

# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2026, 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 5:03 P.M., led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for Roll Call.

**Members present:**

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Terrill Trask joined at 5:25 p.m.
- Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
- Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman by Zoom
- 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 Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Building Official Chris Flannery
- City Attorney Chris Arabia
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

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

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: May 14, 2026

Print name below

Nikki Barainca  
George Chachias  
Jawel Shumaker  
Jan Czarcaki  
Carol Robert Matysa  
Eddi Barcia  
Koor JENNINGS  
ART MEECHAM  
Weston Johnson  
Robin Speakman  
Sofia Lacy  
Tony Locke - Arcis Power

Print name below

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Administrative Assistant Cobb read the following Public Comments into the record:

Dear Ely City Council

I wanted to address you on regard to the actions on the business and liquor license for the Club Rio. I was not shocked by the seriousness of the charges but rather the fact that the council has an unwillingness to work with the business to resolve this issue. While Minor in possession is serious charge it is also something that can be corrected, especially if the owner and bar staff are willing to make the necessary changes to their business. My acquaintance with the owner of the Club Rio and several of the staff I believe they would be more than willing to make the necessary changes to prevent this from occurring in the future. I know the city is making a great effort to enhance the main street experience in Ely and I don't think that another closed business along it would help this cause. What would help would be to have a thriving bar that is unique and have some odd quirks to it that draws people to main street. While I know you may not think that the Club Rio could be this place, but I do believe that the Club Rio could be this place. I know that some of you may have been to the Club Rio and I hope you can see this potential as well. I wanted to thank you for time, and I hope this helps your decision process.

Sincerely,

Arthur Flint

**Gary Bodell**

617 Muiry St  
Ely, NV 89301  
702-496-3358  
traifunkyrivn@gmail.com

May 11th, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in regards to the ongoing matter with the Club Rio bar. I began coming to the Rio in 2016 when I became a Correctional Officer for the Nevada Department of Corrections in Pioche, NV and would stay in Ely, NV for training. I met one of the owners, Cari Matyja one of the first times I went there and would again interact with her in subsequent visits to the Rio. I had heard a lot of the small town rumors about how the "Rio used to be" but never experienced any issues or concerns that would have stopped me from coming back as a customer. Myself and my wife have more frequently visited Club Rio since our relocation and career changes to Ely, NV in 2023. We have attended multiple special events, band nights, karaoke nights and even their community pot luck Thanksgiving Dinner where they open their doors to any and all whether they bring food or not. I have been there on enough occasions to see and hear the bartenders ask patrons for ID and I have seen first hand, patrons who were too inebriated and kicked out of other bars turned down for service. I have never personally seen anyone in the bar that I felt concerned about being under age and drinking alcohol at any time. The only underage person I can honestly recall seeing in the Rio would be the daughter of the bartender, which is who I'm being told was the same two persons of interest the night of the call. I personally feel the accusations most recently brought up are nothing more than a small town politics boondoggle. From everything I have read and heard from other locals, there were no citations written, there's no photographic or video evidence. There's been the statement made that underage drinking is an issue there, but in the last 5 years there was only one cited account from what I have read. Oddly enough, I have been served alcohol by underage wait staff at other establishments, but I guess when you're connected, that's allowable. While I personally like to believe our local law enforcement can be trusted with their word, it is also 2026, not 1956. Our local law enforcement has body cameras and I'm pretty sure they all own a cell phone per WPCSO regulations so what's the excuse

for the lack of photographic or video evidence? I also know, from just walking through the door, there is an emergency contact number listed by the door that could have been called to assist with gaining access if there had really been a concern that night. So unless WPCSO wants to state there is a lack of training and standards amongst their officers I see no valid excuse for the lack of photographic proof or citations. I have also been told by more than one source that the "concerned citizen" that called has been going around bragging about being the one that called in because they were mad the bar wouldn't open up for them that night and they don't like the bartender in question, so they retaliated. I know of the person in question and wouldn't trust them if they told me the sky was blue and water is wet. I have also heard from more than one trustworthy source about the disparaging comments made by city council members both at the last meeting to suspend Club Rio's license and outside of the chambers to others. A complete lack of professionalism, following of statutes and "hear say" as evidence tells the rest of the community and any future businesses that unless you're connected to the right people or play by the rules of that current administration then you're not welcomed and politics will be used to get rid of you.

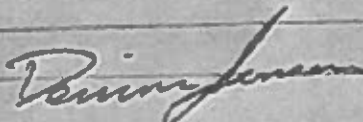
Sincerely,

Gary Bodell

26 MAY 14 8:56 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

My Name is DENIM JENSEN. I AM A 36 YO. RESIDENT OF WHITE PINE COUNTY AS WELL AS BORN HOPE IN 1989. I MET CARI + ROBERT MATIXIA IN 2011. THEY HAVE TREATED ME LIKE NOTHING BUT FAMILY SINCE. THEY ARE SOME OF THE MOST KIND HEARTED, GIVING PEOPLE I HAVE EVER MET. THEY ARE DEFINITELY THE "GIVE THE SHIRT OFF YOUR BACK" TYPE. I HAVE ALSO WORKED FOR THEM AT THE CLUB RIO A FEW DIFFERENT TIMES OVER THE YEARS. THEIR BUSINESS AND WORK ETHIC ARE JUST AS ADMIRABLE. THEY ARE WELL INVOLVED IN COUNTY EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIPS. THE RIO HAS GROWN TO A MUST STOP FOR ALOT OF TOURISTS WHEN THEY PASS THROUGH TOWN, ALONG WITH THE LOVING REGULARS WHO HAVE GROWN TO KNOW ROBERT + CARL. HAVING HEARD THE RECENT CITY HEARING AND ALLEGATIONS I THOUGHT I WOULD GIVE MY CHARACTER REFERENCE. I DO BELIEVE THIS WAS MORE OF AN EMPLOYEE PROBLEM AND AM HOPEFUL WE CAN ONLY USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO NOT ONLY FIX THE PROBLEM BUT ALSO UPLIFT CARI, ROBERT, AND THE RIO TO BECOME AN EVEN MORE BELOVED, HISTORIC BAR THAN IT ALREADY IS.

THANK YOU,  
  
 DENIM JENSEN

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 11:19 AM  
 To: Patti Cobb  
 Subject: Club Rio

Hey friends,  
 My name is Philena Carter.  
 I'm based in Las Vegas, Nevada.  
 I'm writing today to express my support for Club Rio.  
 I have been coming to Ely for almost a decade and I have made so many amazing friends here. I started coming to town with a group of musicians to play some shows and escape the city but the people of Ely quickly became the family I never had.  
 Cari at Club Rio was the first person to make me feel at home. She has consistently supported live music and entertainment as well as other local businesses along the way.  
 Shutting down Club Rio is a mistake.  
 That place is the pulse of Aultman and the first stop for many of us wanderers as we roll into town to see the people we now love.  
 Please consider this as you make your decisions about the fate of this bar.  
 Ely won't be the same without it.

