

# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 8, 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.** Pastor 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  
Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman  
Councilman Dennis Perea  
Councilwoman Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper joined at 5:18 p.m.

**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  
Public Works Director Mike Cracraft  
City Engineer B.J. Almberg  
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; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Paula Carson; Chris Flannery; Lisa Ortega; and Lena Ocasio, UDSA.

## ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2026

| <u>Print name below</u> | <u>Print name below</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dean Reynolds           |                         |
| Rev. Daniel Gbundema    |                         |
| George Chachas          |                         |
| Br. Michel Blados       |                         |
| Mussa Bawa              |                         |
| JENNIFER DEW-LESTER     |                         |
| Megan Robinson          |                         |
| Paul VanCamp            |                         |
| Vince Reisman           |                         |
| Tony Locke-Areva Power  |                         |

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Drew Leshner stated I am the Management Assistant for the Building Department, and I am here tonight to speak to you with regard to agenda item 8B-2, which concerns Building Official Chris Flannery's starting date. As many of us know, in spite of the best-laid plans, life sometimes throws us a curve ball at the most inopportune time, and unfortunately that is happening to Chris and his wife at this time. I have been keeping the Building Department running since Don's departure on November 19<sup>th</sup>, with Brad Christiansen contracting with the City to do plan reviews and inspections. I am very much willing to continue doing so until whatever Chris's new arrival date will be. I have done some inquiring into options for when Brad is not able to continue providing services. I have been in contact with a company who does third party inspections and plan reviews that would be willing to work with us for whatever timeframe is needed. This will likely need to happen regardless of tonight's outcome. I know many of the projects that are coming our way, for both the City and the County, and it is going to take someone extremely qualified to be able to handle them; I know Chris is that person. In our department, it is not just about residential plan reviews and inspections, the person in this position must also have vast knowledge of doing commercial plan reviews and inspections. Some large projects are coming our way, including very large projects involving renewable energy. With Chris's experience, he will be able to navigate all of this. When the wind farm was constructed, he was instrumental in getting this project through to completion. The person in this position would also have to deal with enforcement of the City and County codes, zoning, flood plans, and new address assignments, all of which Chris is fully capable of. The Council could choose to open this position up, wait a couple of weeks for applicants, select a candidate at a meeting, wait another two to four weeks for that person to give notice and possibly move here. That person may decide that they do not like it here or the job is too demanding and leave in another one and a half to two years, putting us back to square one. I wholeheartedly believe that it would be in the best interest of the Building Department, the City, and the County to accommodate the time frame necessary for Chris to deal with the critical issue he is currently facing. I know he and his wife very much want to be here and stay here upon their return; this is home to them. I feel the Council would be hard-pressed to find someone else that has a wealth of knowledge, experience and even temperament (which is very important), and familiarity with this area that Chris has. I have local contractors constantly asking me when Chris is coming back. They all know from past experience that he is someone they can work with. I truly believe Chris is still the best choice for this position, and I would hate the opportunity to have such a knowledgeable and quality person in this position be cast to the wayside and have regrets in another one and half years to two years down the road when, yet another new inspector leaves. I sincerely thank you for your time this evening and ask that you please take all of these factors into consideration when making your decision tonight.

George Chachas stated on your agenda item for Public Works, I had cleaned the snow off my sidewalk today at 622 High Street, a while later, a City plow truck plowed the snow back onto the sidewalk, and I had to remove it a second time. Snow needs to be out to the center of the street, not on a person's sidewalk. On your agenda item 7-1, does the building at 292 qualify as a commercial building meeting building codes? I did not see a foundation constructed to support the erected building as required by code. On your agenda item B-9, you are to consider the possible approval to raise the level of an asset value to \$5,000. That item is not clear, and the Nevada Open Meeting Law requires a specific designation. This item needs to be denied until you clarify what you're doing. On your agenda item 5 where's the Nevada Northern Railroad Audit report that the City paid for? It's a public document paid for by the City taxpayers, and I'm requesting a copy. I'm concerned about that operation. On your agenda item B-3, regarding City Clerk duties, there's a blatant failure to provide public record requests, and improper fee charges for items on an agenda. Item 1-6A-6B regarding public safety, there is a lack of knowledge and a present blatant failure to address public safety and ADA requirements when concerns are brought before you. On your agenda item 8B-4, City Treasurer, there's not a requirement for the individual to be bonded. If they handle any monies, they must be bonded. On your agenda item 8B-6, Human Resource Director, I've not seen any interaction with the ADA administration between HR, the Mayor, or the Council. It appears the Mayor comes up with certain people without any consultation with the Council, and a rubber stamp is given without a review of

resumes or interviews. ADA concerns have been brought forward numerous times without any acknowledgement. To date, I've not been reimbursed for taking care of the sewer blockage at 681 Parker.

