling down and being able to ask very honest questions, and they're being answered in the same way. At both of those meetings I didn't feel like there was anyone in the room that was disgruntled, they just wanted to know what's going on. How does it affect us as a city and once you're inching towards a business, they have been given good information about how it's going to affect them. Thank you for those meetings, they were really good.

### ➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated I just want to give an update on the Railroad. Their usual cash flow issues are still there, but we are having a special meeting on the 1st to take in an infusion of cash that is well needed. I wanted to also point out that the Board has taken steps to sequester incoming funds and set the priorities to make sure that we get back on solid cash footing at the Railroad.

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the Natural Resources Advisory Committee and there was a presentation given by Balance Rock Power on the Samantha Solar Project to be located in Jakes Valley. These folks were not prepared to stand up against the grueling questions afterwards from the Board. Just a few items here were devastation being done to the environment when a solar farm is erected, the ground underneath becomes sterile and can never be recovered, and solar panels equal loss of grazing land. This project will fence 2,500 acres restricting elk, deer, and livestock from roving and grazing, not to mention the amount of convex boxes. There was also lots of input from the ranchers. Chairman Odgers stated that all these energy projects are in our backyard, benefiting everybody else but us. On the BLM report, of course they have a shortage of employees, and there is a hiring freeze going on due to drought. There will be no wild horse roundups or water delivery. The amount of radio telescopes going in at Spring Valley has been scaled back, but there were no reported numbers. It was mentioned, there are thirty-three more applications for solar farms for this area, with more coming. The U.S. Forest Service reported on mountain bike trails, restoration and trail work being done, and fire prevention work. Department of Wildlife reported that, due to the drought, the agency is moving bighorn sheep from down south to Northern Nevada and Utah. I also attended the meeting with Kelly McNeil from the Nevada League of Cities with my

fellow Council, the Mayor, and Janette. We did get an update of what's going on in Carson City, and she did answer any questions we had. I attended the Tree Board meeting this morning; I'm just sitting in until Michelle gets on. The discussion was on the tree planning to be done at the cemetery. Also, I am still planning on the rededication of Jack Caylor Park that's coming together. The community service trash pickup is still going on, and I'm taking pictures of the collection of trash and debris with Patti posting it on the website. We are cleaning up the community.

➤ **COUNCILMAN TRASK**

Councilman Trask stated I also with Kelly McNeil with the League of Cities. I just want to say that I sit on the Tourism and Recreation Board, and we just had our grant process and gave away close to \$200,000.00 in capital projects and outdoor recreation and facility projects at our last meeting. It was nice to see some of the money go back into the community.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated after our meeting with Kelly McNeil, I went on the road with her on an Eastern Nevada tour. We visited Caliente, North Las Vegas, and Mesquite, trying to get them back in the League. I had some really good conversations and got to see what was going on in some of these other cities. If you're going through Caliente, take a look at their newly restored depot/city hall; It looks amazing. They're doing a lot of good work down there, and Mesquite is about twenty times bigger than I remember it last time I was there. There are a lot of exciting things happening on the 4<sup>th</sup> and we really appreciate all the various organizations around the community pitching in on those kinds of events. Please take a look at all the advertisements and avail yourselves of some of the great things happening for the weekend of the 4th and coming up this summer too.

**8. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE ELY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD.**

1. Board Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Class III Liquor License, effective June 27, 2025, to The Total Experience located at 309 Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada.

No action

**THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE ELY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD 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 would also like to disclose I received payment for the sewing I did for the Fire Department.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 9A-1 Bills.

Moved by: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - June 11, 2025
  - June 18, 2025



**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Council Member sworn in to fill seat 3 to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, per NAC 459.99131, to fulfill a term through December 31, 2026

Councilman Trask moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Councilwoman Yeoman to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, per NAC 459.99131, to fulfill a term through December 31, 2026. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral designation of Council Member sworn in to fill seat 3 as the liaison for the Parks and Recreation Department; the primary function of a liaison is to be a two-way communication vehicle between the Council and the department to which appointed; liaison designations are not supervisory roles per City Code 1-5-6.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to confirm the Mayoral designation of Councilwoman Yeoman as the liaison for the Parks and Recreation Department; the primary function of a liaison is to be a two-way communication vehicle between the Council and the department to which appointed; liaison designations are not supervisory roles per City Code 1-5-6. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to appoint Desiree Ramirez as Human Resource Director effective July 1, 2025.

