



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at 5:00 P.M., Reverend Daniel Gbundema offered an invocation. Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Pro Tempore Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper
Councilman Terrill Trask
Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman by Zoom
Councilman Dennis Perea

Members absent:

Mayor Nathan Robertson

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

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer Janette Trask
City HR Director Desiree Ramirez
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
City Building Official Chris Flannery
City Attorney Chris Arabia
City Municipal Court Judge Matt Hibbs
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; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Eugene Haper; and Pat Robison.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: July 23, 2026

Print name below

Janet VanLan
George Chachas
Daniel Gbundema
Melissa Leuke

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated on your agenda item reports 4-3, Municipal Judge; 5-1, City Council; and 5-2, Mayor there was nothing in the meeting packet regarding the equal treatment and refund of \$355 for Mr. Zervas. I want to remind you that you gave Mr. Moattar a \$500 refund and Mr. Zervas had no citations or concerns like others have. I want equal treatment for that gentleman. On your agenda item 4-5, City Clerk; 4-8, City Public Works Director; and 4-10, City Engineer, there was nothing in the packet regarding who authorized the pork chop fiasco at the T intersection of Orson and Campton. People that are handicapped or otherwise cannot safely walk on the area designated for sidewalk. I want to know who authorized the \$40,000 expenditure, when it was approved, and by whom. Who inspected that project? This is a very poor design and a traffic hazard. On the so-called sidewalk, you got a two-foot drop in some areas behind the curb and gutter; that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. On your agenda item, 4-5, City Clerk; 4-8, Public Works Director; and 4-10 City Engineer there was nothing in the packet regarding the lack of ADA compliance at 301 Aultman. Again, I want to know who inspected that location. There was ample room for an ADA ramp. 301 is just one block from here. Again, we either have rules and regulations for everybody or nobody. I want to remind you that's a federal regulation, ADA and that's new construction. On agenda item 5-1, City Council Reports, Councilpersons Williams-Harper and Perea and 5-2, Mayor, I've asked in the past, and I'm asking again, who owns Avenue A? I've received no public information, to date as requested regarding who the person on the Nevada Northern Railroad Board that gave testimony that I, George Chachas, as mayor, gave away the Red Barn and depot without City Council approval and violating or circumventing the Nevada Open Meeting Law in 1991. Did that same person or persons give any testimony regarding the fact that Ken Daly, a former railroad museum director, donated Railroad museum artifacts to the State Museum with or without Railroad Management Board and City Council approval or consent? Why is Mark Bassett allowed to encroach onto the road by approximately fifteen or twenty feet and have mature trees blocking the corner view.

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

➤ MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Municipal Court Judge Hibbs stated everything, I think, is going fine at the Municipal court. The Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is offering grants for improvements to the courtrooms for mainly technology in the rural areas and Kristi is working on getting that submitted. The first \$5,000 requires no match and over that amount there is a thirty percent match, which we have funds in an account for already. It has to be submitted by the end of next week and it will be for two new cameras and a new computer, because BCT said one of the computers that we use for the hearings is outdated. This equipment makes the court room more efficient and cost effective for staff and defendants that may not be able to afford to drive to a hearing.

Councilman Perea asked will there be ongoing subscription or licensing fees for this new equipment?

Municipal Court Judge Hibbs stated no, it is just replacing equipment and using the same programs we have been using.

➤ CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Arabia stated I just want to echo what Judge Hibbs said, all of this stuff is very helpful, and there are times when it lessens the burden on the defendants, which is not our entire priority, but, you know, \$300-\$400 is a lot of money to a lot of people, and we still do all the things that we need to do with everybody there.

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated with the help of everyone on the First Responder grant committee, I submitted our application yesterday. I attended the Greenlink Transmission Project's cooperative agency meeting this morning; its environmental public comment period ends August 24th, with construction anticipated to begin early next year.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated we've been coordinating with the State a couple of times this week and working with them regarding our quarterly water monitoring samples. We have been working with Mike to get a bid out for sidewalk to be placed where the new curb and gutter was recently put in by the cemetery. The bid package for the Central Ely Sewer Project will be sent to the EPA to get their blessings so that we can put that out on the street. Hopefully the supplies for the Morley Project will be here within the next week or two to get started on the upper portion of that project.

