



# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**June 11, 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 5:00 P.M., 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 by Zoom

**City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:**

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Building Official Chris Flannery
- City Attorney Chris Arabia
- Captain Todd Fincher
- 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; Lisa Pescio, JP; Bill's Z Fold 6; and Lena Ocasio, USDA.

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: June 11, 2026

Print name below

Print name below

MARTY WESTLAND  
Wesley Johnson  
George Chachas  
Brandon Hill  
Mark Bassett  
Tony Locke / Aravia Power

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## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

George Chachas stated on agenda Item 5 regarding the Nevada Northern Railroad report, public information is not provided as requested. I want to know who the person that oversaw the Railroad Management Board that gave testimony declaring that George Chachas, the former Mayor, gave away the red barn and the depot without City Council approval and violating the Open Meeting Law of 1991. I want to know if that same person or persons gave any testimony regarding the former Railroad Museum Director, donating Railroad Museum artifacts to the State Museum, with or without the Railroad Management Board and the Ely City Council approval. It seems like you have a double standard with now witnesses Mr. Mayor. I want to know who owns Avenue A. Why is Mr. Mark Bassett allowed to encroach on the roadway by approximately fifteen feet that have mature trees blocking the corner in violation of City Code. Where is a copy of the Railroad audit that the City pays for; it becomes City property and I am entitled to that. On your agenda item 8B-4 Mark Bassett should not be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. He has a poor record of providing public information as requested and allowed by the Nevada Open Meeting Law. I remind him that he needs to address this historic and current violation on Avenue A, you can't have it both ways. On Agenda item 8B-7, the possible approval of trackage rights between the City of Ely and the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation needs to be denied. I remind you that those entities do not operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. The two council people who sit as liaisons provide very little, if any, reporting on what is going on; nobody really knows. The only thing they say every once in a while, is we need more money, for what? Where did you spend the rest of it all? The Council needs to bring the Railroad Museum back under the City Council oversight. We don't know how our tax dollars are spent, and we want accountability. On your agenda items under reports there is nothing regarding who authorized the new installation and connection of a sewer line clean-out at 785 Bell Avenue. Years ago, I was turned into the Ethics Commission for putting in a clean-out for Mrs. Brackwich on Parker Avenue, supposedly that was in violation. Here you are, blatantly allowing that to happen. The City has yet to reimburse me for curing the sewer problems at 681 Parker.

Marty Westland stated I read the Trackage Rights Agreement and it says it is a 20-year contract. I see you are accepting a lot of liability for legal costs I would ask if any of you have ever sat down and studied surface transportation and know what you are actually signing on to. I think there are a lot of problems with this, and I think you need to look hard at it before you approve it. I believe right now there is no tracking rights agreement in force. This particular change is nothing but a name change

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

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

## **4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **➤ CITY POLICE CHIEF**

White Pine County Captain Todd Fincher stated in our detention center the past couple months we have been working on a new communications program for our inmate population and we rolled that out today. It has some really neat features for the inmates, and I was chatting with Chris Arabia about it. Each inmate gets their own tablet and there's educational opportunities; they can get their high school diploma. There's a whole catalog of different types of classes that they can take from domestic violence and anger management to assist them and to re-acclimate them into our society at a later time. They can earn credits by doing that, and that provides them credits to watch movies or make phone calls. This system is state-of-the-art, and it's at no cost to the City or the County, it's all commission-based. So, we actually make quite a bit of commission on this program. It's very exciting. Technology is moving fast. They can file grievances and complaints. It also limits our inmate and attorney contact, so if an attorney needs to visit with an inmate, they can do that over the tablet, through the kiosk. It has DocuSign, so if they need legal documents signed, it also has that capability.

➤ **CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Arabia stated the system that Captain Fincher was talking about I have worked with on the defense side and they work well, and I am excited about it.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I just wanted to remind everyone that Clark Street is back to being one-way again.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almborg reported RNMC will be assisting the County with the installation of the new well pump and motor; working with City Clerk Lee on the NDOW grant to finish the building at the trap and skeet club; working on a waterline extension at the Railroad; Morley project is underway and there are long lead times on the pump; Aultman Street Project is going well and getting down to punch list items that the Mayor, Mike and myself have been in contact with them on; we have put stakes in for the Campton Street curb and gutter project; and we have been coordinating with Carl to compile information for the ISO rating the Fire Department is working on.