Mayor Robertson stated I've interviewed Desiree Ramirez. She has done a lot of classes and received certificates preparing for this coming position. She has been working with our current HR Director/Treasurer on a lot of these issues. I think she's well qualified and it makes sense to appoint from within. I would ask her to come up and introduce herself and entertain any questions from the Council regarding her interest in the position and her qualifications to do so.

Desiree Ramirez stated I've been employed with the City for over four years and before that I was a general manager for thirteen years. I've lived in White Pine County for twenty-eight years. I've got my PSHRA Certified Professional certification, which is the Public Sector Human Resources Association. I'm looking to expand my certifications, and I really appreciate this opportunity.

Mayor Robertson stated Desi, and I had a long talk about the direction we'd like to take HR. When I came into this position in 2019, the position of HR had kind of been in the city attorney's department, and it was kind of the last thing on his list to do amongst all the other things. Our Treasurer took that over and kind of had to rebuild our HR Program from scratch. We've come a long way, but in talking with Desi I expressed my desire to move on to the next level of what we need to do here. Going from dealing with the crisis as they come up to auditing departments, making sure that their personnel files are where they need to be, offering training so that we can kind of lessen the dumpster fires as they show up, and really make great HR people out of all of our department heads. Desi seems to agree that that's the direction we'd like to go.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated HR is really an important position and it's really important to have a good demeanor and to be friendly, because sometimes things are hard and they're sticky. It's just very pleasant being around her and I think that's going to be good for all of us.

Councilman Perea stated in small organizations you're going to have overlap and whatnot but having a more textbook structure and having somebody dedicated to the role, I think is important. To your point, there's a lot of liability in it, and having the time to actually work on it is important.



Mayor Robertson stated Desi will still be doing accounts payable and working with Janette. Janette will still be the Deputy HR Director to back up Desi as she's needed and some of the other way around as well. Desi will be an appointed City official, so she'll be on the same organizational level as the rest of our City officials. Previously the Council did approve a pay range for this position. I don't believe it was this council, but it was a previous council, and I believe it's \$60,000 to I forget what the upper range is, but Desi has requested \$62,500.00 as her starting wage because of her certifications and prior experience. I felt that was very fair, and I would be advocating for the Council to go along with that, unless you have some other plans or thoughts that you'd like to entertain on that.

Councilman Perea moved to appoint Desiree Ramirez as the Human Resource Director effective July 1, 2025. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval to participate in the Samantha Solar Project Environmental Impact Statement as a cooperating agency.

Mayor Robertson stated we typically are a participating agency for these EIS processes for the construction. We are the closest community that's going to be impacted by a lot of the activities of this, mostly on our infrastructure and population. So, we try to stay on top of it and keep a voice on these things.

Councilman Trask moved to approve participating in the Samantha Solar Project Environmental Impact Statement as a cooperating agency. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Trask – Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely's behalf to secure federal and State funding.

Councilman Trask stated we met with them on Monday. We have some good news in the sense that our projects have made it through the request phase and into the committee phase. Those projects are the City Hall renovation, the EMS system, and the water meters.

Mayor Robertson stated Councilwoman Williams-Harper is sitting in those meetings now in place of Councilwoman Elliott and we are happy to have her. As Councilman Trask said our Senators did recommend our three projects to go to committee, so the committees will now discuss those. We have still been discussing the Public Lands Bill and getting the City added to the SNPLMA program as a possible grantee so that we could assist the County with some of these community projects and help out in a more official capacity there.

6. Councilwoman Van Camp – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of agreement for Golf Course Irrigation Water Rights terms for the City of Ely to lease at no cost portions of all Irrigation Water Rights to White Pine County associated with APN 010-424-04 for a total combined duty of 420.4 ac-ft/acre (AFA) to be used for irrigation on the Golf Course; in exchange, White Pine County shall deed 420.4 AFA from their Industrial Water Rights in Steptoe Valley to the City of Ely.

City Engineer Almberg stated Chris did a lot of work to get this done in a timely manner. He took the bullet points that were presented both to the City Council and the County Commission and put them into an agreement. One of the things that was mentioned tonight was the effluent water. Every permit that's listed there has some portion of that permit touching this piece of property that we're talking about, so we have to list it, whether they end up using any effluent water or not; I don't know that that matters. The important thing about this situation is the underground water that is associated with that land.

Mayor Robertson asked, “are these water rights that we’re leasing to the county specifically irrigation water rights?”

City Engineer Almberg stated yes.