Councilman Perea stated last year we started a conversation about getting with the County and talking about the eventual takeover by the County of the Landfill. At the time, I think we were talking, like there's a 10-year window here, or that something goes up in 2035, but I see in the reports that we have capacity out to 2075. Am I missing something?

City Engineer Almberg stated no, the capacity is still quite a ways out there, but I'm 100% on board. I think that it should be looked at and recognized that this is going to pass off when we hit that time limit. None of us here will be dealing with that time limit, but I look at it from the standpoint we need to get something in place, because regulations are never going to get easier than they are today. If we wait fifty years, we may have to jump through way more hoops than we do today.

Councilman Perea stated so we've got time, but we should start the conversation.

City Engineer Almberg stated we should start doing it for sure.

5. REPORTS

➤ **COUNCILMAN PEREA**

Councilman Perea stated I have been working with the Railroad and getting with Mark; there are a few bills out there that the City has been charged for that the Railroad needs to pick up, but I just wanted to put it on the record that I'm working on getting that taken care of.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

Councilwoman Van Camp stated this past Tuesday, I attended the Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting. There was an update on the DSA 2000, the radio telescopes in Spring Valley, and they did mention there won't be an impact on current communications. The DSA will not produce any radio emissions, there will be one antenna for every 30 acres, wildlife will not be bothered, and there's approximately twenty permanent jobs that will happen. Construction on this project will begin in approximately one and a half years. There were also agency updates. The BLM is gathering 250 wild horses and burros. rPlus, which is the pump storage are going to begin their pump testing in August. There were reports on the solar projects, the mining projects, and reports on the wildfires in our area. National parks reported all the construction is finally completed at Lehman Caves, and all the tours are finally open after several years of construction. The agency is also doing fire prevention, and they're happy about the rain that way. Department of Wildlife has lots of field work being done, and this agency, along with others, will gather for a big mule deer habitat meeting. Fifteen 4-H youth enjoyed a free day of fishing. Trash Troopers had a cleanup on July 11th, seven 4-H youth joined us with their parents, and other volunteers. We gathered another twenty-two bags plus debris, the area cleaned was around McDonald's, the post office, and Great Basin Highway bringing our total to 181 bags so far this year, and we still have five more cleanups. On July 16th, Mount Wheeler Power hosted an internal Trash Troopers Challenge during working hours with thirty-one employees gathering 100 bags of trash and a ton of debris. Their area was Great Basin Boulevard behind Ridley's, behind the Credit Union, and even the employees down in Baker cleaned up down that way. This will bring our total to 281 bags this year to date. I would like to thank the 4H groups and Mount Wheeler Power employees for all their help in cleaning our area. I'd

also like to thank Jennifer Lee, as she contacted POOL PACT, and they're going to donate polar neck wraps. Update on the dog park, I did meet with Mike Cracraft, and we hammered out some more ideas, started to order some of the supplies, and we are working on a start date. The dogs and us are getting excited. On behalf of the White Pine Public Museum, I would like to thank Mike Cracraft and the City employees that took the two crappy old benches that were on Main Street, painted them, and delivered them back to the museum.

➤ **COUNCILMAN TRASK**

Councilman Trask stated at our Tour and Rec meeting last night, we, discussed the 4th of July and visitors, and I want to say that there was over 9,000 unique visitors just in downtown using the Placer ID? It was fun to see all that data and all the revenue that was brought in based on that as well. So, there was a lot of good information there that we were able to go through last night.

