



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 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. Harry Rhea offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those lives lost on September 11, 2001, 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 (joined at 5:15 p.m.)
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 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; Lena Ocasio, USDA; Wyatt Cox, KELY, and Eugene Harper.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: September 11, 2025

Print name below

Dean Reynolds
MICHAEL CONNER
George Chachas
Paula Carson
Todd Fincher
Mark Bassett
Dot Robinson

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated you are to consider removing past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$156.93 for 36 Third Street in McGill at the request of Chris Walker. Did Mr. Walker pay the full amount due of \$476.65 to qualify for the write-off of \$156.93. I'm requesting a copy of the letter sent to him outlining the terms required for consideration to write off penalties and interest on his property and then be eligible for the appropriate refund. To date, I have not received a copy of the letters that the City sent to Ralph Jones, Tina Templer, Jeremy Lilly, Doug Lilly, Kelly Gubbine, Elaine Blackham, and Jane Montgomery from a previous consideration. The Nevada Open Meeting Law allows five days for response, not five years. Your Clerk appears to be selectively enforcing City regulations. I want to remind you; federal law prohibits discrimination in any federally funded or assisted public utility. The City cannot selectively enforce the law. The City must be compliant with federal law, in particular the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI. On your agenda item 11B-2, you are to consider allowing Rural Nevada Development Corporation to administer the revolving business loans with the City of Ely, that needs to be denied. It appears the City Council is trying to avoid transparency dealing with City funds and RNDC may take a percentage for administering the funds. This is a big no, the City is overstaffed now and those that can't do their job must go. The Council has doubled their salaries, given out huge raises, and now it's time for them to produce or resign, not give off responsibilities. On your agenda item 9-1, you are to consider the approval of revised Redevelopment Agency Residential Commercial Grant Applications. Before you go forward, the Council needs to rescind what you gave out earlier. The so-called confidential financial information not disclosed to anyone is bogus at best. The grant money is from a government entity that is required to provide full disclosure, and those proposed forms need to be thrown out.

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

Councilman Perea moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Arabia stated there's an interesting issue happening on the criminal side I just thought I would tell people about. There's an issue concerning the jurisdiction of the J.V. Walker area, which has been converted into the reservation, but there's questions about when exactly that came into effect. It's very complicated and I won't go into it, but it is kind of interesting, and I'll certainly let the Sheriff's Office know if it affects anything. I also wanted to let people know that the State computer problems have really had an impact on the State Public Defender's Office and been debilitating for them. They're doing their best, but it is taking them a long time to do things, it's very difficult, and they're working hard to kind of get through it, but that's something that might come up on the radar. The last thing I wanted to say, obviously, with this being 9/11, I certainly echo the sentiments during the invocation, and I just wanted to say a word about how sorry I was about what happened to Charlie Kirk. This was a person peacefully participating in our political process, and got assassinated, God bless him.

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated today my office sent out forty-one certified Intent to Lien notices; we will track these in coordination with Treasurer Trask and City Attorney Arabia. Public Works Director Cracraft, City Engineer Almberg and I attended the August 20th Board for Financing Water Projects meeting virtually; they approved our letter of intent for the Morley Water Upgrade and will make the final decision on our application November 19th. My office has updated the Elections page on the City's website for 2026, and we will be attending Secretary of State Elections Training September 22-26.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

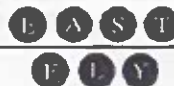
City Engineer Almberg stated the Aultman Street Project is still moving along very quickly. In fact, they have completed our water line on the east Ely side of the project and now all their focus is on the downtown and this side of the town. On the Morley Sewer Project we are getting the contract signed and should be giving a Notice to Proceed to get started on that. The other thing going on is our CDBG 7th Street Drainage Project that will have a bid invitation in the paper tomorrow, and we'll be back later in October to award that. We opened the construction timeframe into the first part of the spring, because by the time it gets awarded and everything in place we will be heading into winter and probably will not be able to get the project done this fall. We are continuing to work on our GIS and get all of our water lines and stuff in there we've been collected for the last couple of years including water valves, manholes, and everything else, and now we're just putting in all of the water mains and the sewer mains that are associated with all those valves.

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 • E-mail: info@nnry.com

Monthly Operations Report for August 2025

1. Locomotive Status – Updated
 - 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. Caboose in service: #3 #6 and #22 are operational.
 - e. Caboose 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 July we carried 2,033 passengers, this was essentially the same as compared to the previous year.

Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenaline Rush in Rural Nevada – 2020

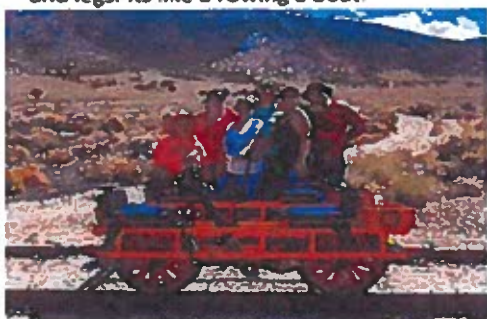
Best Historic Railroad of the West – 2023, 2022

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 9,000 passengers, this was an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.
- c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 388,922 passengers.
- 5. Economic Impact – The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$174. Economic impact for August 2025 was $2,033 \times \$174 = \$353,742$. Economic impact year to date was $9,000 \times \$174 = \$1,566,000$. 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 62,897,558
 - b. Our Facebook reach last month was 46,868,976
 - c. We have 136,800 page likes.
 - d. 236,313 people follow our page.
- 7. We had a viral video last month it was of HyRail 18 and HyRail 1 facing each other nose to nose and lowering their hyrail wheels. It has been seen 61,023,772 times. If you want to see the video scan the QR code.
- 8. We have also received seven four-person velocipedes as a donation from Todd and Mason Clark. We are creating a program around the cars. We are planning on offer the cars at \$50 a seat or \$175 if the customer purchases a car (4-seats). We've done some test runs and it has been well received. We do this up on the HiLine and yes, they are NOT self-propelled. You have to pump with you arms and legs. Its like a rowing a boat.



6. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I would like to say thank you to the Police Department. I see you everywhere, all the time, every time I look up and it's very comforting. I'd also like to say thank you for the job you're doing in the schools, because it's important.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN YEOMAN

Councilwoman Yeoman stated I did attend my first Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting today. Unfortunately, we had to adjourn, and we'll have a do-over in two weeks, so I'll be able to report when we have our next meeting, which is September 30th at 2 p.m.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the Municipal Utility board this morning. I have approximately one-hundred hours of community service for trash pickup to utilize. Trash Troopers will have three scheduled pickups this month, and then we'll start to wind down until spring. I would like to thank John Remington from NDOT, as he donated two boxes of Grabbers to us. I also would like to thank the Mine for the nice shirts with our names and logo printed on them. On September 22nd, the mine will send a large Polish delegation to participate in our trash pickup.

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

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

1. Redevelopment Agency Member Perea – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of revised Redevelopment Agency residential and commercial grant applications.

Councilman Perea stated this is the outcropping of our conversations from the last meeting, trying to put some parameters around both of these essentially is what we talked about in the meeting, where residential is zoned residential, commercial was zoned commercial, and putting parameters around how much they could apply for and when they could do it.

Mayor Robertson stated you have the drafts attached as backup documentation. I know the Council kind of took a stab at this last time. I did sit down and talk with Dennis and the Treasurer and thought maybe we could just kind of hone that a little bit more on a couple of items, and I appreciate their work on that. Is there anything anybody would like to add, has an issue with, or has any questions on?

Councilwoman Yeoman asked, “Didn't we talk about one application per person instead of per parcel?”

Mayor Robertson stated that is what we talked about and what the Council had voted on last time and was one of the items that I kind of took issue with and discussed with Dennis and the Treasurer to revise. I felt if there's an entity that owns property in the Redevelopment Area and they have money to invest, the Redevelopment Agency should be partnering to do that, whether it's one property or if they have five.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated, “Fair enough.”

Councilman Trask moved to approve the revised Redevelopment Agency residential and commercial grant applications. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

1. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$156.93 from 36 Third Street, McGill, Nevada at the request of Chris Walker, son of deceased property owner Jeanene Abbott.

Mayor Robertson stated the Municipal Utilities Board recommended approval this morning.

Councilman Perea moved to approve removing past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$156.93 from 36 Third Street, McGill, Nevada at the request of Chris Walker, son of deceased property owner Jeanene Abbott. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. 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.

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.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 11A-1 Minutes and 11A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Trask Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - August 28, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - August 27, 2025

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of City Police Chief Henriod's recommendations, with the assistance of the city engineer, regarding installing flashing "Deer Crossing" and "No Heavy Truck Traffic" signs on Murry Street and flashing "Deer Crossing" signs on Campton Street, per Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 6-3-2(A).

Captain Fincher with the White Pine County Sheriff's Office stated I believe the Sheriff submitted his recommendations. As you all are aware of the deer population in the City, it was our recommendation that deer crossing signs be put on the outer city limits; coming in on US 6, US 93, and Highway 50 to alert travelers from outside of the area that aren't familiar with our City. Although there were several areas identified including Campton Street near the cemetery; Campton Street near the courthouse; Great Basin near Ramada Inn; West Aultman Street near Big 8 Tire; Miller's 2; Mill Street, near both parks; Avenue M at Great Basin; Avenue K; and at 10th Street that would be a great number of deer crossing signs. Deer are everywhere that somebody has an apple tree or some type of fruit tree, so we thought it would be best to maybe get with NDOT and work on getting those signs put in place as you enter the City limits as a cost savings. I think it would be more effective and more practical for the City. We concur with the "No Heavy Truck Traffic" signs on Murry Street. There is one sign currently in place just right outside of City Hall, so we would concur with those signs being placed in those other locations.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated the signs being put as you come into town will at least give a heads up to people that are not aware in the area that there is a deer herd in town, so I'm happy about that.