Sincerely,  
 Philena Carter

Ely City Council – Regular Meeting – May 14, 2026

**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patti Cobb  
**Subject:** Public Comment Club Rio

Members of Ely City Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the reopening of Club Rio. As the establishment is currently closed, I wanted to voice my perspective that Cari is truly the heartbeat of entertainment and culture in downtown Ely. It is vital for our community to have this venue back in operation to maintain the vibrancy of our local area.

Thank you for your time and for considering my support regarding this reopening.

Best regards,

John Kiehlbauch

Janet Shoemaker stated I've worked for Cari for about seven years, and I've found her to be the most wonderful, caring, and decent person. She really stressed the thing about not serving minors, and anything that's vaguely questionable to look at the ID. As you can see, I'm not a kid, so I haven't been working, or there late. I have known her for a long time, and she was so kind to me and everybody else that I know who had anything to do with the place. I think it would be such a shame for it to be closed down and maybe there's some corrective things she could do with one or two employees there. It's an institution and I used to work days, and had people come in passing through town that would stop every trip. They would love to come in and just visit. It was a great place to work and just generally a wonderful place, because Cari and Robert were just the kindest, best people who were so helpful.

Dan Cracraft stated I'm here in support of Club Rio. It used to be years ago there was a venue on just about every corner of Ely where you could go and see live music. The decline of the economy and people moving away has dwindled that down to maybe one or two businesses in Ely; one of them being the Club Rio. Cari and Robert have, over the years, brought in Countless live acts, adult entertainment in the evenings that you can't get anyplace else in Ely. Through her efforts and to add to the comments from Philena Carter, years ago she helped sponsor numerous bands. A number of bands came in all at one time, to get together and play at all the different venues in town and through that it progressed into a little celebration that we would have down on the corner in Veteran's Park, in the pavilion, just a little barbecue, and then people get together and play a little bit of music. The next time, there was a concert at the Sculpture Park. Since then, this has progressed, and it progressed into the festival that we just experienced this last weekend. If it wasn't for the efforts of the Rio and the Matyja's I don't think that would have happened and also Mr. Bill Sanford, for his efforts in facilitating this. It's been a community effort to bring music and entertainment to Ely. We are so remote, it's so limited, and to deny the community that would be a shame. I know that the Matyja's have taken extraordinary steps to try to mitigate this problem. It's not just a problem at the Club Rio; it's a problem in every establishment. Thank you.

Robin Spielman stated I just want to say that Cari, since I've met her, has been giving to the community, supporting people's softball teams, and one of the band members that had an accident, she had fundraisers for them, and I've never been treated so wonderful. I'm a bartender and I've bartended at every place in town, and this woman has been very good and involved. She gave me my first karaoke gig! She's just been a good member of the community, and if she removes the problem which she did, and implements all the steps that you guys ask, then I think she should be given another chance. I think that it will affect all the businesses if Club Rio isn't there, because there's nothing like a little bit of competition to make the town thrive and I think that she does that. She welcomes anyone that comes to the door unless you are under twenty-one.

Bill Sanford stated the last meeting, you asked about special events at the Rio. One of the special events in 2018 was my wedding reception, and at that wedding reception, quite frankly, was the Who's Who of Ely Nevada, all came and enjoyed it. Cari and Robert, for years and years, have helped and put on music. I've helped them put music on, and here lately, in the last few weeks

since this last little episode that they went through, I've watched them redo the video system, I've watched them clean up, I've watched them lock the back door, I've watched them do everything required more than any other establishment. A lot of this is hearsay. When a councilman says, "Where are they going to get their drugs now?" And it's on videotape saying that and that's not true. You also got the newspaper that just ran an article saying that employees didn't get paid. Yes, they got paid, that's more bull. I was out at the Soap and Suds the other day. Do you know how many drug deals go on in that parking lot at Soap and Suds? Clean up your own backyards first.

Bobbi Barela stated I've worked for Robert and Cari when they needed me to help them out and no matter what was going on, everything was always taken care of. They always had our backs and are like family to everyone that they meet. If anybody was ever too drunk to drive home, you had a couch or a bed in the back or you had a ride home that was somebody sober. We called people to take people home if there was a problem. We never had an issue with underage people when I was there. It is an issue in every bar. I have been to other bars that have had underage people there, but, I mean, it happens. Underage people try to get in everywhere and Robert and Cari have been making multiple efforts to try to change that and fix that with their new camera system, and I think they'll be fine.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 3C-1 I want to know if Jeremy Perkins paid the full amount of \$342.93 on the past due account to qualify for the removal of \$45.54 of the past utility fee penalties and then receive the refund for the differences as I was required to do on my property. At all of your council meetings, I have asked for the Council to provide me a written answer and to date I have not received anything. It appears your City Clerk is selectively enforcing rules that pertain to some, but not to others. The discrimination needs to stop. On Agenda Item 5, the Railroad Foundation Report, I want to know who owns Avenue A? People have been cited for illegal parking, and the vehicles have been towed. I want to know the names of the Railroad Foundation people that have accused me of signing the documents in 1991, in which I signed the document gifting the Red Barn and Depot to the State without approval and open meeting. I did that based on the management, board recommendations, and City Council approval; definitely not on my own. I want a lie detector test conducted, giving false testimony before the case amounts to perjury and possible libel and slander. I'm not going to sit by and get hit all the time. On your agenda items D-6 and D-7, the Council needs to accept the Club Rio's Action Plan. They should never have been closed on hearsay, and what I understand is there was one citation that went before the Court, the other so-called citations have yet to be addressed. The officers involved should have given you his testimony, not someone else. No search warrant was requested. I've not received any information in regard to who approved the sewer cleanout at 785 Bell Avenue. The city has yet to reimburse me for curing the sewer problem at 681 Park; the blockage was on the City side, not on my line and the City owes me \$27,021.43, which includes penalties and interest. I remind you that federal law prohibits discrimination on federally funded or assisted utilities. I want to know who inspected the CDBG Project 22\PF\04. My fence damage needs to be repaired by the contractor or the City. My water lines and meter pits are not put in front of my property as you did others. Dave Miller took my old lines out and I told him to put them back in. He said he thought they were bad. The meter pits are 100 to 200 feet away. I want equal protection under the law.

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

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

**4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

➤ **CITY FIRE CHIEF**

City Fire Chief Stork stated on the next agenda there will be an item to shut down open burning on June 1st. However, depending on what the weather does, that might get moved up. It is my discretion when to do it, but the weather is going to cool down in the next few days, so we're probably fine. To answer all the questions at the Council Meeting and the Commission Meeting, you do have to get a permit if you want to burn. There is

no cost, just come by the station pick it up, fill it out, and get it in before the this goes into effect; you have got about fifteen days to complete it.