➤ **MAYOR PRO TEMPORE WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams-Harper stated Just want to remind people about Arts in the Park on August 1st and 2nd. It's so wonderful because it's for everybody, whether you're old or young, so hopefully we'll have a lot of people out for that.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

1. Chairwoman Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Consideration of Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation whether to request nomination of Ely City Hall to the Nevada State Register of Historic Places, with possible approval to proceed.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose that the Chairwoman of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission, Janet Van Camp, is my sister.

City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission Chairwoman Van Camp stated we had our second meeting this morning. We are already on the National Register of Historic Places, but we're trying to get on the State of Nevada Register of Historic Places. We just feel like it couldn't hurt to be on it. We have two members who have been chosen to develop a draft of procedures for inventorying and surveying of structures and sites and right now, we're considering two historic districts. We are working to get our certified local government designation. I hope you consider approving the request for a nomination to be on the State of Nevada Registry of Historic Places.

Councilman Perea moved to approve proceeding with the request for nomination of Ely City Hall to the Nevada State Register of Historic Places. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my granddaughter is an employee of the City of Ely Fire Department.

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

Moved by: Councilman Trask Second by: Councilman Perea Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - July 9, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - July 9, 2026
 - July 16, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilman Perea – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to donate \$1,800.00 from FY27 contingency funds to the 2026 White Pine County Horse Races.

Councilman Perea stated I've been having conversations with Marietta Henry about the increase in the expenses that the horse races have been taking on, and I felt it was appropriate to see if we could donate essentially the EMT fees to the horse races this year. I think that it's a good business decision with the amount of room revenue and everything that the horse races bring in. Instead of asking Pat to donate time and whatnot, he would still be able to bill and take his revenue, and this would be coming out of the contingency if I understood it correctly.

White Pine County Horse Races Chairwoman Marietta Henry stated as Councilman Perea mentioned, our expenses tripled last year for the pari-mutuel system. The gentleman we had come from Idaho typically charged us \$5,000 for the pari-mutuels and for photo finish. There's a gentleman on a scissor-lift right at the end of the race, and he has to film frame by frame everything that happens so that the stewards can determine who wins the race. The last couple of years, it was \$8,000. He decided to retire and move back to Idaho and just do a couple of races up there. Our lowest bid was United Tote, and it ended up being \$24,000 with the shipping of the reader board that's in the center of the arena that tells you who came out first, second, third, and the odds. We are splitting the shipment of this board back to Oregon with Elko, because we went in with them. I would like to share this with you; I just chose a month from last year, October, and the City of Ely received \$37,813.12 and for some of the months, you got \$25,000, and \$27,000 in room tax revenue. For the month of August, you received \$51,257.82 and that does not include what the stores, the motels, the hotels, the restaurants, and all that benefit from this. It means a lot to us. This is our 92nd year and it was started by Thomas Bath Sr. in 1934 to promote the economy of Ely. It is a historic event for us. A lot of people come from Reno and all over the state. We've just had to deal with these expenses, and it's very tough. We don't make a lot of money by the time you pay for everything. One year, I think it was 2022, we had a bad rainstorm on Sunday morning, and the State called me, and they said, "You will not race today." That day cost us \$40,000, because we have to pay all these people that come. We make a commitment to them and have a contract with them. So, you hope for good weather.

Councilman Trask moved to donate \$1,800.00 from FY27 contingency funds to the 2026 White Pine County Horse Races. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – City Engineer Almberg – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Consideration of citizen comments regarding eligible activities the City of Ely should apply for under the State CDBG program.

City Engineer Almberg stated this public hearing is for our CDBG projects. We have been very successful with CDBG funding projects and as a part of that we need public input for what type of projects may be beneficial. The City has done a lot of infrastructure projects over the years associated with this. We do a lot of sewer and water projects. We've used the CDBG funding to match our EPA funding that we just received. Citizens can contact me and my office, and I will assist them in gathering what the costs associated with that project would be and present that to the Council. Ultimately, these projects will come back in front of Council for two projects out of a list of however many come to us to be prioritized and applied for through CDBG.