**5. NNRV 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.

NNRV 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.nnrv.com](http://www.nnrv.com) • E-mail: [info@nnrv.com](mailto:info@nnrv.com)

**Monthly Operations Report for May 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 – No change
  - 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. Caboosees in service: #3 #6 and #22 are operational.
  - f. Caboosees out service: #5
3. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open.
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
  - c. Museum Branch is open.
4. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In May we carried 1,846 passengers, it is a 16% increase over the previous year. It was record month, it was our largest May since the start of operations in 1987.
  - b. So far this year, we have carried 2,825 passengers an increase of 2% over the previous year thanks to the robust month of May.
  - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 398,299 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 May 2026 was 1,846 x \$550 = \$1,015,300.  
Economic impact year to date was 2,825 x \$550 = \$1,553,750.  
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 2,522,459
  - b. Our Facebook viewers last month was 1,170,308
  - c. Content interactions last month was 65,439.
  - d. The number of times your Page or profile was visited last month was 23,803.
  - e. 283,954 people follow our page.
7. Its 1956 at the railroad! Both Locomotive 250 and Hy-Rail 18 were built in 1956.



## 6. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I met with Tom Stagg and Mike Cracraft and we hammered out the final plans for our dog park. The Tour and Rec Board opened up the Capital Improvement grants, and we have applied to help with the cost of the dog park. This is going to be a high-end, really nice, something to be proud of park. I would like to thank Jennifer, Patti, and Mike for putting together the grant on such short notice. We had another successful Trash Troopers cleanup on Saturday. We ascended to the town of Ruth with thirteen and a half people, meaning someone brought their baby. We picked up twenty bags and a trailer load of debris and worked in the town site itself. We will be meeting in McGill next weekend. I attended this morning's Utility Board meeting.

### ➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I attended the Mayor's and Chair's meeting with the Nevada League of Cities and the Governor on Monday, we discussed a lot of things, including municipal funding and finding some way to get to the bottom of what's going on with CTX status. Every municipality there had some concerns, and I've done quite a bit of homework, too, so I hope the State spends some time looking at that, but I thought it was a productive meeting. A lot of interesting things are going on in the other municipalities, too, and I appreciate the Governor's time in that.

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

1. Board Members – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Leading Technology Development LLC/RKF Properties Will-Serve Application to tap the City's water line at APN: 002-280-20 for a 1" water line and five sewer fixtures.

City Engineer Almberg stated this is the empty lot between Family Dollar and Anytime Fitness. My recommendation is to approve this Will Serve.

Councilman Perea moved to approve of Leading Technology Development LLC/RKF Properties Will-Serve Application to tap the City’s water line at APN: 002-280-20 for a 1” water line and five sewer fixtures. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members – City Engineer AlMBERG – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Shawn Wilson’s Will-Serve Application to tap the City’s water line at 1685 Avenue E, APN: 002-081-01, for four fixtures, with a possible waiver of fees in the amount of \$3,500.00.

City Engineer AlMBERG stated this was tabled by the Utility Board this morning, because they had some questions, they wanted to get some more answers to. I had a conversation with Shawn this afternoon, and he was comfortable with tabling this item and he would gather that information, and he would come back and be in front of you himself.

Councilman Trask moved to table Shawn Wilson’s Will-Serve Application to tap the City’s water line at 1685 Avenue E, APN: 002-081-01, for four fixtures and waiving fees in the amount of \$3,500.00 so applicant can provide more information. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. 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

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 8A-1 Minutes and 8A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilman Trask Second by: Councilwoman Van Camp Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - May 28, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - May 27, 2026
  - June 4, 2026

### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Lease Agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno’s Cooperative Extension and the City of Ely.

Councilman Perea asked we allow them to use it with no cost? The Agreement didn’t use the word condemned, but it said something of that nature. Is there something wrong with that building?