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated Deputy City Clerk Cobb and I attended POOL PACT NV Public Records Act training by Anthony Hall, Esq in Elko on April 21st; we found it beneficial. I submitted the City's \$80k Green Up grant amendment request on Monday. The deadline for May 28th agenda items is next Wednesday by close of business.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almborg stated we got our Landfill water reports completed and into the State. This year, we also had to complete the air permit for the Landfill, so that permit has been completed and turned in as well. We did some water right applications for the water that we received from the County during the land swap. We moved that water up to the location of the replacement well at 7P, and a small portion of it we put down at the old Golf Course irrigation well to use as stock water for our ranch down there, which will prevent us from having to plug it, with the installation of the new irrigation well that the County actually just approved of yesterday. We're going to help out the Fire Chief gather information for their ISO rating, which is a report that comes out every five years. We are also working on the Morley Water Project, and Central Ely Project. We are also working on the EA for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, so it complies with all funding source requirements. Aultman Street is getting closer to completion and hopefully in the next few weeks we will have pavement quite a bit further. There are just a lot of odds and ends to finish up to close out the project.

**5. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT**

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to disclose I am a part-time employe of the Foundation, but this is not a voting item, and I don't vote on it anyway.

**NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



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

**Monthly Operations Report for April 2026**

1. Locomotive Status – No change
  - a. Locomotives in service: 81, 250, 801, 802, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Locomotive 109 is out of service for governor issues.
  - 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 machined and the axle is back in Ely.
  - 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, the radiators have been sent out for repair.
  - 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 – Update
  - a. Passenger equipment in service: #05, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Baggage/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06 and Caboose 6.
  - b. Couch #07 is out-of-service for rehabilitation.
  - c. Passenger Coach 5 is in service but it needs to be lettered in gold leaf.
  - d. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
  - e. Caboose in service: #3 #6 and #22 are operational.
  - f. 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 March we carried 345 passengers, it is a 43% decrease over the previous year.
  - b. So far this year, we have carried 1,031 passengers a decrease of 16% over the previous year. Ridership was off to do a number of factors, we didn't start our steam season until the last week of April where in years past, we started the first week of April. This also moved White Pine weekend which had low attendance this year.
  - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 396,598 passengers.

5. **Economic Impact** – The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$550, per Rural Nevada Visitor Profile 2019 - 2023.  
Economic impact for March 2026 was  $345 \times \$550 = \$189,750$ .  
Economic impact year to date was  $1,031 \times \$550 = \$567,050$ .  
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 2,503,154
  - b. Our Facebook viewers last month was 883,415
  - c. Content interactions last month was 86,911.
  - d. The number of times your Page or profile was visited last month was 29,740.
  - e. 279,584 people follow our page.
7. **Steam is back!**



After lots of hard work by staff and volunteers and financial support from our members, Locomotive 81 is back in service!

## 6. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated April 21st, I attended the Natural Resource Advisory Committee, and most of that meeting was a carryover from March on policies and procedures to be in place for the future renewable energy and transmission projects. The BLM gave a really lengthy update on what they're up to. Next week I do have the May Natural Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Also, I attended the Ruth Town Council meeting, and the McGill Town Council meetings to discuss the county-wide cleanups that are going to happen all summer. The past two city-wide cleanups that we have had have been really successful. We've had lots of new people coming to help, and on the first weekend, we gathered twenty-three bags of trash on the bypass for NDOT and this past weekend, we did thirty-eight bags of trash in two hours on the Lackawanna Road and didn't get it cleaned up. Thanks to Michelle Yeoman for showing up. We have one more citywide cleanup this coming weekend, and then next month the Trash Troopers will continue all summer long. letters will be sent to the businesses to get them involved next week. I also attended this morning's Utilities Board meeting.

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN YEOMAN

Councilwoman Yeoman stated I did attend the citywide cleanup last weekend, and just a little plug for those, they are pretty fun, and it's only two hours of the morning, so I would encourage everyone to get out and help out with those.

### ➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I did go to the County Commission meeting yesterday and really appreciate the work the County, our Sheriff's Department, and everybody else did on getting the Police Agreement approved. I also appreciate the work that Commissioner Carson and the County Assessor did regarding the property tax agreement that is on the agenda later today I think things are going really well in the community and really

appreciate, as I always say, government's a team sport, and I appreciate everybody's participation on the County and State levels, and certainly all the work everybody does here in the city of Ely.

## 7. GEORGETOWN RANCH QUARTERLY REPORT

### Georgetown Quarterly Report 1/1/26-3/31/26

1/1/26: Feeding livestock on base property until AUM's are available.

1/26/26: Paid BLM for the Georgetown Actual use, for last fall and provided copy to City of Ely.

3/12/26: Contacted county to let them know planning on cleaning up area along fencing for golf course and asked if ok if to be in their area. Currently waiting for less windy day and a little better weather for a project and I will circle back with them to plan.

3/15/26: Moved majority of livestock to BLM

3/27/26: Contacted tri-county weed for this year's spraying. Planning on spraying the golf course will be sprayed to take care of noxious weeds. Approximately end of April or into May.

3/30/26: Contacted NRCS for weed information and schedule.

Worked on fencing and fixing ditches to prepare for next quarter's irrigation.

6 bulls 10 heifers on base property at Georgetown

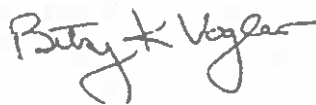
Next quarter plans 4/1/26- 6/30/26:

Pay City lease and insurance renewal, drag hay fields, bring back livestock for a couple weeks then shipping south, spray weeds, irrigate hay fields for haying this summer.

Continue to cleanup areas, fix fencing and maintenance.

**Noticed:** Alot more garbage being dumped on the BLM allotment. Not only household garbage bags and items but large appliances as well. Sad because the City of Ely's landfill is within 2 miles of these areas.

On a positive note, I also wanted to mention how nice the area along the golf course road looks with all the city cleanup that has been going on along that area. It is much appreciated!



## 8. 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 \$45.54 from 11 Avenue K, Ely, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Jeremy Perkins.

Councilman Trask moved to approve removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$45.54 from 11 Avenue K, Ely, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Jeremy Perkins. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**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 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.

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

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

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

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - April 9, 2026
  - April 27, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - April 10, 2026
  - April 14, 2026
  - April 22, 2026
  - April 29, 2026
  - May 07, 2026

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

City Attorney Arabia stated just a suggestion since most people that are here are here for items 6 and 7. Since the items are not timed, we could take them out of order.

Mayor Robertson opened items 6 and 7 together.

6. Council Members – City Attorney Arabia – Police Chief Henriod – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Club Rio's plan to prevent future license violations of Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12, with consideration of and, if appropriate, possible approval of Resolution 2026-06 Reinstating Club Rio's Business License Which Was Suspended for failure to Comply with Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 3, Chapter 1, Section 12.
7. Council Members – City Attorney Arabia – Police Chief Henriod – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Club Rio's plan to prevent future license violations of Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12, with possible reinstatement of licensee's Class III Liquor License.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated The Club Rio does have a large following and I would hate to see one more business close downtown. We're getting a beautiful downtown, and we don't have much business down there now and I know we gave Mr. Moattar a chance to get his plans together, with some inspections. We gave him six months, and I don't know why we couldn't give the Club Rio the same. The summer season is coming up and I'm sure it's the busiest time for them. I would like to see, maybe give them six months of operation to see how they execute the plan, and then move forward sometime.