City Clerk Lee stated I was contacted by a Central Ely resident a couple weeks ago, and she was hoping that FEMA had designated that area as not a flood zone, but that won't happen, as BJ explained to me, until the City applies for it. In order to do that, we have to have a drainage study. That's one thing that CDBG will pay for, is studies. So that's a potential project and we will have you do an estimate of the cost for that.

City Engineer Almberg stated exactly, I can do that, and I would very much support that, because being involved with this NDOT project and realizing all the benefit that it would do for the community. NDOT has completed major models of that storm drain system that they put in there, and what they've projected the anticipated floodplain is before and after; it's substantial. Now that the improvements are complete, that information can be compiled and presented to FEMA in a drainage study to ask for a map revision to the floodplain out there. I think it would be a great project, and truly, from what NDOT projected, 80% of Central Ely is out of the floodplain.

Councilwoman Van Camp asked what's the cost of that study?

City Engineer Almberg stated I think CDBG funds up to \$75,000 and I would anticipate that would be somewhere in the ballpark of where it would be.

White Pine Public Museum Board Secretary Janet Van Camp stated our museum has been around for over sixty-five years. We are not funded by the City, the State, or the County. We struggle to make any sort of repair and rely on grants, admissions, and memberships to keep our doors open. We are in dire need of a new fence out front. It's deteriorating, the cement is breaking, and our wrought iron fence is completely falling apart. I think this would be a very good project for the CDBG grant, thank you.

George Chachas stated I want 7th Street addressed with curb and gutter, sidewalk, and valley gutters. For years, I've suffered because of erosion. My walkway at one time was a dirt path, and I could do maintenance along my fence. Now I've got riprap baseball-sized rocks that I cannot circumvent. The corner of my fence is becoming eroded, the water comes down 7th Street, hits Ely Street, is eroding the roadway and draining onto my property at 622 High Street and the same with the alleyway. I got anywhere from six inches to a foot, foot and a half erosion, I've been complaining about this for four or five years or longer. I had one quote from the Reck Brothers to repair the damage on the alleyway, it was \$24,500. When you folks do maintenance on Ely Street you keep piling up the asphalt, and it's higher than my retaining wall. You're causing me some major problems; I want that addressed. The drain that was put under the railroad tracks from the upper end of 7th Street was moved over too close to my fence line. It needs to be moved away from there. They don't do any maintenance, so the water backs up, comes across the tracks, and we're doubling the damage done to the area there.

B. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

2. Board Members – City Engineer Almberg - Discussion/For Possible Action – Award of bid for construction of Steptoe Valley Trap and Skeet Range Hunter Education Building Phase-III, PWP# WP-2026-412, Nevada Department of Wildlife Award #SG26-10.

City Engineer Almberg stated this is out in Cross Timbers. We've been trying to finish this project for years, and this was to get us across the finish line to where we can get a Certificate of Occupancy. The bid on that project came in \$44,200 over what NDOW had compiled in their budget. We are working with the contractor to see if there's some value engineering that we can do to get this project within the budget. So tonight, we're requesting you to table this item and we will bring it back in front of you once it has been negotiated with the contractor.

Councilman Trask moved to table awarding the bid for construction of Steptoe Valley Trap and Skeet Range Hunter Education Building Phase-III, PWP# WP-2026-412, Nevada Department of Wildlife Award #SG26-10. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated there is a need for cleanup in the community. You have the Trash troopers, but you have a community overrun with weeds and sagebrush with no attention given to that at all, and it needs to be addressed. No one has put it in the newspaper about a community cleanup to let people know that you want that done. The City hasn't done it since I was mayor;

we're going back twenty years. You need to address that. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for a copy of the Railroad audit the City paid for; encroachment of trees on Avenue A; Avenue A having rocks instead of curb and gutter as stated in City Code; other encroachments in the City and restricted parking on Avenue A; the request for information on how many RVs allowed to park on City lots and City streets while living in them and if proper utility fees are being collected; and the discrimination and selective enforcement needs to stop.

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

Councilman Perea moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **5:52 p.m.** Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST

