



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 9, 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.** Reverend Daniel Gbundema offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson
Councilman Terrill Trask
Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
Councilman Dennis Perea
Councilwoman Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper by Zoom

Members absent:

Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman

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

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer Janette Trask
City Human Resources Director Desiree Ramirez
Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
City Fire Chief Pat Stork
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
City Building Official Chris Flannery
City Attorney Chris Arabia
City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb
Captain Todd Fincher

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following people attended via video conference: Geri Wopschall; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Pat Robison; Jennifer's notetaker; and Bill's notetaker.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: July 9, 2026

Print name below

Mark S. Bassett
Shawn Hewser
George Chachas
Tony Locke / Arcvian Power
Rev. Daniel Gbundema

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding reports not containing any information on who authorized the new installation and connection of the sewer line at 785 Bell Avenue; the sewer problem at 681 Parker that he alleges was on the City side; federal regulations do not allow discrimination in any federally funded program; consideration for the meter pits, which are one hundred to two hundred feet away and alleges they should be in front of his property; the pork chop that was put on the T intersection of Orson and Campton with no walkway in his opinion is a very poor design; Encroachment on Avenue A and Avenue B; no curb and gutter on Avenue A; and the new building at 292 Aultman Street if it is commercial or a storage building as codes are different.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CAPTAIN FINCHER

Captain Fincher reported over the 4th of July weekend overall it was a success fire-wise and law enforcement-wise and part of that was from getting out in front of it and being proactive and preventative. Over the 4th of July weekend, I ran a couple extra guys, so I had four officers on from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m., that's normally our busiest time of the day. We had 180 incidents, meaning my dispatcher's inputting something, my officers are running something, medical, fire, or whatever it may be. We had 110 calls for service and out of those 110, 80 of those were officer-initiated, meaning my officers are out there being proactive and making contact with people; 29 traffic stops; 6 citations issued; And 7 arrests over the weekend. There was a total of 4 DUI arrests, one of those was a felony DUI and one was a minor in consumption of alcohol, where the juvenile was detained and those are not classified as arrests; it was driving and alcohol related. Also, I had one felony arrest with a vehicle pursuit. It was a stolen vehicle out of Elko. The vehicle was recovered and that subject was apprehended. It was a short pursuit through town, low traffic, so no public was endangered. We had one felony domestic battery, in the county, on a pregnant female, which was a little bit disturbing. Amazingly enough, over the whole 4th of July weekend, I've never seen it, but there were only 3 fireworks calls, so I thought that was outstanding. I think overall the festivities were good, everybody was safe, and my guys were out there being proactive.

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated I prepared our \$5M First Responder Grants.gov application before the 4th of July; its DOJ application will require project and budget narratives. There have been 24 complaints submitted to the City Clerk's office since January; we've reviewed each of these and taken appropriate next steps. I've received a scholarship for the Certified Grants Management Specialist Study Cohort through the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated our NDOT project is ending. Next Wednesday, we have a walkthrough with NDOT and the City Parks Department to look at all the irrigation for the trees. They'll get an OEM manual of what's installed for all the valves, and everything associated with that irrigation system. We completed a design for a water line extension down near the Railroad for a fire hydrant in that area and we've submitted it to the City to get comments from Mike and the Water Department to see if they have any concerns, and if that's exactly what they're looking for. We're finalizing our EA for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. As you recall, we're doing that EA because we have CDBG funding as part of our match with the earmarked money and CDBG requires the additional EA. Build America, Buy America (BABA) is delaying parts for the Morley project. As a part of that same project, we did pay Mount Wheeler Power, and they ordered the transformers and stuff to go with that pump and motor. Our Central Ely Sewer Project plans have been submitted to Mike and the Water and Sewer

Department guys to review, and as soon as we get those comments back from them, we will finalize it and get it out for bid. We also received a letter regarding legal action of suppliers of PVC overcharging. There were three or four projects that we did in the timeframe that we did use those suppliers and have submitted those to the City.

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.

NNRY Foundation President Mark Bassett reviewed the following report:

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

EA
SI
ELY

100 YEARS

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

Nebraska 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 June 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 June we carried 2,125 passengers, it is a 2% decrease over the previous year.

b. So far this year, we have carried 5,000 passengers we are essentially even with last year.

c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 400,422 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 2,125 x \$550 = \$1,168,750.
- Economic impact year to date was 5,000 x \$550 = \$2,750,000.