City Attorney Arabia stated Councilwoman I hear what you said, and I understand where you're coming from, I just want to make sure that people understand that Mr. Moattar has a different kind of business.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I understand.

City Attorney Arabia stated we also charge criminally and I'm not speaking against the nice people from Club Rio at all. I just wanted to make sure that that was understood.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I know I am comparing apples to oranges, but we did give Mr. Moattar a chance.

City Attorney Arabia stated the only other thing I would add is I reviewed the plan, too, and it's a legitimate plan in the sense that it looks like it was put together with seriousness, and that's my legal opinion over that matter.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I was going to say the same thing. I think you guys know my background as an educator, and over the many years I've been in it, losing underage children to accidents because of alcohol has always been a concern. I did ask you to come back with a really good plan, and I think that you really did. If you will just do this with fidelity, and remind people over and over, and not be afraid to say, if you can't follow our rules and you give us a bad name, you can't work here. I think that's what all of us are looking for and I do understand apples to oranges, but I do understand that we want to give people time to make things right. We need our downtown area to be vibrant. I don't have a problem with the spirit of libation if you're twenty-one. I just want to have our kids protected because that's very, very important, because you guys know, not so long ago, we lost children. You came back with what I hope that you would. So, obviously, there's some thought and some hopefulness. I feel the same way and would like to give this an opportunity to work. Sheriff Henriod, if they are truly following this there should be no reason for them to bat an eye when one of our sheriff deputies comes through, because they know that they're doing things properly and following the rules. There were several things that I was impressed with as in really being able to tell what a fake ID is, being sure that you're asking for that, making sure everybody understands, and you are talking about repeatedly having meetings. When we do that, things can't just fall off, but I do appreciate what you brought back to us, so I do agree.

Mayor Robertson stated I did take the opportunity to talk to Sheriff Henriod last week about what we'd be hoping to see. It does look like a thorough plan. My one question is, how are we going to verify enforcement with this?

Sheriff Henriod stated First of all, I want to thank Club Rio for putting this plan together. One of the council members actually said that it looks like they put a lot of thought into it and I appreciate this. Once they sent us the plan, we had a couple of ideas that we would like to see put in and so we sent that plan back, and the Club Rio responded, in my opinion, appropriately. The plan's a good one. It's got some really good factors in there that I think will help prevent what took place, but they do have to follow it. You know let's not just make these words, let's make the words and actions together. If we're moving forward with reinstating their license, if they follow the plan, I totally agree with that, and we'll work with them closely. The Sheriff's Office does not target businesses, we just do walk-throughs, and we check all the bars and businesses in town to make sure that people are complying, and we're going to continue to do that. As we stop at the Club Rio, we hope that we find that they're compliant and following their own plan of action.

City Attorney Arabia asked based on the plan that they submitted, you discussed, and then came back again, are you satisfied with the narrative submission for it and in a position where you can verify sufficiently?

Sheriff Henriod stated yes.

Mayor Robertson stated again I appreciate the Club Rio taking the situation seriously and coming back to address these issues. Just making sure that, again, as license holders, you are required to admit access to City Officials, whether that's the Building Official, or anybody from the Sheriff's Department; every business is subject to this. We need to make sure that we have businesses that are willing and compliant to participate in the community here in that aspect. So, if you guys have questions, we're always here to answer those for any business. The staff at City Hall does an excellent job of following up with any issues, so please make use of those resources available to you.

Councilman Trask stated I see a lot of staff training and things like that, but there's also some enforcement elsewhere. Are you bringing on staff to implement some of these pieces as well?

John Matyja stated no, we are going to be doing the training ourselves and, in this new handout, which incorporates the recommendation. You will see we actually added where we'll review the various laws and ordinances and whatnot, and then individuals have to prove that they understand them and sign them to be placed in their employee record.

Councilman Trask stated I guess I'm just looking at some of the peak hours where you're going to be checking at the door, hand stamps and things like that. That seems like maybe an extra body, or do you have enough staff to be able to accommodate all this.

John Matyja stated what's going to happen in that area is that back door at 9 o'clock will be closed and it's going to have a bar that they can open up. If, for some reason, that door gets opened there's going to be a light and a slight sound for the bartender to see that somebody's at that door.

Mayor Robertson stated what Councilman Trask is asking is do you have enough staff to cover these roles or are you going to have to hire more?

John Matyja stated no, we can cover it.

Mayor Robertson stated the lighting that you say you're adding, is that going to help with identifying who's outside the door?

John Matyja stated yes, the cameras are unbelievable. With these cameras if we flag somebody that is a problem and they come back in, it alerts us.

Mayor Robertson asked if the sheriff's deputy comes to the door, are you going to be able to recognize them from inside, avoiding the problem?

John Matyja stated yes, and we are going to know if somebody is in the bar because we get alerted by the motion detection on those cameras.

Councilman Perea stated I'd just like to say, you made some tough decisions tonight and we appreciate that. I like the fact it is highlighted in the red at the bottom that the Sheriff's Office would be able to help with this technology. I did have one question, however, at the end of our Special Meeting, you said something about the Building Official and stuff that needed to be worked out there. Has that been handled?

Mayor Robertson stated my understanding was that you guys had provided a drawing to the Building Department?

John Matyja stated yes, I communicated with the Building Official and there have been changes where we don't need that door locked anymore. We are going to have the current resident there and the only thing that's going to be monitored is the outside of the back door and we will know who is coming in. This camera will see the length of the back and down the alley, and we will have a camera on the front. This system will pick up someone down the road. You barely see the vehicle, but if we go back to it, we can actually get their license plate; that's how good this system is. We need a little more training, but it is pretty cool stuff. We will also have a system that will check IDs when we scan the IDs. It will check every state's ID; it'll check the ID to make sure it is valid and if it's been altered. We will make notes in a logbook of any incidents, and it will be kept behind the bar and made available to the Sheriff's Office at any time. We can get them video they request, and we are more than happy to sit down with them anytime they have any questions. Just like I know that I can go to them when we have questions. I think it'd be a great idea, especially with this technology, if there's a problem in town like counterfeit money problems, the Sheriff's Department or Police Department will notify the businesses. We can do the same thing with individuals causing problems, because I can take that photo, upload it and it flags that person even if they have not been in the bar.

Mayor Robertson stated I appreciate your willingness to do that. I know the Sheriff's Office has asked for recordings from our business before, and that other businesses have provided evidence as requested for things going on in and around public places.

John Matyja stated it's not that we've never provided the Sheriff's Office with it. The problem is, there were multiple systems and it was antiquated. It was sometimes hard to get exactly what they wanted, or everything that they wanted.