Mayor Robertson stated I don’t believe there is. My understanding was that 4-H, which has been under the auspices of the Extension Office, asked to use it. In the past the Sheriff’s Department stopped using it due to safety reasons as there are houses that are getting too close to it for it to be used as a shooting range.

Councilman Perea moved to approve the Lease Agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno’s

Cooperative Extension and the City of Ely. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Weston Johnson as a member of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission, with a term through June 30, 2028.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Weston Johnson as a member of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission, with a term through June 30, 2028. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Mark Bassett as a member of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission, with a term through June 30, 2028.

Mayor Robertson stated I would like to disclose I am a part-time employee of an organization that Mr. Bassett is the President of, but I don't vote on these items. As a note, these were recommendations of Anthony Ithurrale, who's been setting up this effort, and we appreciate his time, and certainly the time of the City Clerk in helping with that.

Councilwoman Yeoman moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Mark Bassett as a member of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission, with a term through June 30, 2028. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 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 May 2026

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#### Appropriations Requests

- Submitted one Congressionally Directed Spending application to Senators Rosen and Cortez Masto.
- Notified Ely that the Senators selected the project for inclusion in the agriculture bill; continuing to monitor for markup and answering any questions.
- Tracking FY26 CJS funding and ready to assist in applying for those grant funds.

#### 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.

#### Monthly Federal Update

##### Nevada Delegation

- **Sen. Cortez Masto**
- Senator Cortez Masto's bill the Medal of Service Act passed unanimously out of the Senate this week
- The bill allows the President to create a posthumous award for law enforcement officers and first responders killed in the line of duty
- Senator Cortez Masto's bill was bipartisan, cosponsored by Lindsey Graham and led by Rep. Brian Mast in the House – the Senate passed the HR version or Rep. Mast's version which is identical to Sen. Cortez Masto's bill
- You can see the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr/3497/BILLS-119hr3497rfs.pdf>
- **Sen. Rosen**
- Senator Rosen pressed the Secretary Chris Wright of the Department of Energy to state for the record that explosive nuclear testing wasn't necessary
- In a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, the Senator asked Secretary Wright to give his opinion – not the Administrations opinion – if explosive nuclear testing was necessary
- The Secretary differed the President and said it was a decision based on information he might not currently have
- But when pressed to say whether or not it was necessary to insure the reliance of the current stockpile, he said it was not necessary for that purpose

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- You can see her line of questioning here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROPnc7Dw-R8>
- Rep. Amodei
- Conservative podcaster Candace Owens is being sued for defamation over her podcast guests story about a clandestine meeting between Congressman Amodei, Brian Harpole (a security agent) and Erika Kirk the day before Charlie Kirk's death
- Brian Harpole is suing Owens over the story which is proven false primarily by Congressman Amodei's presence at a Congressional hearing during the events as described by Owen's podcast guest
- It is unclear if Congressman Amodei will be called to testify or provide witness statements to corroborate the falsehood of the story repeated on Candace Owens' podcast
- Rep. Titus + Rep. Lee
- Rep. Lee, Titus and Amodei and Senator Cortez Masto and Rosen's bill the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act passed out of the House with 348 votes in favor (along with their bipartisan co-authors)
- Rep. Horsford joined a co-sponsor as well after introduction
- The bill establishes an office at Homeland Security dedicated to combating organized retail crime
- The bill is a major priority for the US Chamber as well as major shipping organization like UPS, Amazon and retailers like the National Retail Federation
- There has been a major rise in organized groups essentially attacking retail spaces and doing mass shoplifting with major damage and its making it harder for brick and mortar retail to survive in today's economy
- Additionally, there has been a huge uptick in cargo theft with organized criminals stealing shipments of goods
- The bill seeks to combat these issues by putting focused resources on these criminal issues
- See the text here: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/house-bill/2853>
- Congressman Horsford
- Congressman Horsford has launched a 'substack' focused on his takes on policy
- A substack is a marriage between a newsletter and blog essentially where subscribers will be fed content that Rep. Horsford publishes to the stack
- His first piece is on the Voting Rights Act, recent court decisions and the impact on black voters. See his work here: [https://repstevenhorsford.substack.com/p/theyre-always-known-the-voting-rights?r=8856h2&utm\\_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_source=direct=true](https://repstevenhorsford.substack.com/p/theyre-always-known-the-voting-rights?r=8856h2&utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=web&utm_source=direct=true)

