

CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2430
Cityofelynv.gov

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 26, 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 5:01 P.M. Paul Podborny offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Nathan Robertson
Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman
Councilman Dennis Perea
Councilwoman Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper

Members absent:

Councilman Terrill Trask

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

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer Janette Trask
Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
City Fire Chief Pat Stork
City Attorney Chris Arabia
City Building Official Chris Flannery
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; Pat Robison; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Eugene Harper; and Lena Ocasio, USDA.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Print name below

Print name below

Dean Reynolds
PAUL PODBORNY
George Chachas
Tony Locke / Arcelia Power

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 8A-1 regarding the possible approvals allowed of the February 12, 2026 minutes; I want to remind you that to date, no one has responded to my request for public information as referenced in the minutes and some of the requests go back months and/or years. Your staff and City Council are selectively responding, or they're intentionally, blatantly, and discriminately ignoring the Nevada Open Meeting Law. This is an election year, and it appears that some members need to leave. On your agenda item 4-11 regarding the City Building Official Report, there's nothing in the meeting packet to answer my previous request. It's a newly constructed building at 292 Aultman; is it a storage building, or a commercial building. I did not see a foundation footing being put in prior to the construction of the building and there's a big difference in code requirements. I am once again requesting a written answer to my question. Again, it appears your staff is selectively enforcing building codes. I am a victim as well as others, and discrimination needs to stop. On your agenda item 4-5 and 4-8 regarding reports from the Public Works Director and City Clerk, I again am requesting who authorized the new installation or connection to the sewer line at 785 Bell Avenue, and I want to remind you the City has yet to reimburse me for curing a sewer problem at 681 Parker Avenue that was on the City line, not on my line. To date, the City owes me \$26,356.62, which includes penalties and interest. I want to remind you that federal law prohibits discrimination on any federally assisted or funded program. I don't know what the problem was with 785, but I want equal consideration.

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

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

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated with assistance from Deputy City Clerk Cobb and Basin Engineering I prepared our CDBG grant applications and submitted them last Tuesday. At the request of Public Works Director Cracraft, my office released a request for quotes yesterday to remove two more Cemetery trees with the remaining Nevada Division of Forestry grant funds; this was sent to the Southern Nevada Arborist Group and each of the seven landscape companies licensed to do business in the City of Ely. Candidate filing for Council Seats 1, 3 and 5 starts this coming Monday, March 2nd, and runs through close of business March 13th.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer AlMBERG stated we got our approval for Morley CDBG Water Project. We will be putting it out to bid in the Elko Daily Free Press, and we'll also send it to a plan house to inform all their contractors, but they ultimately have to come back to us in case there's any addendums or anything else that we have to work directly with them on. We also send our invitations for a bid or to any contractors that we've worked with in the past or have shown interest in that type of work. We are keeping involved with the Aultman Street project and it is going good. We are working on multiple excavation permits, some of them are to do with this NDOT project with power and such getting to some of the streetlights. I have been sitting through webinars regarding the Waterworth program that we got to help us project some of our future costs to get a better understanding of the program. I think it's going to be a very powerful tool for us. It's just going to take time to get all the information in there. We are continuing to work on our GIS, compiling information with Mike's help, and I think it will also be a very powerful tool.

5. REPORTS

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the February 17th meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, and there was discussion on some water rights, and we

did have updates from the various agencies on the BLM. They did report on some of the renewable energy projects, and there was no update on the r-Plus project. There's no money available this year for wild horse roundups, but there will be an emergency roundup of 300 horses in March. The U.S. Forest Service reported on mineral exploration going on and doing some maintenance work on bike trails. The National Park Service has staffing issues. There is fuel reduction work to be performed in February and March. Part of Lehman Caves will be closed to ongoing repairs. The Department of Wildlife reported there's no ice fishing this year. There was a report on the pike/quail relocation in White River Valley, and there were some questions and discussion on the lions in the park and elsewhere.

➤ **COUNCILMAN PEREA**

Councilman Perea stated I was able to attend by video the Railroad Board meeting this last week on Thursday, and we did go through and approve the next budget, which was essentially a flat budget. I did talk to Mark about sitting down to make sure that there was nothing in that budget that was going to come with a request and I am going to sit down with him and with Jeanette to see if we can have that conversation to make sure that there's no surprises in the next year when it comes to expenditures. They've got a steam train running. We did have a discussion, and I don't want to get in front of Councilman Trask because I know he's our representative, but I do think that we have some level setting to do with Tourism and Recreation and their Executive Director and how we do business. I don't know what that means, but I know Terrill will end up taking the lead on that. I think we've got some work to do there.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated I'd just like to mention that Elizabeth Woolsey, who's on our Tourism and Recreation Board and lives out in Baker, was a guest of Senator Cortez Masto for the State of the Union that happened this last week, which I think was a really cool thing and some recognition for the White Pine County community. Also, I'd like to mention that the Nevada League of Cities appoints two seats to the Committee on Local Government Finance and in our last board meeting for the Nevada League of Cities the committee requested we appoint our Treasurer, Janette Trask, which I was happy to make the motion for. Janette now sits on that committee, and I think it's a reflection of the good job she does, and her recognition in the State of being engaged, involved, and knowing her job. It's always an honor to be requested, and she was requested. I've been meeting on the periphery with some of the people involved with the NDOT project, and I appreciate all the work they've been doing, making hay while the sun shines so to speak. We've been addressing problems as they come up, and again, I think that project has gone about as well as a project this complicated could possibly go, and they've been doing a great job.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER**

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated our Superintendent of the School District will be leaving and has been our Superintendent for about ten years. I am hoping the Council can acknowledge him in some way in May.

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.

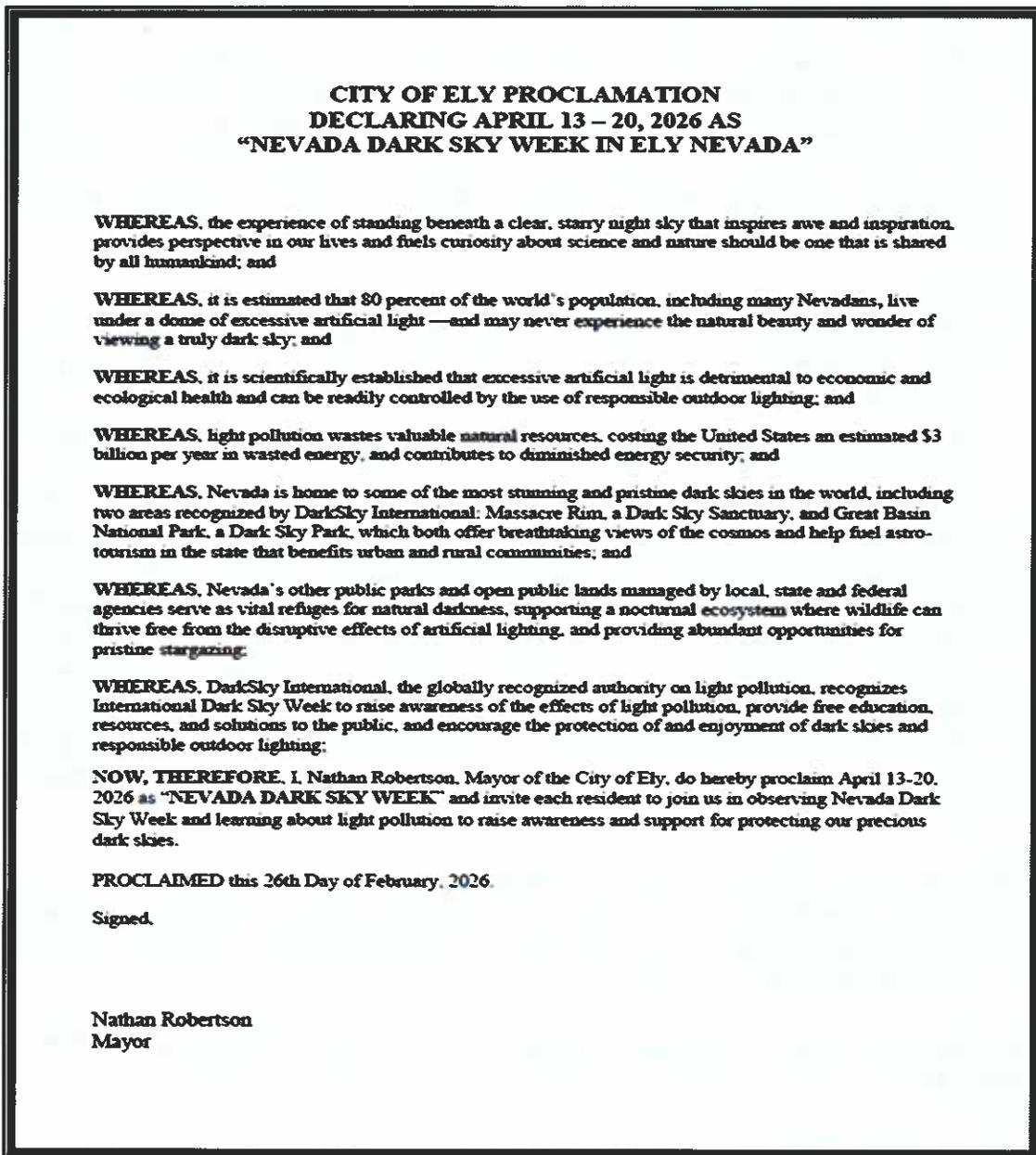
Moved by: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - February 12, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - February 10, 2026
 - February 18, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Proclamation proclaiming April 13-20, 2026 Dark Sky Week in the City of Ely.

Mayor Robertson stated there is a lot of cooperative work on this between the Railroad, people out in Baker, the County, and a lot of the nonprofits in town. I was happy to suggest this.



Councilman Perea moved to approve of the Proclamation proclaiming April 13-20, 2026 Dark Sky Week in the City of Ely. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Councilman Trask – Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely’s behalf to secure federal and State funding.

City Clerk Lee stated Mayor Robertson and I met with Bob Lucey of PORTER Group on February 17th regarding potential earmarks; he recommended that we apply for City Hall renovation funding through USDA’s Rural Development account. Three days later

PORTER provided Congressman Amodei's applications – due next Friday – and I've completed a first draft for City Hall's renovation, which is under review. This morning Mayor Robertson and I went over our City Hall application with Bob Lucey and Bradley Solyan of PORTER; we are incorporating their suggestions into our application package.

Mayor Robertson stated some of the things they discussed were the funds they suggested we apply to have gotten an extra amount of funding for this go-around, so there are more opportunities, and they feel that this fits better. Just as a reminder, the presentation from the Porter Group will be at the next meeting with a decision on whether or not to continue the contract for another year with Porter Group. If we do continue it, as we have discussed here, the staff is really only interested in submitting the City Hall application, if any, just because we feel like we've gotten to the critical mass of CPF funding projects that we have on the table at the moment. We need to resolve some of those before we ask for more. If any of the council members have questions or would like to discuss that before the meeting, and then bring that information, questions, and discussion up during that agenda item so we can have a good conversation on what they'd like to see going forward this year with Porter Group, I think that would be excellent. If you do come up with something, let us know. We'd like to make sure we try to get the information and get it addressed at the meeting, so we can make a decision that's well-informed and everybody can get their questions answered.

Activity Report for The City of Ely

FOR THE MONTH OF January 2026

Appropriations Requests

- First Responder Communication Equipment Upgrade was fully funded at \$5,000,000 in the Senate CJS Report Language.
- The CJS Appropriations Bill was passed out of the House on January 8th, 2026, and passed out of the Senate on January 15th, 2026. The bill has been sent to the President and is awaiting his signature to be enacted into Law.

Additional Grants

- Reaching out to the delegation to begin working through the Bureau of Reclamation to address the Water Meter Project
- Targeting the WaterSmart grant program with Bureau of Reclamation
- A Federal Rail Administration (FRA) Meeting is set for the last week of January to discuss the city of Ely's CRISI grant application prior to the release of the NOFO
- Discussing the possibility of utilizing the library Pathway for the Ely City Hall Restoration project.

Additional Activities

- Provided federal updates on a variety of topics important to the City of Ely, including pending action in the House and Senate, potential legislative updates, and updates on grant award announcements.