City Fire Chief Stork stated John, you did mention you're going to have a bar on the back door. It is perfectly legal to close the back door to keep people from coming in from the back side but be careful what type of bar you put in. It's got to be accessible for fire life safety, if something happens and the front door's blocked people can just push it to get out. You can have it totally locked from the outside, where nobody can come in from the outside, but they have got to be able to get out from the inside with one motion. You can't put a physical bar there and I just wanted to make sure you guys are aware of that.

John Matyja stated it is made specifically for that, and we can show you when you come for inspection.

City Attorney Arabia stated I think that if you're inclined to reinstate, you should just reinstate and they understand that if there's a problem, they'll all be back here. Hopefully that'll never happen.

**CITY OF ELY**

**Resolution Number 2026-06**

**RESOLUTION REINSTATING CLUB RIO'S BUSINESS LICENSE WHICH WAS  
SUSPENDED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ELY MUNICIPAL CODE (EMC)  
TITLE 3, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 12**

- WHEREAS,** the Ely City Council has the authority to pass resolutions that are not repugnant to the constitutions of the United States or of the State of Nevada or to the provisions of Chapter 266 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, necessary for good municipal government and the management of the city affairs pursuant to Ely Municipal Code 1-5-4(B) and NRS 266.105;
- WHEREAS,** Ely Municipal Code Section 3-1-12 provides that any suspension of a business license shall be by resolution duly made and carried and spread upon the minutes of the council;
- WHEREAS,** during the April 27, 2026, Special Ely City Council meeting, the council examined and considered evidence that Club Rio, a business holding a city business license located at 735 Aultman Street, violated Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12;
- WHEREAS,** during the April 27, 2026, Special Ely City Council meeting, the council found that that Club Rio, a business holding a city business license located at 735 Aultman Street, violated Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12;
- WHEREAS,** during the April 27, 2026, Special Ely City Council meeting, the council voted to suspend the business license of Club Rio, 735 Aultman Street, for violating Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12, and passed a resolution confirming the suspension (Res. 2026-04);
- WHEREAS,** on May 6, 2026, Club Rio, a business holding a city business license located at 735 Aultman Street, hand-delivered to the City, a plan to address the violations and to prevent future violations, as contemplated during the April 27 Special Ely City Council meeting;

**WHEREAS,** during the May 14, 2026 Ely City Council meeting, the council examined and considered the plan submitted on May 6, 2026. Club Rio, a business holding a city business license located at 735 Aultman Street, violated Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12;

**WHEREAS,** during the May 14, 2026 Ely City Council meeting, the council accepted the Police Chief's recommendations and are requiring that the following terms be added to Club Rio's plan: 1) Under 1 Zero-Tolerance Policy, all employees holding bartender or server cards will be in compliance with Ely Municipal Code (EMC) 3-1-12; 2) Under 8 Law Enforcement Partnership, "Inspections by law enforcement during business hours, when employees are on site or when scheduled with owners are welcomed"; 3) Under 8, amend third bullet point to read "Keeping Law Enforcement informed of big events"; and 4) Submit plan with required additions via email to [CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov](mailto:CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov) by close of business August 6, 2026 for a Discussion Only item before the Ely City Council August 13, 2026 to update them on all proposed equipment and procedures being put in place.

**WHEREAS,** during the May 14, 2026 Ely City Council meeting, the council accepted the City Clerk's recommendations and are requiring that the following terms be added to Club Rio's plan: 1) Under 4 Staff Training add "City Clerk will be notified via email to [CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov](mailto:CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov) when weekly staff meetings are to be held; and 2) Under 8 Law Enforcement Partnership add "Law enforcement inspections will include reviewing Club Rio's violation logs".

**WHEREAS,** during the May 14, 2026 Ely City Council meeting, the council found the plan submitted by Club Rio, together with the Police Chief and City Clerk recommendations, to be sufficient to address the violations and concerns that resulted in the suspension and to prevent future violations of the kind resulting in the suspension;

**THEREFORE,** pursuant to the above and in the best interest of the citizens of Ely, the City Council of the City of Ely, State of Nevada, hereby reinstates, by way of this Resolution, the business license of Club Rio located at 735 Aultman Street.

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>AYES</b>	_____
	<b>NAYES</b>	_____
	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	_____

**PROPOSED** on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, by City Attorney Arabia, Police Chief Henriod and City Clerk Lee.

**PASSED** on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTESTED TO BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NATHAN ROBERTSON, MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JENNIFER LEE, CITY CLERK**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve Resolution 2026-06 Reinstating Club Rio's Business License Which Was Suspended for failure to Comply with Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 3, Chapter 1, Section 12 and also reinstate Club Rio's Class III Liquor License. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Mayor Robertson – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Subgrant #SG26-10 to the City of Ely to complete the Steptoe Valley Trap, Skeet & Target Club (SVTS) Hunter Education Building in the amount of \$654,793.00, with a \$72,755.00 in kind/cash match from the Steptoe Valley Trap Skeet & Target Club (SVTS) and the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee stated on October 7, 2025, Trap Club Member Cody Bliss emailed me that their board had approved contributing \$4,176.98 in cash, along with equipment rental donations, sealant/paint and the labor for finishing work. City Attorney Arabia has reviewed the grant agreement and does not have any concerns. City Building Official Flannery has approved the match plan for the Trap Club to complete the building's finishing work.

Councilman Perea moved to accept the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Subgrant #SG26-10 to the City of Ely to complete the Steptoe Valley Trap, Skeet & Target Club (SVTS) Hunter Education Building in the amount of \$654,793.00, with a \$72,755.00 in kind/cash match from the Steptoe Valley Trap Skeet & Target Club (SVTS) and the City of Ely. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion.

Scott Laity with the Steptoe Valley Trap, Skeet & Target Club stated we have been working on this for what seems like forever with Jennifer. I do know that there are a lot of people that are interested in getting this building to completion. We have got the Archery Club that is going to be using it, the schools would like to start using it and also be able to have Hunter's Safety Education there. We appreciate everything that you guys have all done, especially Jennifer Lee. She's a helpful person and wonderful to work with. We just wanted to let everybody know that we're here to support you guys, and if you guys are willing to come out when we have our opening, I'm looking forward to it.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Councilman Trask – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – Update on *Porter Group's* 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 April 2026

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#### Appropriations Requests

- Submitted one Congressionally Directed Spending application to Senators Rosen and Cortez Masto.
- Awaiting to see if the project was submitted by the Senators; we should find out in the next few weeks.

#### Additional Activities

- Discussed issues around SNPLMA and allowing other cities to access it. Bob and Bradley are reaching out to congressional staff to discuss.
- 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.
- Continued to work with BLM staff around the "Green Up" grant awarded to the city but has yet to be funded in its entirety.