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

Councilman Perea moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

➤ **CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Arabia stated if anyone recalls the 18-wheeler that rolled over a few months ago east of the intersection of Aultman Street and Great Basin, we had the trial today, and he was found guilty, which was appropriate.

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated I am working on an amendment to our Green Up grant with Public Works Director Cracraft that would fund the remaining award balance of \$80,000. The deadline for you and all appointed officials to submit your annual Financial Disclosure Statement to the Secretary of State's office is next Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, to avoid late fines. We will post the January 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda next Thursday afternoon, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated our Morley Sewer Project is basically complete out in the field. We are just wrapping up the paperwork and should have it back in front of you for final approval next month. It was a challenging project, but a very successful project. The plans for the Morley Water project, which is the next phase of that CDBG project, have been submitted to the State for final approval. As soon as we get any comments back, we will make those adjustments and be able to put it out for bid. We completed the Landfill quarterly report. The other major thing that we are working on is the earmark project for Central Ely. The contractor for Aultman Street reached out to me and they anticipate getting started back up again by 11<sup>th</sup> Street and they're going to work their way to the west, tearing out the old box culverts that they just replaced. They will work as weather allows.

Mayor Robertson asked, "Are they ahead of their planned schedule?"

City Engineer Almberg stated we had a meeting this week with NDOT, Road and Highway Builders, and everybody else, and they are anticipating completion by the end of July. With the warmer weather we have been having and if they can continue to work through the winter months, they anticipate they could be done sometime in June with everything cleaned up, out of the way, and gone.

## 5. NNRY FOUNDATION REPORT

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

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

### Monthly Operations Report for December 2025

1. Locomotive Status – Updated
  - a. Locomotives in service: 250, 109, 801, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Staff and volunteers are working on Locomotive 802 with the goal of bringing it back to service this summer.
  - c. On Locomotive 81 work is progressing on the pilot truck.
  - d. 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.
  - e. 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.
  - f. Locomotive 105 is out of service for radiator leaks, the radiators have been sent out for repair.
  - g. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2027.
  - h. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201
  - i. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
  - j. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #80 and the military locomotives.
2. Rolling Stock Status – No change
  - a. Passenger equipment in service: #05, #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Baggage/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06 and Caboose 6.
  - b. Passenger Coach 5 is in service but it needs to be lettered in gold leaf.
  - c. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
  - d. Caboose in service: #3 #6 and #22 are operational.
  - e. Caboose out service: #5
3. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open.
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
  - c. Museum Branch is open.
4. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In December we carried 2,540 passengers, this is a 5% increase over the previous year. Santa's Reindeer Flyer ticket sales have been strong.

### Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenaline Rush in Rural Nevada – 2020  
Best Historic Railroad of the West – 2023, 2022  
Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2022, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008  
Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014  
Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

- b. This year we have carried 15,500 passengers, this was an increase of 2% compared to the previous year.
- c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 395,422 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 December 2025 was 2,540 x \$550 = \$1,347,500.  
Economic impact year to date was 15,500 x \$550 = \$8,525,000  
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 3,094,370
  - b. Our Facebook reach last month was 945,230
  - c. We have 140,700 page likes.
  - d. 238,256 people follow our page.
7. Work is continuing on all three of our steam locomotives.



Locomotive 40 received throat sheet repairs.