Councilman Trask moved to approve moving forward with City Police Chief Henriod's recommendations and having a conversation with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to see how to go about putting those signs on the outskirts of town. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Councilman Perea – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to approach the Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) regarding administering Revolving Business Loans for the City of Ely.

Councilman Perea stated the Mayor apparently was able to have at a conversation with them, and this is something that they do for a living and potentially could take on our loan program. We would have banking people doing things, and then they would be able to make some kind of recommendation to the Council, whether to approve it or not, and at least we've got a set of rules that we can establish with them. It sounds like there would have to be a negotiation and then come back to the Council for approval in the end.

Mayor Robertson stated this would be approval to approach them and ask them to give us a proposal for what they could do. It's important to note that the approval for the loan would still come back to this body, just with the recommendations from them, based on current market rates and best practices. They could be involved with the collecting of the

money, and there would be a fee they would collect for that, but that would be part of the proposal they bring back on what that actually is. This kind of takes some of the technical aspects and puts it in the hands of people who, like Councilman Perea said, do that for a living.

Councilman Perea stated I think we figured out last time that it's hard to set up loan parameters in a meeting, and how we're going to handle it. At least somebody that does it for a living gets to take a look at it before we take a run at it.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I think it is a good, professional move for us.

Councilman Trask moved to approach the Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) regarding administering Revolving Business Loans for the City of Ely. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to hold one regular meeting in November on November 13, 2025, and one regular meeting in December on December 11, 2025, due to the Holidays.

Councilwoman Yeoman moved to approve holding one regular meeting in November on November 13, 2025, and one regular meeting in December on December 11, 2025, due to the Holidays. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

1. Mayor Robertson – City Clerk Lee – Public Hearing – Discussion Only– Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance No. 765, Bill No. 2025-05, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code Title 2, Boards and Commissions, by adding Chapter 6, to create a City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission.

No Public Comments

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Mayor Robertson – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance No. 765, Bill No. 2025-05, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code Title 2, Boards and Commissions, by adding Chapter 6, to create a City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 765, Bill No. 2025-05, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code Title 2, Boards and Commissions, by adding Chapter 6, to create a City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Ithurrealde read the following letter into the record:



Ely Neighbors
of Cedar Street
and Campton

09/02/2025

Dear City of Ely,

On September 21, 2024 the owners of 497 and 493 Cedar Street tore down the house on the 493 lot. Since that date they have not finished the demolition by cleaning up the rubble. It has been a year now.

On January 27, 2025 the City of Ely was asked about this 493 demolition and was told the demolition permits are good for six months and have to be inspected. The Building Department informed us that the 493 lot owners still had 4 months to complete it. Those 4 months have passed.

These demolition remains are a fire hazard, possible waste hazard, and wind hazard. If a strong gust of wind blows through Cedar Street and Campton the rubble of this lot hits against our houses. We are concerned about this problem. We want this lot cleared out.

Please help us resolve this neglect.

Anthony Ithurrealde 505 Cedar Street
George Chachas 543 Rose Ave
Donna 501 Campton St.
443 Cedar St Bill Cant 561 RIVER AVE

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for the address and a contact name regarding the Bell Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project CDBG 22/pf/04 and who inspected the project; the Contract Change Order for the Bell Avenue Project and the damage to his property not being addressed; who approved the 785 Bell Avenue Sewer Project; the sewer problem he took care of at his residence located at 681 Parker; and information regarding the development at 582 North Highway 93. Mr. Chachas also stated your City crew put in a skin patch on the road behind my property at 622 High Street, which was good, but there was no attempt to put in a modified curb to direct water down High Street from the railroad tracks and the Bath property on the west side. My property is suffering severe erosion and if I get flooding, you're going to see a real mad Greek. I've been telling you folks about this for over five years. You have not provided any information regarding the letters, citations, or any other form of correspondence communicated to Leah Brown at 295 Ely Street, Jennifer Lee at 1033 Bell Avenue, and Ernie Flangas at 408 High Street regarding code violations. I just heard Anthony talk about another one. What are you guys doing? My property at 622 High Street was broken into again and vandalized. If it happens again, the City must pay for the damage. You're not taking care of business; pretty sloppy leadership. I've never seen such vandalism in my life with graffiti and weeds on the sidewalk and yet you want a historic designation. Well, you got it, you're making history, my friend.

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

Councilman Trask moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 5:32 p.m. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


MAYOR


ATTEST