#### Monthly Federal Update

##### Department of Labor/Employer

- The Department of Labor is rewarding states with high apprenticeship success
  - The DOL is giving out \$85 million in grant awards to states who have been the most successful in implementing apprenticeships
  - The DOL is trying to reach 100 million registered apprenticeships nationwide
  - The determination of a high performing state will be formula based through the grant process, it was not made immediately clear which states would be considered top performing
  - See the grant opportunity here: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361865>

##### Colorado River

- Bureau of Reclamation releases its emergency plans for Colorado River
  - BOR will cut water release from Lake Powell to the lowest level legally allowable which is 6 million acre feet between now and October
  - This decision comes after forecasts show Lake Powell dropping below its critical point of 3,500 feet by August
  - Cutting back the draw on the water will secure the water above 3,500 feet through April 2027 depending on weather
  - Anything beneath 3,500 feet cuts off hydropower facilities

##### Nevada Delegation

- Sen. Cortez Masto and Sen. Rosen

## Ely City Council – Regular Meeting – May 14, 2026

- Senator Cortez Masto was one of only 7 democrats including Sen. Rosen who joined Republicans in voting against a Senate bill that would have blocked the sale of weapons to Israel
  - This would have blocked the sale of weapons sold by the US Government already and reported to Congress which is a specific right of Congress
- The bill was a Joint Resolution offered by Senator Bernie Sanders and this type of bill can be forced for a Senate vote outside of leadership's control. The vote that was taken was the vote to force a floor vote (called a discharge)
- Only democrats supported the bill with a total of 40 voting in favor.
- Senator Cortez Masto joined Senator Rosen and Sens Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Coons and Schumer with the Republicans to vote no
- Rep. Amodei
  - Congressman Amodei chaired the subcommittee in House Appropriations for several hearings this week from members of the Department of Homeland Security justifying their budget requests
  - He also spoke to media about the ongoing DHS shutdown citing the original bipartisan work that was done before the issues in Minnesota which included several reforms to ICE which they are not currently operating under
  - His committee is working on FY27 spending when FY26 spending hasn't passed yet
- Rep. Titus
  - Congresswoman Titus introduced the Modal Parity in Permitting Act which would allow transit projects to acquire real property in advance of NEPA in the same way highway projects can
  - Her stated goal is to advance public transportation projects with more efficiency by using existing permitting mechanisms
- Rep. Lee
  - Congresswoman Lee questioned Energy Secretary Chris Wright on permitting issues for solar projects
  - Currently, solar energy projects do not move as quickly through the permitting process at Department of Interior than other renewables like wind
  - Secretary Wright told Congresswoman Lee he was likely to agree with Secretary Burgum at Interior about these decisions which often require Secretary Burgum's personal sign off in order to advance
- Rep. Horsford
  - Congressman Horsford completed his second "On the Job" segment working a shift at Gritz Café in the Historic Westside
  - Congressman Horsford also honored the 2026 Inductees for Westside Legacy Park
    - The Congressman joined the group and gave remarks as the new inductees were presented with plaques and their work as community leaders was recognized

### Other Federal

- Department of Homeland Security remains shutdown – Congress is in an apparent stalemate
  - The Department of Homeland Security has been shut down for 9 weeks
  - Right now, ICE and CPB are funded and operational (the enforcement side not administrative) and TSA is being paid through an unusual gambit by President Trump that has so far gone unchallenged
  - The Trump Administration also paid everyone who was currently required to work at the Coast Guard, FEMA and all other Department of Homeland Security agencies but those individuals were warned that they would not be getting future paychecks and the White House was only able to secure funding for a one-time payment for what they already were owed
  - Speaker Johnson said last week he would only advance the Senate passed DHS funding bill once the Senate passes a reconciliation bill that full funds ICE and CPB (neither of which are contained in the Senate DHS bill)
  - Office of Management and Budget chief, Russell Vought testified in Congress last week on many issues including this one stating that the funding will run out to pay even the TSA workers and staffing will collapse at these agencies if Congress can't get a funding bill passed
  - The Senate started the reconciliation process on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and hope to move quickly
- Housing bill still being negotiated between House and Senate
  - The bill now named the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Road to Housing Act (formerly the Road to Housing Act and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Housing Act) is stalled in the House after the Senate made their changes and it sent it back for review
  - House members disagree with the provision in the bill which bans institutional investors from buying more than 6 residential homes
    - Notably: local governments have some concerns about this provision as written due to lack of clarity on how County staff would determine if the rules are being followed at the time of processing a sale and issuing title in their jurisdiction
  - The House Financial Services Committee said they were likely to make changes to the bill and send it back to the Senate
  - The President is unlikely to support a final bill that doesn't curb the institutional investors in some meaningful way
  - If the House makes changes and sends the bill back to the senate, it will be the third time the broader bill has passed
- Senate HELP Committee holds hearing on drug affordability
  - Congress has bipartisanly been working to find solutions to prescription drug affordability for many years
  - This week Senate HELP held a hearing featuring academia and experts on how to achieve lowering drug prices including the current FDA biosimilar and generic process and how those processes can be abused by drug manufacturers
  - It also focused on the 16 pharmaceutical companies who didn't agree to President Trump's "most favored nation" agreement who have all raised drug prices on Americans in the last year
  - Senator Cassidy released a one-page framework for what the Committee intends to promote for drug affordability. The framework includes:
    - Money should flow to individuals not insurance
    - Remove power from "middlemen" and "bureaucrats"
    - Introduce price transparency
    - Expand Trump Rx
    - Address waste, fraud and abuse
    - Address access to nutritious food
    - Address chronic disease issues (to eliminate drug reliance)
  - See the framework here: <https://www.help.senate.gov/rep/newroom/press/chairman-cassidy-unveils-agenda-to-make-health-care-affordable-again>

- o Meanwhile, Plan Benefit Managers (PBMs) and Insurance companies are already resisting the Trump Administration rule proposal which requires price transparency for drugs when employers are entering into employer provided plans
      - o These groups have indicated they believe the rule is illegal and are likely to sue if it was finalized
- o Situation in Iran
  - o Last week there appeared to be some progress in Iran with the Strait of Hormuz opening briefly but the situation rapidly deteriorated and the strait is back to closed (meaning, Iran is shooting at ships that move through the strait)
  - o The United States has implemented a retaliatory blockade of the outside of the strait to intercept Iranian commercial ships if they try to flow through until Iran will make a peace deal
  - o Israel agreed to a 10-day ceasefire while talks continue with Lebanon who is a proxy actor for Iran (concluding April 26)
  - o The United States captured an Iranian cargo ship in this blockade (disallowing it to make its shipment)
  - o Vice President Vance is headed back to Pakistan to meet with Iran again this time bringing Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff (US Special Envoy to Middle East)
    - o Bringing these two to the negotiation is a change in posturing. These two were the representatives who met with Iran in Europe and the next day the war began because the two said that Iran directly threatened the United States and US assets in that meeting
    - o These two entering the negotiation signal a position of strength by the US: not looking to make concessions
  - o The US and relevant analysts believe that a deal can be reached to effectively end the conflict by Wednesday (the deadline of the ceasefire)
  - o President Trump has said he is not likely to extend the ceasefire further and said the US has "all the time in the world" indicating a willingness to continue the conflict until Iran agrees to a deal
  - o While the US hasn't been express in what they will expect in a deal – the basics would be giving up existing enriched uranium as well as ending their nuclear program. The issue of the strait is conflict specific and likely resolves at the conclusion of conflict.
- o Europe to enter the Iran conflict to manage Strait of Hormuz
  - o 40 European Nations met on Friday following President Trump's comments indicating NATO's weakness. They agreed to send troops of some kind to have some kind of action to help reopen the strait of Hormuz.
  - o The group met in Paris and is expected to meet again this week to finalize a military strategy and agreement unless the US reaches a deal with Iran by Wednesday
  - o One of the main proposals from the group came from the UK who wishes to deploy autonomous submersible vehicles to blow up existing mines in the strait
- o OMB head Russell Vought testified in Congress on grant freezes
  - o Many organizations across the country have experienced significant delays in receiving funds already awarded to them due to OMB freezing programs for review
  - o OMB Director Russell Vought testified in the Senate and House Budget Committees where he was asked by multiple members about these freezes
  - o Vought held that he has the power to "impound" and he intended to continue to do so in the best interest of the Administration and American people
    - o Vought received significant pushback from lawmakers who said that Vought's actions were a preemption of the Congressional power of the purse
- o Cameron Hamilton has been re-nominated to lead FEMA
  - o Hamilton previously served as the head of FEMA but was fired due to policy conflicts with former Secretary Noem particularly around the shuttering of the agency
    - o Hamilton was actually escorted out of the building upon termination
  - o Now, with the administration changing course on shuttering the agency (it appears) and Secretary Noem having departed the role, it appears that President Trump wants Hamilton back to lead the agency
  - o Hamilton's vision for the agency was laid out in public Congressional hearings at this time including cutting red tape and increasing the efficacy of its programs but distinctly not shuttering the agency
- o Forest Service reorganization received a hearing in the Subcommittee on Interior in the House Appropriations Committee
  - o The Forest Service is proposing to move its headquarters from Washington to Salt Lake City to prioritize dollars to field decision makers and outside of Washington
  - o It is also proposing to move its fire management division out of the Forest Service and into Interior (Forest Service is housed USDA but funded through the Interior subcommittee) in an effort to consolidate and centralize the fire fighting and mitigation effort
  - o Forest Service chief, Tom Schultz, received significant questioning and skepticism from democrats on the committee and republicans asked for more details regarding their planned move
- o House trying to move forward on Farm Bill
  - o The Farm Bill expired in 2023 but has been extended by a year since then because Congress hasn't been able to come to an agreement
  - o The House is looking to have a floor vote on the Farm Bill by the end of April. The House Rules Committee indicated it was prepared to hear the bill the week of April 27
  - o The bill covers farm subsidies and policy including livestock as well as key nutrition programs like SNAP
  - o Even though the House is trying to move their bill, it has provisions that makes it mostly partisan and the Senate hasn't released text on their version as of yet
- o USMCA renegotiation is beginning
  - o The US Trade Representative is traveling to Mexico this week to begin negotiations on the renewal of the USMCA
  - o The meeting will be a pre-review meeting where some details of the negotiated changes can be worked out informally before having to proceed with the formal review
  - o Trade issues to be discussed include auto parts and manufacturing, steel and aluminum and agriculture among other things
- o Rumors of United Airlines and American Airlines merger have Washington prepared for oversight
  - o United and American airlines revealed a merger proposal last week which would ultimately have to be reviewed for antitrust by the federal government
  - o When asked, the White House said it had no comment or opinion
  - o But some Senate democrats have said that they will oppose and do everything they can to stop the merger

- The merger, if allowed, would mean one company held 40% of the market share for air travel in the US with significant route overlap which makes it unlikely federal regulators will approve
- Some analysts believe the United proposal is a negotiating tactic with federal regulators where they will of course reject the American merger but then be softened to accept a JetBlue merger or another airline brand acquisition that is smaller than American
- Department of Education proposed new rules on student earnings to determine federal aid eligibility
  - The Biden administration issued a rule on debt-to-income ratios looking at debt following attending school and how much income any given student was making. Colleges falling below certain ratios had to issue disclosures.
  - The new Trump rule would make significant changes to this system. The new rule would:
    - Evaluate whether or not students who graduate from a particular program are making more or less than the median earning for a high school graduate in the region
    - If any given program fails to produce students making more than the media HS diploma holder over a certain period of review time (more than once there's a system of failure) then the program can lose access to federal funding meaning a student wouldn't be able to get a federal student loan to attend that program
    - My understanding in reading the relatively complex rule is that the Department of Education will base their analysis on existing data collected by the IRS and by their agency and the compliance reporting side for Universities will be lighter than under the Biden rule all though the stakes will be higher
  - See the rule here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/ED-2026-OPE-0100-0001>
- Medicaid Guidance on noncitizen coverage
  - On April 8, Medicaid sent a letter to State health officials advising them of implementation of OB3 policies on noncitizens
    - Note: OB3 is now formally being called the "Working Families Tax Cut" and the legal language for noncitizen is "alien"
  - The letter essentially spells out that beginning October 2026, noncitizens not otherwise excepted will not be eligible for non-emergency Medicaid (federal dollars – states can still cover who they choose)
    - Exceptions are: legal permanent residents green card holders, Haitian and Cuban migrants, and Citizens of Compacts of Free Association or COFA which is a limited group
    - This is a change in policy where before certain refugees, asylees and victims of certain kinds of violence were eligible for Medicaid federal benefit
  - Here is the full guidance letter with more details and nuances for state operators: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho26001.pdf>
- Secretary Kennedy is being questioned in a series of Capitol Hill Hearings
  - Secretary Kennedy testified at two hearings last week, one before the House Ways and Means Committee
  - Secretary Kennedy fielded questions about his proposed spending cuts in this years Presidential budget: members on both sides of the aisle (Reps Aderholt and DeLauro notably due to their position on the Appropriations committee) told President Kennedy they would not agree to the proposed cuts in the President's budget
  - Kennedy also fielded questions on his vaccines policy and positions which didn't cover much new ground. Members pointed out their concern on the first Measles death in the US since the vaccines introduction and Kennedy acknowledged that vaccines could be life saving.
  - He also had significant questioning and response regarding fraud in the HCBS program. He said that the payments that go to family caregivers are "rife with fraud" because CMS doesn't have a real way to see what services are being provided
  - He said that HHS was paying as much for fraud now as they're paying for medicine
  - This week, Secretary Kennedy will appear before the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS). He will also appear before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and Senate Finance Committee.
- Crypto rules delayed on the hill
  - The Senate Banking committee's CLARITY Act which is meant to provide rules of the road of essentially banking cryptocurrency (among other things) has been delayed and won't be receiving a markup this week
  - The Committee is working on disagreements between the banking and depository community and the crypto asset issuers on how to determine yield and on liability for illicit activities
  - Senator Scott the Chair of Senate Finance still thinks the bill can get done but the runway is running out for it to get done this year with these disagreements unresolved

BS

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Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated we are in a holding pattern.