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Mayor Robertson stated I don't know that there's a lot to report. They are still progressing with our congressional requests for City Hall, and I think that's been progressing nicely. A lot of positive feedback from the staffers of congressional offices, so fingers crossed with that. I know they've been working on any housing issues that they can bring forward by request of Councilwoman Yeoman.

Mayor Robertson stated for items 6 and 7, I will be abstaining as I am a part-time employee of the Foundation. Due to Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper having some technical difficulties the Council will need to vote on who they would like to chair for the next two items.

Councilman Perea moved to nominate Councilman Trask to chair items 6 and 7. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor Robertson handed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Trask.**

6. Councilwoman Williams-Harper - Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval of ninth Amendment to the Development Agreement between the City of Ely and Nevada Northern Railway Foundation, Inc., extending the term of the Development Agreement to January 1, 2027.

Councilman Perea stated I'd like to point out some things that are part of the discussions that happened. I actually talked with Mark early on when we were discussing having the insurance from the City not covering the for-profit side of that. My take on it was that either there was City Council representation on that board because there was City business, or the City was out of it. I think that what we've got here is that this doesn't have anything to do with the City. They will name the City, as we'll see in Trackage Rights Agreement as a second insured, and that we're out of it, so there won't be City representation on the for-profit side of that board. My take on it was either we're in or out, and either way it was fine with me.

Mayor Pro Tempore Trask stated I was happy to see we were out.

Councilman Perea moved to approve the ninth Amendment to the Development Agreement between the City of Ely and Nevada Northern Railway Foundation, Inc., extending the term of the Development Agreement to January 1, 2027. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – NNRy President Mark Bassett - Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of trackage rights agreement between the City of Ely and the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation (NNRF) with the Great Basin and Northern Ry, a wholly owned subsidiary of the NNRF from Cobre, Nevada (MP 0) to Keystone, Nevada (MP 146.5) and the HiLine Branch (MP 0 to MP 8) and the McGill Branch from (MP 0 to MP 2.3) to supersede the existing agreements.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated we currently have two trackage rights agreements; the oldest trackage rights agreement covers what we call the historic portion of the Railroad from McGill Junction south. The second trackage rights agreement covers the Railroad from McGill Junction North, and the reason for the separation of the two agreements is, at that time, we didn't have rights to the northern part of the line. So, basically, what this agreement does is combine the two agreements and continue the process for doing that. We do receive the 45G tax credit that is paid because of the Great Basin and Northern being a Class 3 railroad, and then there is a paragraph that explains the breakdown of how the tax credits are split. The term of the previous agreement, for the older part of the line, was twenty years. So, basically, this will supersede both agreements, and we'll have one agreement moving forward.

City Attorney Arabia stated I appreciate the gentleman who spoke during public comment, he seemed to have some thoughtful concerns, and that's always appreciated. My concern is we just had a similar issue on a matter of much less importance, which was the Verizon thing. The way I read it, it doesn't seem like there would be any way to get out of this for the twenty years, and maybe that's the way they do it. Legally, it can be done, I just am very uneasy about it, and the same thing about the insurance, but that's a whole other thing. The main thing is twenty years is a long time, and I shouldn't focus on the twenty years, because it's not the twenty years, it's the fact that there's no way out prior to that, just gives me pause. Thank you.

Councilman Trask stated I will say from my side, and this has always been an issue that I have had with the Railroad, is the legal fee split, and the fact that it's stating in there a 50-50 split I believe, regarding the 45G funds. So, that always makes me nervous, and the twenty-year commitment makes me nervous as well. Also, it makes me nervous that, correct me if I'm wrong Chris, you probably were not involved in a lot of this? Personally, I would like our legal counsel to look through it a little bit more.

City Attorney Arabia stated I appreciate the question. It was presented as a finalized draft and I did go over it a couple of times, but, as I said I don't view my role as telling you guys what to do, I know some people differ on that, but that was the biggest concern I had. I thought the gentleman who spoke during public comment had some valid concerns, and I'm a little on the edge, I get that we're on the insured, but I don't know, those were the things that kind of jumped out at me.

Councilman Perea stated I guess I was looking at it as if there was an out because of the breach language in it.

City Attorney Arabia stated the first thing is if you have a situation where there might be a breach, who decides whether it's actually a breach and then you're 18 months in and we have good judges in Ely, but maybe they're not the ones who are making the decision for whatever reason, and now, you know, we're 18 months down the road. That's kind of what the issue is with that. You know, there are some things that are clearly a breach. If I give you \$5 for your hat, and you say you can't have the hat and you walk away, people aren't going to argue about that, but what if I don't think the hat is of the quality that you represented, and it's an interpretation thing? So, that is the only issue with the breach.

Councilman Perea stated you and I had the conversation that we need some standard language across all contracts, and what I'm used to seeing in governmental contracts is that

with a 30-day notice, you would walk away from the agreements, but there's a big investment in this one. I guess we could just table it to have this conversation. There's no economic harm in waiting on this to get that correct?

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated incorrect. The 45G tax credit is going to be paid next month.

Councilman Perea stated but the amount doesn't change and the fact that we are receiving it doesn't change.

NNRY President Mark Bassett stated the amount doesn't change, but we don't have a trackage rights agreement.

Councilman Trask stated we have one currently, right?

NNRY President stated only on the historic part of the line, not on the northern part of the line, so we are under the gun for that.

Councilman Trask stated I would still feel more comfortable if our legal counsel had the chance to go through it and come up with common language in all these contracts that gives us a chance to get out of them, so we don't end up in the Verizon situation again or never get out of it.

City Attorney Arabia stated I think that this is an item of sufficient importance that it would justify a special meeting if we had to do that. I think, if I would have been able to speak to the person who drafted the agreement, which I'm not saying I've been restricted from it, but there wasn't a talk while this was being drafted. I have questions that the other attorney might be able to answer, in a way that I would be like, yeah, okay, fine, but I don't have that at this point, and it is just based on past experiences,

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated I sort of feel very passionate about what Chris is saying. I mean, that's the job that we expect Chris to do, and if he's uneasy, that makes me uneasy. I'm just wondering in the future, if we know things are going to be so involved, how we can give Chris more of a heads up on things that are going to be so intricate, so he can have some very thorough conversations with other folks. If something were to happen, we're in this agreement and all the I's aren't dotted and the T's are crossed, and we really can't talk about it individually as members; I think it needs more time.

Councilman Perea moved to table the trackage rights agreement between the City of Ely and the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation (NNRF) with the Great Basin and Northern Ry, a wholly owned subsidiary of the NNRF from Cobre, Nevada (MP 0) to Keystone, Nevada (MP 146.5) and the HiLine Branch (MP 0 to MP 8) and the McGill Branch from (MP 0 to MP 2.3) to supersede the existing agreements. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion.

City Clerk Lee stated just so everyone understands, we will be posting next Wednesday due to Juneteenth and staff scheduling, so it's not like tabling that postpones it that far.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor Pro Tempore Trask handed the gavel back to Mayor Robertson.**

2. Mayor Robertson – City Building Official Flannery – Discussion Only - Discussion regarding possible amendments to the Interlocal Agreement for Shared Building Department Services between the City of Ely and White Pine County to address workload issues from industrial projects in WPC.

City Building Official Flannery stated we've been busy. Matter of fact, I just got back from Pleasant Valley. I got up in front of the County Commission yesterday to express how busy the County is and, in my opinion, they're about a year behind getting boots on

the ground that they need, and we probably need to get in front of them so they can get themselves a third party for plan reviews and inspections as needed. They are really perceptive of it and matter of fact, HR came into the office this morning, talking about maybe getting an inspector just for the County side and that's really good news. I know that they want me to lead through this, so we're going to muddle through as much as we can. We did buy some time with the solar farm out there as it's been delayed. I think it might be the transformers being delivered, so we're looking at probably January. Your question to me was about managing things. You know, the City is manageable, but with everything going on, it's hard to touch all the bases all the time, so I'm doing as best as I can, stomping the fires out as they come up.

Councilman Perea stated Chris, do you need to take a look at that agreement, because it sounds like it would be an amendment to the current agreement.

City Building Official Flannery stated It should be, because when you read the agreement, there are some shared costs between the City and the County when it comes to third parties.

City Attorney asked can we talk about that tomorrow after the meeting?

City Building Official Flannery stated absolutely and maybe Dennis can join us.

Mayor Robertson stated we've been doing this interlocal agreement now for a number of years and it's always been a split just due to geographic issues that the Building Official probably spends 60-70% of their time out in the County and the remainder of time in the City of Ely. That's mostly due to the fact that if they have to do an inspection out at the mines, they had to drive to do the inspection and back and travel hundreds of miles of dirt roads. We just put this interlocal agreement into effect last year, but really not with the foresight or knowledge that a lot of these big projects would be coming and what that would entail. We want to make sure that we're not overstaffing ourselves for the lead times and finding a way to address the busy times.

Councilman Perea stated to your point, I was wondering how successful you'd be hiring somebody that may or may not be servicing the need in a couple years, but you've made the comment before about having a hybrid position in the future budget, and if we thought far enough ahead could actually work into something like that.

City Building Official Flannery stated when I look at people to bring into the Building Department, they need to be well-rounded and understand the whole process of building and planning. When I look ahead ten years, we've got Mako Mining coming in, so we've met with them on the Hamilton Mine. They will be taking over that and they actually have moved into the old Wheeler Machinery building and making some improvements there. The solar farm will be at least a two-year process I was under the impression there were nineteen applications for White County for renewables, and it is actually thirty-seven. If we get two of these that pop at the same time, they're going to be horrendous. When I did the wind farm, we permitted it, and I plan reviewed that whole thing, but when I did the inspections on that, I was basically out for the day and it was hard to try to maintain the other things that I have got to do in the community such as meter upgrades, roofs, water heaters, anything like that. The pump station is going to be probably doing a soft start August 24<sup>th</sup> and that's right around the corner for us. I don't know when those plans are going to come, but when these plans come, just like with the transformer pads, that was a lot of hours at night, because I had no interruptions to work on them. As I look at these projects, they're going to be really bearing down on the Building Department. I brought that to the attention of the County, because it's got to be maintained. If you just turn it over to a third party; typically, a third party wants 75% of that building permit and then they're going to want 75% of that plan review permit. If that permit is a million dollars, \$750,000 leaves the community and I don't know if that's what the County really wants and that's why it's an urgent matter at this time.

Councilman Perea asked the code enforcement position is really a separate conversation? City Building Official Flannery stated it is and it is a tough conversation on code enforcement. I mean, there's a lot of background that's got to be done, and you're really

going to upset somebody, and you could probably upset the whole community with bad code enforcement calls. I'm trying to do my best with that also. Right now, I'd kind of like to manage that, at least with the City, and with the County I'm trying to work with them to make sure that they're fully staffed for these things that are coming or prepared with a third party.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the new building at 292 Aultman Street if it is commercial or a storage building as codes are different; alleges the new construction at 301 Aultman is not ADA compliant; alleges 17th Street paved with cold mix or chip seal does not meet City code; who authorized the six-foot metal fence on Mill Street; several fencing violations in the City, yet his family gets citations; Mr. Moattar's fine being reimbursed and others not being reimbursed; selective enforcement; ADA is required on all corners and alleges it is not happening with the current construction; when did the City Council approve the total rebuild of the 300 block of Murry Street and the thirty-to-forty-foot access to the old Northern Hotel lot; and 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.

**10. 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 5:51 p.m. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
MAYOR Pro Tempore

  
ATTEST