These numbers only reflect the economic impact of our train passengers and does not include visitors who did not ride the train.
6. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand:

a. Our Facebook views was 1,406,596

b. Our Facebook viewers last month was 549,828

c. Content interactions last month was 53,819.

d. The number of times your Page or profile was visited last month was 20,111

e. 285,446 people follow our page.
7. June was an exciting month at the railroad.



The America 250 Relay - The transcontinental flag relay from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. stopped in Ely. Their goal to transport a single American flag carried by 250 runners through 15 states in 20 nonstop days, arriving at the National Mall on July 4, 2026 — America's 250th birthday.

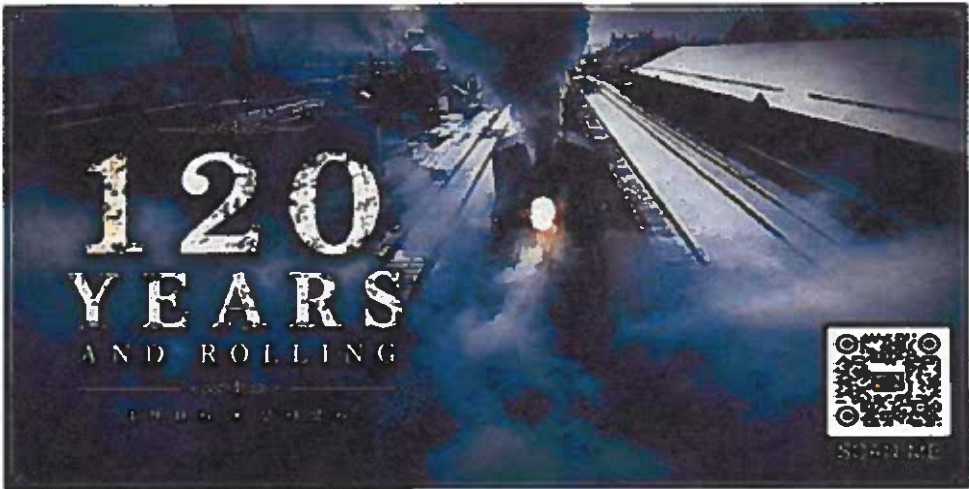
They received an Ely welcome!



Using Locomotive 250 as a backdrop, multiple runners carried the flag past the locomotive.



The excitement continued on June 25, 2026, we carried our 400,000th rider! It was Mark Knight from Boise, Idaho who came to Ely with his extended family for a long weekend.



To celebrate the 120 years of the Nevada Northern Railway, we had a music video created, it is outstanding! It captures just what the railroad was and is! You can view the video by scanning the QR code.

6. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated I had the chance to attend the Railroad Board Meeting, and It's interesting to watch those books; they're in good order. This is the time of year where their margins get tighter, and we are now looking forward to December, so that those margins loosen back up again. It is a cash intensive business, but it is in order.

➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the 4th of July festivities, and I'd like to give a big thank you to the Road and Highway Builders, the subcontractors, NDOT, and the City of Ely Crews for the most beautiful downtown. It was very patriotic, and it was overwhelming, it was just beautiful, and I had so many nice compliments, so kudos to all those folks that made it look really nice. I also attended this morning's Utility Board Meeting.

➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated we got to participate in the America 250 Relay. They met my husband and I and the 1st responders outside of City Hall and we were able to go through downtown with them on their way to the Railroad. They were a very energetic group of 20-somethings who were running across the country. They were getting a great turnout and really appreciate the City showing up for them the way they did. I'd like to echo what Councilwoman Van Camp said for all the volunteer groups that put in their time and our local organizations on the 4th. You will hear more about that during the Chamber report on what they did, but them, the railroad, and local businesses that turned out to support the events this year was just incredible. We hosted a lot of people, and I think the community should be very proud of what they're able to do. The fireworks show took a lot of money, a lot of fundraising, and a lot of work on a lot of people's part as well as Great Basin Pyrotechnics and Michael Couch, so kudos to them, it was impressive.

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 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 the Utility Board recommended approval of this Will Serve this morning with a waiver of \$1,750.00. The reason they recommended only waiving \$1,750.00 was when he traced out the sewer, it was many years old, and it went into a cesspool, so it was never connected to the City system. He traced out the water, and it was connected to the Avenue F extension, so it was basically an existing water service.

Mayor Robertson asked what size of service is this?