Mayor Robertson stated that's what they're going to be doing with them is irrigating the Golf Course. I know there's been a lot of talk at both meetings in the past if these are irrigation water rights, industrial water rights, municipal water rights or drinking water rights. Could you explain how that process works, just so we are clear.

City Engineer Almberg stated every water right has a specific use that it's set up for whether it's irrigation, municipal, or industrial, as he said. None of our water rights are industrial at this point. The County has industrial water rights from their power plants from many, many years ago, I think 1979, when they came into play. The 420-acre feet they're going to deed back to us are definitely industrial water rights. What the City will do is take those and do a change application, to change them from the point of diversion way out north in Steptoe Valley and move them to one of our wells and convert them as a part of the application to a municipal water right that we would use for our wells. Our water rights associated with that, we are going to lease to them, making the paperwork much easier. In fact, it eliminates the paperwork from the standpoint of it's just a lease. The City still maintains their obligation to keep those water rights active and current, so they don't really have to do anything during the time of that lease.

Mayor Robertson stated these water rights talk about surface water, effluent, and groundwater, but, as I recall, the explanation is, if the groundwater isn't available that year because it's a dry year, you still have the right to take that water as groundwater; is that correct?

City Engineer Almberg stated that's exactly right. The other thing I want to clear up is, there's a lot of questions about taking groundwater and possibly drying up springs or anything else. This is not a new appropriation. This is not asking for new water. This is water rights that were granted to the Ranch back in 1968. These are very old water rights and have always been out there for them to use when anything went dry.

Mayor Robertson stated it is a new well, not a new water right.

City Engineer Almberg stated absolutely. The State issued this, and so we don't need to go back and justify to the State our need or anything else. It's a permit, and all we need to do is get that well operational and we can pump that water.

Mayor Robertson stated I'd like to bring to the Council's attention if you've read the agreement that these water rights are on the property currently leased to the County already. If in the future we deed that property to the County, these water rights would then automatically transfer with that property to the County so it's all together. This agreement will then, if it's approved tonight, go to the County to review, make recommendations, and vote on.

City Engineer Almberg stated I believe that Ross at the County already has this agreement and is commenting.

City Attorney Arabia stated he looked at it, but he hasn't had time to do a further review as he's really buried over there. It's possible that this will come back after the County reviews it, and they might have some suggested changes. If they do, I'll have an opinion on them to share whether good or bad.

Mayor Robertson stated it seems like the most complicated thing we deal with is water rights for some reason and we want to make sure that we're honoring what the County voted on and making sure that those terms are legal.

Councilman Perea asked does it matter how this well is engineered? I know that we think it will probably be a benefit to our lessee at the Georgetown ranch having that available, but what's actually done there, could it negatively affect our lessee if it wasn't done at the

correct depth? I don't know if I'm asking the question intelligently, but does the engineering of that well determine if it's going to be beneficial and actually help us with our obligation to the lessee?

City Engineer Almberg stated we want a well that's going to produce adequate amount of water; that's the most important part. I know that there's been some questions from some county commissioners asking if we can clean up the existing well to save money, and yes, you absolutely can. The reason that it is in there to drill a new one was because the Mine had assisted in analyzing that existing well. They came and used a camera on it, and gave a report of what they found, and based on their professional experience stated you're never going to get the production out of it that it originally had.

Mayor Robertson asked, “do we know how old that well is or when it was drilled?”

City Engineer Almberg stated I'm going to say a safe answer would be 1968, because that was the year the water right is. That's the only well that I'm aware of and how the Golf Course has always been watered up to the point they connected to our City system. The Golf Course was watered from basically two wells, and this lease agreement actually includes water rights to both of those, not only this replacement well, that we're talking about, but also to another well along the railroad tracks. There's a concrete pond over there and they would also have access to that for their water rights. I know from the past, the main water for the Golf Course came from this replacement well by the red barn and then in their dry areas and different daytime watering they would supplement it with a smaller well by the railroad tracks. My recommendation in the future is they should water everything at night with their big new well, and then, if they have dry spots that need attention the smaller well can be used during the daytime.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my sister, Janet Van Camp, is a member of the County Commissioner.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the agreement for Golf Course Irrigation Water Rights terms for the City of Ely to lease at no cost portions of all Irrigation Water Rights to White Pine County associated with APN 010-424-04 for a total combined duty of 420.4 ac-ft/acre (AFA) to be used for irrigation on the Golf Course; in exchange, White Pine County shall deed 420.4 AFA from their Industrial Water Rights in Steptoe Valley to the City of Ely. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

## 11. 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 5:57 p.m. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST