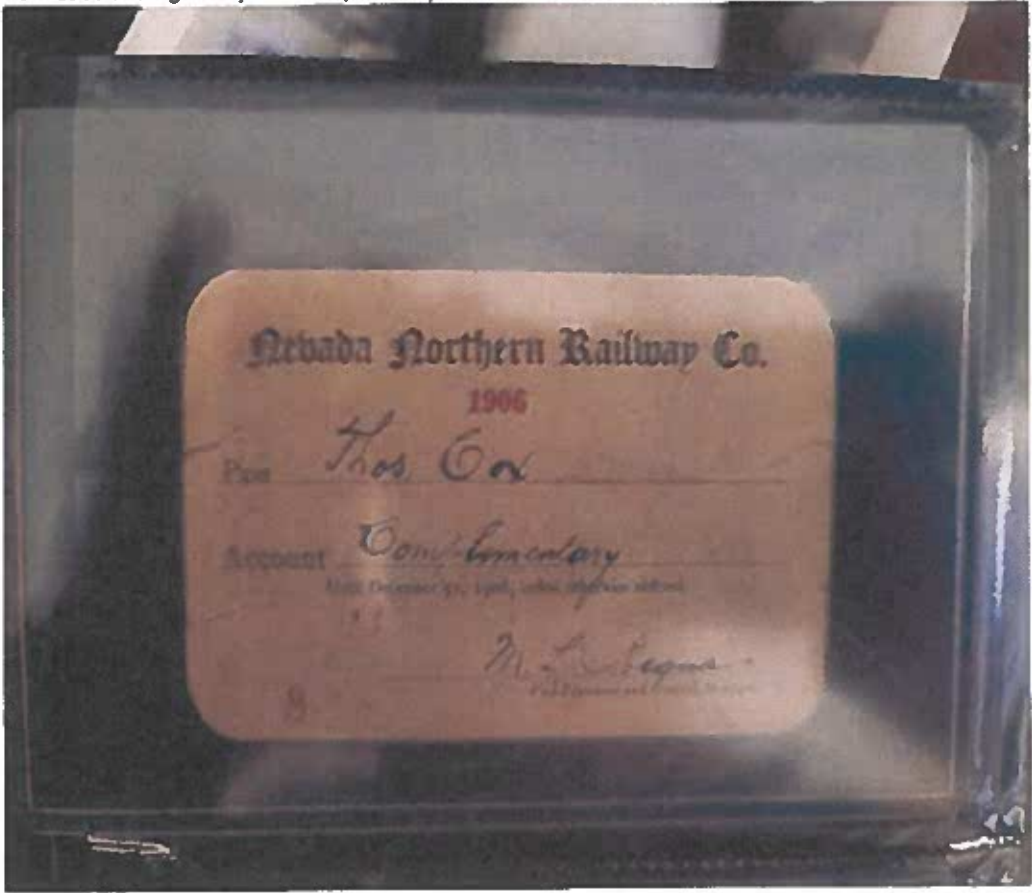




Above, work continues on Locomotive 81's pilot truck. We will have her steaming in January.  
Below, Locomotive 93's axle is back waiting for installation.



8. A surprised in the mail. We were donated Nevada Northern Railway Passes with the oldest being from 1906 and signed by Mark Requa. The passes were added to our archives.



## 6. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILMAN TRASK

Councilman Trask stated I just got done with a senior presentation. Those are in full swing, so if you want to go up and see some seniors do presentations, I'm sure you can pop into those, and they are looking for judges. I met with the State Treasurer last week in my capacity at the School District and had a good conversation with him. I know that their office is concerned about housing as well as they brought that up a couple times. On Tuesday I went to the EOC training for the county and sat through that with multiple hats on. It was interesting and informative.

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the Municipal Utilities Board meeting this morning.

### ➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated the only thing I have is I am working with Mark on a report for this section that will actually include financial information for the Railroad, and some more of the policy discussions that are happening in those board meetings so that these reports are more meaningful when it comes to the Railroad.

### ➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I also had a meeting with the State Treasurer and his staff that were here.

## 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 Joe Ciscar's Will Serve Application for additional fixture units at 292 Aultman Street.

City Engineer Almberg stated this was recommended for approval by the Municipal Utilities Board this morning.

Mayor Robertson asked do they have a use for this building?

City Engineer Almberg stated I don't know about that. The Will Serve is only for sewer, as there is already a water service there. In fact, with the Aultman Street project, that water service was replaced because that was a portion we had to change the water line anyway. This is strictly for a sewer connection. The Building Official compiled all the fixture units and costs, and I support him on that.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to approve Joe Ciscar's Will Serve Application for additional fixture units at 292 Aultman Street. 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 Perea Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimously

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - December 11, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - December 10, 2025
  - December 18, 2025
  - December 23, 2025
  - December 30, 2025

## **B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – High School Hope Squad Representative(s) – Discussion/For Possible Action – Presentation of Hope Week 2026 plans, with possible approval of a Proclamation declaring February 9-12, 2026 “Hope Week” in the City of Ely.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated the reason I was late was we have senior presentations at school, and how does this tie in? It ties into the fact that we have some amazing young people that are going through the school system, and will change our lives here, or will change lives wherever they go. The Hope Squad, in my opinion, shows not just the academics, but the caring and the hope for the future they have. I am very glad to have them here.

Ms. Peterson stated I am the Hope Squad Advisor at the high school, and the Hope Squad’s main focus is on suicide prevention through peer support and connection to qualified assistance by helping kids meet with the people that they need to meet with. Kids are nominated by their peers every year to join the Hope Squad and then myself and Ms. Hall, the advisors, weed through that list, and we invite members to become part of the Hope Squad. We try to get a range of social groups and ages. The push of the activities and the focus that we put on is to build connections and to build support within the community. For the purpose of Hope Week, which is coming up February 9th through the 12<sup>th</sup>, we are working together with the community committee, Together We Belong to plan Hope Week. We're trying very hard to make it an entire community event, not a high school event, because it has been shown everywhere that the people who survive grief and hard things are the people who have strong support systems. We're trying to ensure that the entire community is creating a strong support system for each other. I have with me one of our members who is a freshman, and she is going to tell you what we have planned so far for Hope Week, and we ask that you guys participate, and encourage anyone in your sphere of influence and organizations to participate with us.

Brindel Blades stated Monday, February 9th, we have activewear self-care, to show us what you do or where you move your body and stay mentally and physically healthy. Tuesday, February 10th, is kindness counts, and there is a template you put a picture to highlight someone who has shown kindness to others and tell us about it. Wednesday, February 9th, is tie-dye day, to express your emotions through color. Thursday, February 12th is the big day, because it's wear purple or support us by purchasing our shirts for yourself and your staff.

Ms. Peterson stated We've designed a shirt, it's not run as a fundraiser. Our organization doesn't so much need money as it needs active support. We're asking that during the dress-up days, if you dress up, post a picture, send it to the high school, we'll put it on our social media. We will have slideshows running in the hospital waiting room and other places, showing all the people who've contributed. We are just trying to build that feeling of everyone's doing the same things. If someone were to run errands, we would love it if on Wednesday, the tie-dye day, they went to three different businesses and saw three different staffs wearing tie-dyes, because it helps people understand that everybody's aware and everybody's a part of it. In the letter you guys have, there are emails that you can send those pictures to, and there's also an active link for the Blue Candy Boutique where the t-shirts that we've designed are sold, or you can just wear purple, which is the color of suicide Prevention. The big community event is on Thursday night at 6pm and will be at the Convention Center. It's family bingo and the bingo cards are free. There

will be prizes given away. Some prizes will be donated, and some will be purchased through donations. We're asking everyone to come. We would really like there to be a big turnout, and to have a community event where people get to come and interact with each other and show their support from the community in general. It's a time to build hope with each other, so we're hoping you come.



***A PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 9-12, 2026  
"HOPE WEEK"***

WHEREAS, the City of Ely is committed to promoting organizations that support the positive mental health and well-being of all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Hope Squad believes in the power of peer-to-peer connection to prevent suicide and they are committed to raising awareness of mental health issues, sharing hope, and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, currently, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in the United States for youth ages 10-17 years old; and

WHEREAS, we as a community have suffered great loss.

WHEREAS, the community is encouraged to be involved with Hope Squad's initiative dedicated to spreading kindness, connection, and positivity throughout our schools and neighborhoods. The daily themes are as follows:

- **Monday Feb 9th - Active Wear Self Care** - Show us what you do or wear to move your body and stay mentally and physically healthy.
- **Tuesday Feb 10th - Kindness Counts** - take a picture to highlight someone who has shown kindness to others and tell us about it! Could be a staff member or a customer that you would like to recognize.
- **Wednesday Feb 11th - Tie Dye Express** your emotions through color- Colors can help represent different emotions and Tie dye shows the range of emotions we can go through within a day especially a hard day.
- **Thursday Feb 12th - Hope** - Wear Purple or support us by purchasing our shirts for yourself and your staff.
- **Attending and Supporting the Community Bingo Night on Thursday Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.** This family-friendly event brings together students, families, and businesses for an evening of fun and connection.

WHEREAS, your support of these events with your presence and participation help build connection and unity within the community.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the Proclamation declaring February 9-12, 2026 "Hope Week" in the City of Ely. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Council Members – HR Director Ramirez – Chris Flannery – Discussion/For Possible Action – Determination of possible start date as City of Ely Building Official after January 12, 2026.

Mayor Robertson stated Mr. Flannery is on the Zoom call tonight. He couldn't be here in person, but as some of the public comment earlier noted, he and his wife are dealing with some medical issues that are kind of throwing a wrench in their schedule. He knows more about this than I do, and ultimately the decision is the Council's on how to address start dates and appointments. I thought it was best if Mr. Flannery makes his pitch directly to you, and the Council decides how they want to go forward with this.



Chris Flannery stated greetings, Mayor and Council Members. I wish I was there, but we have a lot going on right now and I apologize for not being able to make the appointment on January 12th. We've had some unfortunate news come up that we were not looking forward to, and this happened after I put my name into the hat with the City. We are climbing a little bit of a hill here, so that way we can make ourselves available for the City. I am available for any questions you may have at this point.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated first, I'm sorry for everything you're dealing with, it does sound really tough. My only question is, have conversations been had with Brad on how long he might be able to continue in lieu of this extension?

Chris Flannery stated, you know, I did have conversations with Brad and Jennifer, and I understand where they come from. Right now, Brad is retired, and he said to me that he has to pay penalties in order to cover up there. I think he was going to have a discussion with Nate. I think it was Thursday or Friday when I was talking to him. I wish I had more answers for you on that, but I don't know Brad's position that he's holding at this point.

Mayor Robertson stated my understanding is Brad is willing to fill in until January 16th.

Councilman Perea stated Jennifer had indicated a contractor. Do we know what the availability is or the cost of that?

Mayor Robertson stated we don't have that information today. I think Jennifer and some of our staff met with a potential contractor who could do some fill-in work; they do the work for the City of Fernley is my understanding.

Councilman Perea stated to her point, I think we would be doing this anyway. Janette, do we know that we've got this part of it covered, and are we good to go with doing a contract there?

Mayor Robertson stated we need to get her more information. They are supposed to be getting us more information. They got our rates sent to them of what we charge?

City Clerk Lee stated I'm not sure if Jennifer Drew-Lesher had a chance to do that. We met with them at 2:30 this afternoon, but she's actively working on that.

Mayor Robertson asked, "Then they will be sending us their rate schedule"

Chris Flannery stated they should be sending something like a Statement of Qualifications along with their rate schedule to the City.

Mayor Robertson stated correct, this is somebody we need to have in our rolodex anyway for these kinds of things. We really appreciate our former building official, Brad, being able to fill in as much as he has for us over the years, but certainly there's going to be a time when that's just not feasible for him anymore.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated Chris, I'm sorry about all your health issues. Do you have an idea of possibly when you could start?

Chris Flannery stated we have another procedure to go through tomorrow and once we get through that procedure, we should get the results in one to two weeks. We do meet with the surgeon, next Friday, to go over the results of the MRI with contrast, and then we will have a better idea, come Friday, the 15th. We may not have all the options in front of us until we have the results of the test tomorrow. It's really heartbreaking to be in front of you guys in this position, because, you know, everything is at risk for us on so many levels health-wise, and with the job there in Ely, where we'd like to be at this point. We even had that discussion this afternoon during lunch about being in Ely at this moment, but unfortunately, we have to get healthy, and once we get there, we're going to be in better shape. I would assume that we would know something, and I would be hopeful to say by Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>, but it's still throwing a dart at a board in the middle of the night. I just can't hit the target right now. I would have a better idea probably after the 15th.

Councilman Perea stated it sounds to me like we continue with the plan, he needs the time, clearly, and we reach out to this company. It sounds like at the next council meeting, we probably would have a clearer picture of what this looks like. Is that a safe assumption to say?

Chris Flannery stated yes sir, absolutely. There's so much laid out in front of us and we don't know yet, but by the next City Council meeting I should have better targets for dates.

Councilman Trask stated I guess the only other option that I've been wrestling with is that with the uncertainty, do we open it back up to see if there's any other candidates with Chris still being considered. It's a valuable position that we need. If we don't open it up it sounds like we have a plan we will have to utilize anyways with this other company. I just wanted to see if there was any appetite for that.