City Clerk Lee stated on May 4<sup>th</sup> we got good news from the Porter Group that Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen submitted our Ely City Hall renovation project for Community

Project funding. Porter Group further stated that they will continue to monitor the City's request to ensure it's included in the FY27 Appropriations bill.

Mayor Robertson stated they've also been looking at grants and other funding opportunities for community development activities, addressing blight, and researching some other things.

**Mayor Robertson handed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper as the company he works for bid on this project.**

3. Councilwoman Yeoman – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to award bid for construction of the Cemetery Curb and Gutter Project, PWP# WP-2026-377.

City Engineer Almberg stated this is a project that Public Works Director Cracraft came to me and said we've got some funding and want to get it completed by the end of the fiscal year. It was put out for bid to five contractors, and we received two back. DT Masonry LLC was the lowest bidder at \$98,410.00 and everything is in order. I believe the funding is in order to take care of this and our recommendation is to approve the low bidder.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to award the bid for construction of the Cemetery Curb and Gutter Project, PWP# WP-2026-377 to DT Masonry LLC who was the lowest, responsible bidder. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

4. Councilman Perea – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Resolution No. 2026-05 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County for annual payments, made in equal quarterly installments, in lieu of property taxes (“PILT”) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and subsequent years, pursuant to NRS 277.045 and NRS 360.730, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement.

Mayor Robertson stated a little bit of background, back in 1999, when the County was in receivership with the State. The State came in, and up until that point, the City had been receiving property taxes. The State engineered an agreement in which, instead of receiving property taxes, the County would collect all those taxes, and then they engineered this very complicated CTX agreement, which had been in place up until two years ago. It involved the hospital and the other townships. When the County took us out from underneath the guaranteed minimum for CTX, that kind of got left by the wayside and taxation had notified us earlier this year that, hey, this agreement should have still been in place. We took that opportunity to sit down with Commissioner Carson, and she came up with some great ideas. I really wanted to get away from having that weird connection between CTX and property taxes, so we connected it directly to property taxes. This also gives us a portion of net proceeds from the mines, so if they have a windfall of net proceeds, we benefit a little bit from that, too, which is great. The old CTX agreement was a flat \$200,000 a year. This agreement is connected as a percentage of property tax and net proceeds of mining, so this year we're getting \$300,000, but we're always kind of in that \$300,000 range, that's a net benefit for both entities. I appreciate the Assessor's Office for all of their help and Mr. Kalt with POOL PACT, who is our tax wizard, as he helped with this too. It's a good agreement and the County approved it yesterday.

Councilman Perea moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-05 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County for annual payments, made in equal quarterly installments, in lieu of property taxes (“PILT”) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and subsequent years, pursuant to NRS 277.045 and NRS 360.730, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY OF ELY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY, NEVADA, APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ELY AND WHITE PINE COUNTY FOR ANNUAL PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF PROPERTY TAXES (“PILT”) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, The City of Ely, Nevada (“City”) and White Pine County, Nevada (“County”), are political subdivisions and public agencies of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute (“NRS”) 277.045 authorizes political subdivisions of the State of Nevada to enter into interlocal and cooperative agreements for the performance of governmental functions and activities;

WHEREAS, NRS 360.730 authorizes the governing bodies of two or more local governments or special districts to enter into a cooperative agreement establishing a process through which a county may make payments to a city in lieu of the city receiving property tax revenues for properties located within the city;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ely finds that coordination and fiscal cooperation between the City and the County serves a valid governmental and public purpose, including fiscal coordination, governmental efficiency, and stabilization of local government services within the City of Ely and White Pine County;

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Ely and White Pine County for Annual Payment from White Pine County to City of Ely in Lieu of Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and Subsequent Years (“Agreement”), to be made in equal quarterly payments, is authorized by Nevada law and is in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the City of Ely;

WHEREAS, the Agreement establishes a process for annual payments by the County to the City in lieu of property tax revenues, subject to annual appropriation, audit reconciliation, and the terms and conditions set forth therein;

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the proposed Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by this reference;

WHEREAS, the Council desires to approve the Agreement and authorize its execution on behalf of the City; and.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ely, Nevada, as follows:

**SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT.**  
The Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Ely and White Pine County for Annual Payment from White Pine County to City of Ely in Lieu of Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and Subsequent Years, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” is hereby approved.

**SECTION 2. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE.**  
The Mayor of the City of Ely is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Ely, Nevada.

**SECTION 3. OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLIANCE.**  
The Council finds that this Resolution and the approval of the Agreement have been considered and acted upon in compliance with NRS Chapter 241, Nevada Open Meeting Law.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**  
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF ELY, NEVADA

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS ARABIA, ESQ.  
CITY ATTORNEY

5. Councilman Perea – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Second Amendment to Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Second Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Ely and AirTouch Cellular Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless.

Councilman Perea stated it was a trilogy over a little amount of money and we're back to where we started, but honestly, the best thing about this is we're not tied into a contract where the lessee is in charge of everything. It's a better contract, regardless of the dollar amount, and going forward, at least we know not to have completely open-ended contracts.

Mayor Robertson stated I think it's a fair, as I say, arm's length transaction. I appreciate everybody's work on this. I know it was kind of a long, drawn-out thing, but they had a lot of parties involved that I don't think communicated as openly as they thought they might, so we got to the bottom of it, long story short.

City Attorney Arabia stated yes, I think it is good for everybody.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the Second Amendment to Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Second Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Ely and AirTouch Cellular Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding who authorized the six foot metal fence on Mill Street; White Pine Mobile Home Park not being fenced off causing a hazard and attractive nuisance; 408 High Street being a blighted property; Code violations that have not been addressed by the County Commission, City Council, or the Regional Planning Commission; Selective Enforcement; a complete list of properties and individuals that the City has permitted and allowed to park RVs on the City lots and streets while living in them and if they are paying utilities; and whether or not Mr. Ramsey at 582 Highway 93, as well as Tim Vidrine have connected to City water and sewer per NRS.

Bill Sanford stated last weekend we did a concert in Broadbent Park. I want to thank Nathan for signing the Special Events Permit. I want to thank Mike Cracraft for organizing getting the stage provided. It exceeded my expectations. We served four hundred hamburgers and so it's one of the nicer events we have had. Cari Matyja with Club Rio was also part of it. Friday night we had a mini concert at the Museum, and it was well received. We are just trying to bring more entertainment and stuff to the City so thank you guys. As far as the Club Rio decision is concerned, thank you. They are an institution, and they work really, really hard to do things. They have backed the music and backed a lot of people. The little bit you saw is nothing compared to the good that they've done so thank you.

**11. 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 6:10 p.m. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR

  
ATTEST