City Engineer Almberg stated I think it is a 3/4". I think there is just a small restroom in there.

Mayor Robertson asked does the City end up paying for the meter pit on that?

City Engineer Almberg stated no, it is a new service so he will put a new meter pit with his service.

Councilman Perea moved to approve 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 waive fees in the amount of \$1,750.00 for the water connection as it was pre-existing, but no waiver for the sewer connection as it was not previously connected to City service. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$1,651.76 from APN 005-077-

01 Cherry Creek, Ely, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Mike Fleming C/O Laura Fleming.

Councilman Trask moved to approve removing the past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$1,651.76 from APN 005-077-01 Cherry Creek, Ely, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Mike Fleming C/O Laura Fleming. Councilman Perea 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: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Second by: Councilwoman Van Camp Vote: Unanimous.

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - June 25, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - June 24, 2026
 - June 30, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Shawn Heusser, Finance Director, Nevada Rural Housing – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Resolution 2026-08 providing for the transfer of the City of Ely's 2026 private activity bond volume cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority.

Nevada Rural Housing Finance Director Shawn Heusser stated I appreciate your time to be with you today. We truly appreciate the partnership that we have with the City of Ely, and the work that we're able to do together. For the past fifty years, Nevada Rural Housing has been seeking to help with affordable housing throughout rural Nevada to help people finance and own their own homes. Today, that impact has resulted in over 11,000 home buyers since 2006, and 2.5 billion dollars in mortgages that we've been able to assist with. We help 1,300 renters each year, and in addition, we have 851 affordable housing units that we have either developed or preserved. We have 590 that we are hoping to bring online, so that's a pretty good growth that we're looking forward to in the next year. Since 2006, for Ely, there have been \$10.9 million in mortgages to 73 different homeowners, with \$397,000 in down payment assistance, and that is all within the same time, you've transferred to us 3.3 million dollars in private activity bonds. We appreciate that your partnership helps us to be able to deliver single family housing to members of rural Nevada throughout the State. What we are doing now with this bond cap is we are transferring it to the Nevada Housing Division once we receive it. They are able to have a very robust bond program and have a really good partnership with us. In fact, our loans are a quarter percent lower than what their loans are in their programs, and that's so that we can make sure that we're capturing all those residents of rural Nevada and helping them with this home ownership. During the last year in the City of Ely, we were able to help one home buyer with a \$274,000 mortgage. I noticed in the flyer you received, I think it said \$10,900 and it was \$274,000. In addition, we have a program called Rural Rocks, and that program is for essential workers, and we are working with the State of Nevada to get that definition expanded a little bit, because what we have found is in the

rural communities the number of essential workers is hard to really get all of them into the program. We have other people in rural Nevada that would be essential workers that you may not see in Clark County or Washoe County. We should be able to have that program expanded in the near future, and at that time we'll be sure to get the word out to your residents in hopes that we can find additional individuals to help. We appreciate this opportunity to be on your agenda, and for the opportunity to receive a transfer.

RESOLUTION No. 2026-08

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELY, NEVADA PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE CITY'S 2026 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP TO THE NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 348A of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and Chapter 348A of the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC"), there has been allocated to the City of Ely in White Pine County, Nevada (the "City," "County" and "State," respectively), the amount of \$265,714.11 in tax-exempt private activity bond volume cap for year 2026 (the "2026 Bond Cap"); and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Rural Housing Authority (the "NRHA"), has requested that the City transfer its 2026 Bond Cap to the NRHA for the purpose of providing a means of financing the costs of single family residential housing that will provide decent, safe and sanitary dwellings at affordable prices for persons of low and moderate income ("Single Family Programs"); and