Councilman Perea stated I think we have to talk about it at some point. Judging by what he's saying, and I'm not trying to pressure you, Chris, at all, you don't have a crystal ball and shouldn't be expected to have one; but it sounds like we will have a much clearer picture in two weeks, and if the picture is still muddy, I think sooner or later, we have to have this conversation, right?

Councilwoman Yeoman stated we certainly hope everything works out for you, Chris.

Chris Flannery stated we have hope, and we have faith, and that's where we're at. I do appreciate everything that the Council has considered for us, and you can have my phone number and give me a call anytime with any questions. I've always been available for the residents and contractors of the City of Ely over the last eleven years even through my own business. I don't mind a phone call and explaining things if there are questions. I appreciate you guys, really.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved for Mr. Flannery to provide the Council an update at the January 22, 2026 City Council meeting in order to consider possible courses of action at that meeting. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Robertson opened items 3-7 all together and stated this has been an internal conversation among staff in reorganizing code so it fits better with what we do and what we want to do, especially with getting people into positions where they can take over and have a succession plan for some of our City official positions. As the Council knows our Clerk, Treasurer, and HR Director all take on a lot of work, and replacing these people is difficult at best. If we can train people and have them in positions, this isn't a have to, but if there's an opportunity to, we want to have that framework there.

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 766, Bill No. 2026-01, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article A. City Clerk.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 766, Bill No. 2026-01, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article A. City Clerk. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 767, Bill No. 2026-02, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article B. City Treasurer.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 767, Bill No. 2026-02, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article B. City Treasurer. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 768, Bill No. 2026-03, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article I. City Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 768, Bill No. 2026-03, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article I. City Clerk/Treasurer. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 769, Bill No. 2026-04, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article K. Human Resources Director.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 769, Bill No. 2026-04, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Article K. Human Resources Director. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 770, Bill No. 2026-05, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Section 2 Deputies.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 770, Bill No. 2026-05, An Ordinance amending Ely Municipal Code (EMC) Title 1, Chapter 6, Section 2 Deputies. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of bids received for the removal of two (2) large, complex trees at the Ely Cemetery, grinding stumps of same two (2) large, complex trees and pruning of fifteen (15) trees, with possible award.

City Clerk Lee reviewed the Bid tabulation and stated this does leave an overage of \$18,000 in that grant, but I've discussed it with Public Works Director Cracraft. That amount is under the amount we have to go out to bid for so, then he can call and get some quotes and hopefully remove a couple more trees as a separate job. I recommend award.



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## CITY OF ELY

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Ely Cemetery Tree Maintenance Nevada Division of Forestry Procurement 2 - Sub-grant Number: IRA23 24-010 Bid Tabulation.

| Bidder   | LG Tree Services   |
|--|--|
| Bid to remove/grind stumps of two (2) trees and pruning of fifteen (15) trees for corrective health. | \$37,000.00 Total bid  |
| Bidder has bid bond/certified check/cashier's check/cash equaling 5% of bid.                         | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/><br>\$1,850.00 cash received. |
| Certified Arborist   | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Ortega                  |
| Plan provided for productive use of wood chips for public use.                                       | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>                              |
| Plan for cord wood donation for charitable purposes or public use.                                   | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>                              |

Present for the Bid Opening on January 5, 2026, at 3:01 p.m.: Public Works Director Mike Cracraft, City Treasurer Janette Trask, Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb, and Levi Garcia.

Councilman Perea stated I was looking at this, and we have a reputable local business with a qualified and respected arborist, and I want to say that I am in favor of this, but there looks to be a pretty good premium on this dollar amount. I was trying to do some studying, and I know that Ely is not the rest of the country, but the premium on the contract is starting to beg the question, can somebody come from the outside and do it cheaper? Like I said, I don't have a problem, and I am going to vote for this. I bothered poor Mike when he was on vacation the other day about the cost of building a wall, and the lack of applicants that we have, and the prices that we're paying. I just wanted to put that on the record, that sooner or later, if this is \$11,000 higher, it's going to be lucrative for somebody to come from the outside; all things being equal, we stay local, I get that, but it's getting pricier.

Mayor Robertson asked, "Where do we advertise these?"

City Clerk Lee stated we publish it in our local paper, but every licensed tree removal company in the City of Ely, which was about eight or nine companies, received targeted emails with a copy of the bid invitation and made them aware of the day it was published. So, everyone who's licensed to remove trees in the City of Ely received this, and we did have two of the companies requested maps with the specific trees and the trees to be pruned and they chose not to submit bids.

Councilwoman Williams Harper asked, "They were from the outside?"

Mayor Robertson stated they are companies that are from outside the area that hold local business licenses, because they do come here.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated there was another company out of Reno that bid on the previous job that came in higher than Levi.

Councilman Perea stated looking at the national prices, we're talking about \$30,000, \$32,000, this is \$37,000. At what point would people from the outside be enticed in? I stand by that I think we're paying a premium on some of these. We're getting close to actively seeking people to come in and bid against these if they keep going up in price. I'm not trying to section off Levi here at all, I know it is a good business and one that we absolutely need. The lack of competition here, and the premiums being paid, I'm hoping our contractors sharpen their pencils a bit.

Councilman Perea moved to award the bid for the removal of two (2) large, complex trees at the Ely Cemetery, grinding stumps of same two (2) large, complex trees and pruning of fifteen (15) trees to LG Tree Service. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion.

Councilman Trask stated just because it's been voiced to me through constituents, and I know conversations have been had with Levi about what licenses need to be had for this, and I don't know if this contractor meets all the licenses that I personally believe need to be in place for this contract. I believe that the C-10 Contracting License needs to be for any tree removal and in place for projects over \$1,000.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated do we need to make sure on that, because that is important.

Councilman Trask stated I personally would like more clarification on it, but the Mayor and I have talked about this.

Mayor Robertson stated my feeling was, after looking at the NRS and speaking with Levi about a related issue, tangential to this, that I'm comfortable he has the certifications required to do this work in the state of Nevada, and I think his bonding company and insurance company are also comfortable with this.

Councilman Trask asked Levi, can you talk about that a little bit, just because I want some clarity to be able to answer questions thoughtfully when the public comes and asks me about that.



Levi Garcia with LG Tree Services stated when I first started my business back in 2018, I found out from the State Contractors Board within the scope of tree work in Nevada, you do not need a C-10 Contractor's License, and this is directly from the State Contractors Board for Nevada. I was also doing some handyman work as well, so I asked him about that, and he said if you go paint a house you can't charge over \$1,000, including materials. He said don't mess with me and go paint one side of the house for \$900, and the other side for \$900, because I don't like that, but within your realm of tree service you do not need a C-10 Contractor's License. Outside of our scope of tree work, we have done contracts that have been within the landscaping under the C10, and we have subbed out with other contractors for that.

Mayor Robertson stated I'll also note that all the other, licensed tree services that have City business licenses, none of them provide a C-10 License.

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Services stated none of them in the state of Nevada have them that I'm aware of, but one company in Vegas that mainly does landscaping under the C-10 list.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Council Members - City Treasurer Trask - Discussion/For Possible Action - Approval to raise the level of an asset value to \$5,000.00 effective July 1, 2026.

City Treasurer Trask stated I'm just asking this after having a conversation with our auditors, I asked them if they felt like that was a little low as I have always thought it was a little low.

Mayor Robertson asked what is our current amount?

City Treasurer Trask stated \$3,500.00 so anything that's \$5,000.00 or more, we log as an asset, as long as it qualifies as an asset.

Councilman Perea stated this usually always falls in line with the computers and whatnot, because they usually go over \$5,000.00.

City Treasurer Trask stated no, most of the computers we have don't go over that amount and are not an asset.

Councilman Perea stated so they are not going to be on the books, but are we still going to be able to track our electronic equipment and that kind of stuff?

City Treasurer Trask stated we haven't ever tracked that.

Mayor Robertson stated, some of that goes through my perennial push that all of our equipment needs to be on some kind of tracking list just for replacement scheduling.

City Treasurer Trask stated it is asked how old your computer is when budget process comes up. It's not that we don't look at it, because we do. My whole thing is, I would prefer computers be replaced every three years.

Councilman Perea stated from an accounting standpoint, I think \$5,000.00 is pretty low, but it just makes the books simpler. We do have to track laptops, and that kind of stuff. I've had this conversation at every employer I've ever had. We raise the assets, but we still have to make sure that the low-dollar things are not walking out of the door; I know they're not.

City Treasurer Trask stated the department heads usually they have enough in their supply account budgets that if they have a problem with their computer, we can buy them a computer.

Councilman Trask stated I don't think it's so much of a replacement issue, it's more making sure it doesn't walk out the door and having some sort of tracking in place.

Mayor Robertson stated we've had trouble like that in the building department, where we had bought equipment, and then we didn't know the equipment was there or we remember buying equipment and then couldn't find the equipment. You know, I'll think, oh, I just bought that laptop, and it turns out it was seven years ago, and when we're asking department heads for those kinds of things, that's what we're asking them to do, is think, oh, do you need to do this? And they're going, well, I don't know, I don't have a problem with it. Inventory management is much more about tracking purchases and when replacements need to happen.

Councilman Trask stated I don't think it needs to be on every stapler, it's just things like electronics, such as computers, laptops, and things like that.

City Clerk Lee stated just to remind everyone, BCT sends us a monthly device list of managed and unmanaged devices and that's a nice summary of what we have as far as electronics.

Councilman Perea stated I'm just guessing that Pat would have a lot of relatively expensive, small stuff that falls just under \$5,000.

Mayor Robertson stated Pat's got equipment, Mike's got equipment, the water department, and all those things.

City Clerk Lee stated those items are also on the insurance renewal that we send in annually.

Mayor Robertson asked what's the threshold for whether or not it gets listed there or not?

City Clerk Lee stated that's a good question.

Mayor Robertson stated I think we are off topic of the agenda item.

Councilman Perea stated I think we start at \$5,000 and I would say that we're going into the budget process and it may be time to look at inexpensive barcoding devices and we can have that discussion, but I have no problem with the \$5,000. I wouldn't have problems with the \$10,000, but we still need to track that stuff somehow.

City Clerk Lee stated for the record, every time we renew our insurance the fire department and public works go through every item on that list and so we clean the list annually in that process and of course, Janette has her depreciation process.

Councilman Trask moved to approve raising the level of an asset value to \$5,000.00 effective July 1, 2026. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Service stated I just wanted to share a bit of information based on pricing and stuff, like you said. All of the grant money was public information, right? So, I knew full-heartedly, walking down there, looking at the trees, seeing years and years where there has not been a company here, and it's no fault to the City or anything, but there has not been a company that can come in and actually look at the trees and assess them. There has been lots of maintenance needed on these trees. I've known for a while that there was plenty of money left over in the budget, but I looked at each tree, assessed each one, and said, you know what, I'm here for my community and my people. Even though I knew there was close to \$55,000 to \$60,000 left in the budget and that I could bid it for that and possibly get it. I didn't know if anybody else was going to put in for it, but still, at the same time, I knew there's plenty of money left in the budget. After working at the cemetery before on the last project as part of this same grant and everything going really smooth any time we needed to adapt or do something differently Mike and his crew were more than willing to do that, and so I was like, you know what, the City's helped me out a lot with plenty of work, and I would like to provide a good service to my community. We enjoy working throughout the community, and yes, sometimes

our prices do seem high, but when you're working next to a \$10,000 headstone and don't know if a log is going to come down and hit it. Based off of other companies you talked about, the County actually has the same grant, and we lost the bid on the County job. However, the County had to hire us to come back and finish, because that company would not, even though they were cheaper and had a very good presentation. I had multiple people calling me, saying rounds were flying into the street almost hitting their car. I literally had to go get my crew and my dump trailer and go pick up rounds off of their project, because they donated the wood to an organization, and that organization called me and said, hey, they said they were supposed to deliver the wood, but now they can't. Are you able to help us go get it? Me and my crew had to go over there and pick up rounds off of their project while they were there working, and they didn't even help us load it. That's just not the way it works. I'm not capable of that and there is not a bone in my body to be like that, and so, you are 100% right when you say you're paying for a premium rate, because you're going to get a premium service out of me, I promise you that. I appreciate everybody and thank you for your time.

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for the address and a contact name regarding the Bell Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project CDBG 22/pf/04 and who inspected the project; the Contract Change Order for the Bell Avenue Project and the damage to his property not being addressed; who authorized the City crew to work on the sewer line at 785 Bell Avenue; the sewer problem he took care of at his residence located at 681 Parker; who authorized the six foot metal fence on the 1200 block of Mill Street; removing debris from the White Pine Mobile home park and it is not fenced off and is an attractive nuisance; selective enforcement; and his request for 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.**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **6:01 p.m.** Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ATTEST**