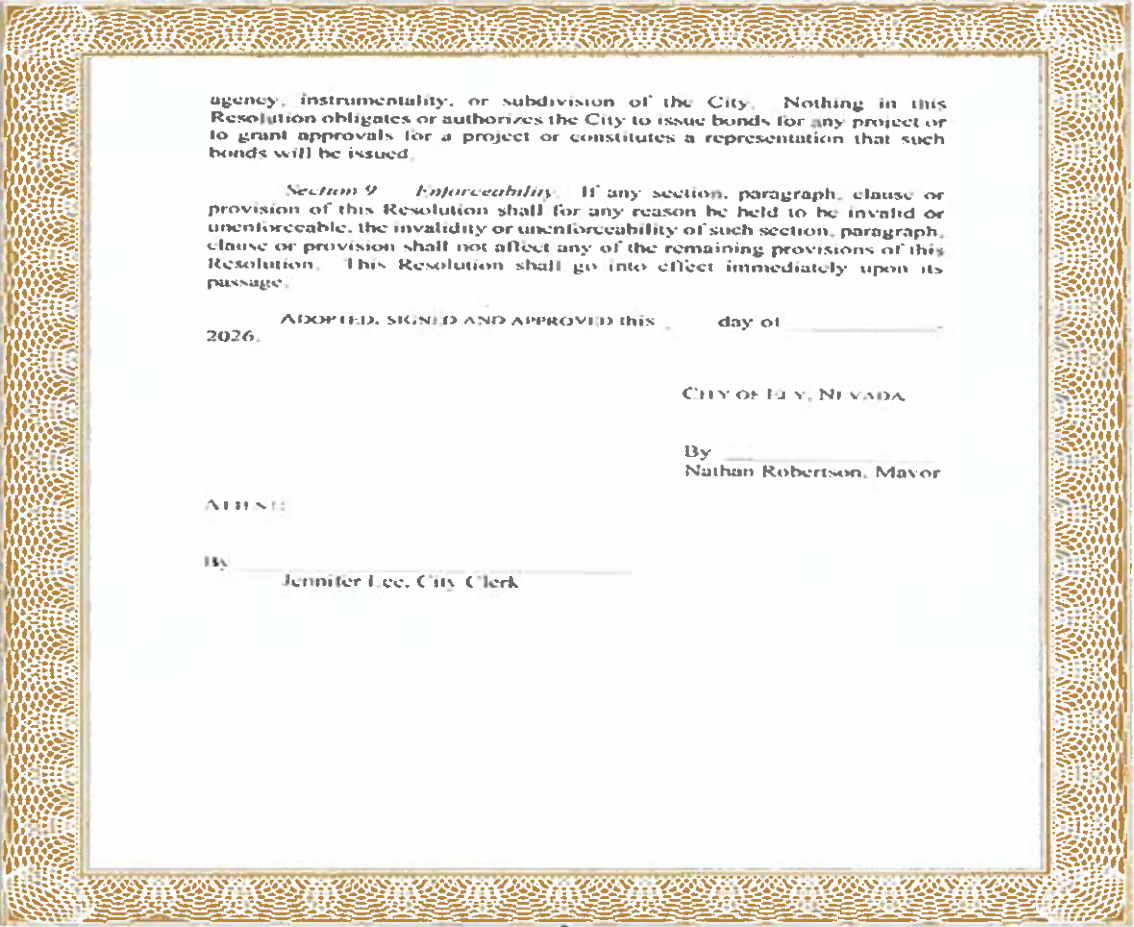
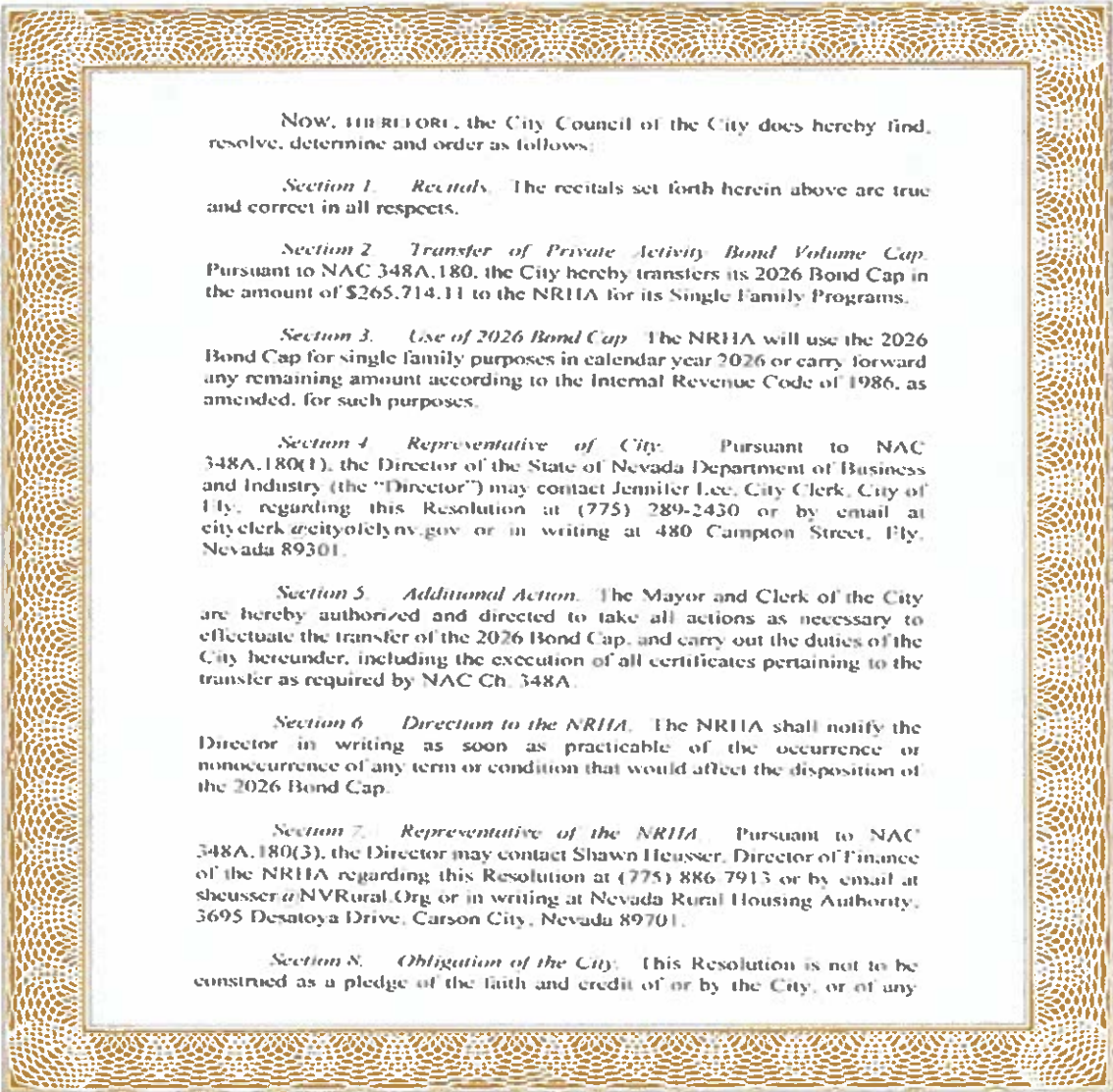
WHEREAS, the City is a local government as defined by NAC 348A.070; and

WHEREAS, Section 348A.180 of the NAC provides a procedure whereby the City may, by resolution, transfer to any other local government located within the same county, all or any portion of its 2026 Bond Cap; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 315.983(1)(a), the NRHA is an instrumentality, local government and political subdivision of the State; and

WHEREAS, the NRHA is located within the County, pursuant to NRS 315.963, which defines the NRHA's area of operation as "any area of the State which is not included within the corporate limits of a city or town having a population of 150,000 or more."

PAUL D. BROWN, Mayor



Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve Resolution 2026-08 providing for the transfer of the City of Ely’s 2026 private activity bond volume cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Determination of attendees for the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities' 2026 Annual Conference October 4-7, 2026.

Councilman Trask moved to approve sending Mayor Robertson, Councilwoman Van Camp, Councilwoman Yeoman, and Councilwoman Williams-Harper to the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities' 2026 Annual Conference October 4-7, 2026. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. 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.

Mayor Robertson stated I don't know that there were a lot of updates at our last meeting. They said that they were just waiting to see the legislation come out. There were some hospitalizations that kept them from having the meeting, so we really don't know what's in the legislation yet, but they're still poking, trying to find out if our request is in there, but we're just kind of in a holding pattern for that at the moment.

City Clerk Lee stated I just noted in the report that's part of the agenda documentation that they suggested that it's going to be a continuing resolution with possible passage of the actual bill in December.

4. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – White Pine Chamber of Commerce quarterly report on community activities.

Mayor Robertson stated I will disclose that the CEO is my husband. It's not a voting item and I don't vote anyway.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce CEO Shadrach Robertson reviewed the following report:



White Pine Chamber of Commerce

636 Aultman St. Ely, NV, 89301

775-289-8877

WhitePineChamber.com

Ely City Council Report -Quarterly Report

The White Pine Chamber of Commerce wants to thank the City of Ely staff and the Parks Department for their work supporting the Party in the Park last weekend. Broadbent park hosted two large events back to back Friday night and Saturday and the festivities were helped by the work done by city crews.

Local economic outlay reports show a quarterly decline in the rate of unemployment - dropping .2 % from first quarter - however, DETR shows a 0.8 increase in total area unemployment from this time last year.

We held an Ely Job fair at the end of June and several attendees were hired from that event, where 20 employers sought to fill positions. DETR's analytics total 174 people in the county collecting unemployment. Up 10 from April, and up 31 from this time last year. Ely's economy is being bolstered by \$603,750 in infrastructure grants awarded today by the Governor's Office of Economic Development for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In addition to local economic news, tourism season is in full swing, the Downtown Ely Visitor Center has been welcoming in an average of 100 people a week for the past several weeks, now that construction is completed on Aultman.

The White Pine Chamber of Commerce is happy to report that we have received grant funding through Travel Nevada to create a documentary film on the Great Basin National Heritage Area. This film is set to begin filming over four weeks this summer and will cover the many projects the Heritage Area has helped shepherd and contribute to over the past 20 years. The Documentary is being made with the intent to submit the completed work to PBS. Our filmmaker will be highlighting Ely, the NNR, and local area heritage areas. Thank you to the City of Ely for the letter of support that helped make the grant possible.

The Chamber continues in its 106th year to be a local small business support resource, connecting local area small businesses and nonprofits to opportunities, capital, resources, and support.

I will be attending a State Summit on Solutions to economic issues later in the month and look forward to representing Ely and White Pine County as we engage leaders from across Nevada's economic ecosystem.

5. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of the Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project in the amount \$603,750.00, with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant and the City providing the remaining funding balance.

Councilman Perea stated one time we were talking about this, and the conversation was a quick one, that this wasn't going to be enough money, and that we're afraid of what this project is going to cost. Do we have a plan?

Mayor Robertson stated the plan is, and correct me if I'm wrong Treasurer, but we put money aside from the Covid Funds into the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund that can be used for this. Ultimately, if it comes in way beyond what our funding has available, we're going to have to scale the scope back or say we can't do the project.

Councilman Perea moved to accept the Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project in the amount \$603,750.00, with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant and the City providing the remaining funding balance. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of abatement action to include the removal of household trash and debris on private property located at 203 and 213 Fay Avenue Ely, NV - APN's 001-122-12 and 001-122-13 - owned by Brandon Carter.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve of abatement action to include the removal of household trash and debris on private property located at 203 and 213 Fay Avenue Ely, NV - APN's 001-122-12 and 001-122-13 - owned by Brandon Carter. Councilman Perea seconded the motion.

Councilman Trask asked are we going to see more of these coming through?

City Clerk Lee stated the litmus test for me whether I approach the Public Works Director about it is, is it hazardous or breeding vermin? It needs to be serious to land in front of the Council. In other words, if the weeds are tall but not a fire hazard, you'll never see it, they will just get a letter.

City Attorney Arabia stated since I've been here, we went down this road on a different property. It was a little bit different, because it was going to be a seizure of the property. The procedure here would be similar. Has this been done in the past? I don't think it's been done since I've been here.

City Clerk Lee stated it has been done in the past.

City Attorney Arabia stated how far back?

City Clerk Lee stated the most recent one that comes to mind was a trailer where the occupants were cooking meth about five years ago.

City Attorney Arabia stated I'll speak to the Sheriff's Office to make sure that we act properly, but I think there's an additional step before we can go onto the property, but I can take care of that with the Sheriff.

Mayor Robertson stated correct me if I'm wrong, but this action would be authorizing you to do that by the Council.

City Attorney Arabia stated yes.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the poor quality of the sound system; who owns Avenue A; who paid for the paving on Avenue A that was done with no curb and gutter; the encroachment on Avenue A and Avenue B; his request for the name or names of the Railroad Foundation Board that accused him of signing the document in 1991 gifting the Red Barn and the Depot to the State Museum without Council approval or authorization from anyone; the six-foot fence on Mill Street; the White Pine Mobile Home Park not being fenced off and being an attractive nuisance; blight properties in the City and the law being selectively enforced; the request for information on how many RVs you've allowed to park on City lots and City streets while living in them and if proper utility fees are being collected; the drainage from the Bath property causing erosion on his property; and whether or not Mr. Ramsey at 582 Highway 93, as well as Tim Vidrine have connected to City water and sewer per NRS

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 **5:42 p.m.** Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


MAYOR Pro Tempore


ATTEST