3. Council Members – Public Works Director Cracraft – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to pre-pay required 50% down payment for Wastewater Treatment Plant centrifuge rebuild - in the amount of \$130,125.90 - to place order, per NRS 338.011(1); the centrifuge rebuild will be included in the Wastewater Treatment Plant FY27 budget.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated the centrifuge went down and we had a couple options that we talked through. We had a technician come in from Hiller and he said it needs to be rebuilt and gone through. Actually, they're supposed to be done every three to five years and it's been over ten years since the last time this was done; we were unaware. He was shocked that it was still running. They did some work on it and it's running now, but it needs to be redone. The bearings are gone, because they get gritty and they turn into sandpaper taking out bearings and everything. I talked with Treasurer Trask and Jennifer about putting it into the \$6 million project, but felt this was a better way to go. I've been talking with Raul and the technician from Hiller, and the technician stated if you rebuild this, it's going to be like brand new, and you just have to continue to stay on top of it. The new one would have the polymer built into it and we just did a whole bunch of work on our polymer and machines down there to get it running perfect now. A new

one is double this price and is known to be over \$570,000 plus there was going to be some cost for the foundation and having to hire people to come in and do some more construction. So, everybody felt this was the best way to go.

Councilman Perea asked If we get to 2027, and there's still room under that project, will we be able to add this in?

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I don't think we will be under.

Mayor Robertson stated I don't think there is any chance we will be under that \$6 million.

City Treasurer Trask stated we did discuss this back and forth quite a bit. It just made more sense to just do the rebuild. It's going to have all new parts in it and it is considered a repair.

Mayor Robertson stated the rebuild option made use of assets we had already paid for, and was a more cost-effective option, and gets us basically a brand-new centrifuge anyway.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated it will take twenty-eight weeks to get it rebuilt.

City Treasurer Trask stated it is going to eat up some of that money that we put in there from the General Fund last fiscal year to put towards capital, and it will be paid for, basically, by that money that we put in there.

Councilwoman Yeoman asked is a 6-month warranty pretty standard on a rebuild like this? It just didn't seem that long, maybe that is standard, and maybe we don't need a longer warranty.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I don't have an answer for that but can make some phone calls and find out.

Councilman Perea moved to approve pre-paying the required 50% down payment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant centrifuge rebuild – in the amount of \$130,125.90 – to place order, per NRS 338.011(1) to be included in the Wastewater Treatment Plant FY27 budget. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Robertson recessed the Regular Meeting of the Ely City Council at 5:26 p.m.

Mayor Robertson reconvened the Regular Meeting of the Ely City Council at 5:30 p.m.

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 Public Works Director Cracraft - City Engineer Almberg – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Approval of Certification of Roads for Fuel Tax within the City of Ely, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 365.550.

George Chachas stated in the packet, there was no list of roads as highlighted in red. Your certification must include a full inventory of the maintained roads that match the above certified number. Please include all public roads, not just annual additions. This inventory must include the beginning and end points, as well as the total length of each road per NRS 365.550 Section 8, A and B. Please submit a full copy of your database as NDOT requires all roads that are classified as certified public roads to be submitted. Again, NDOT needs all your public roads and not just annual additions. The information I got just before the meeting was a map of the roads, but if you can read which road is which, and if you can tell me, just by looking at that map the length, I want to hear it; this is not complete. Numerous times, I've asked who owns Avenue A, what the length is, so on and so forth, and this is not even close to answering that information request. You need to do a full job, as required by NRS. I don't know at what point you got your map, or if you have a list of the roads, but whatever you have I want a copy of that. If you don't

have a list of the roads and the lengths required by NRS then you need to table this and bring it back.

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Council Members – City Public Works Director Cracraft - City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Certification of Roads for Fuel Tax within the City of Ely, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 365.550.

City Engineer Almberg stated this is straightforward. If George has a GIS program, I'd be happy to give him the GIS files that are required by the State and have the start, stops, and all of those things. Our mileage certification this year for public roads is 49.27 miles, 35.13 miles of those roads are paved, and 14.41 miles are gravel, or alleyways. The only change was .15 miles, and it was just where we went back and double-checked a couple locations throughout the community where we had some alleys that were a little short; they were gravel roads, not paved roads that changed.

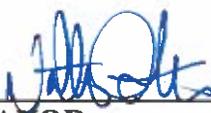
Councilman Perea moved to approve of Certification of Roads for Fuel Tax within the City of Ely, Nevada, pursuant to NRS 365.550. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding RV's permitted in the City of Ely and if they are paying utilities; his request for a copy of the Nevada Northern Railway audit report; who authorized a 6-foot metal fence on the 1200 block of Mill Street wrapping around to Murry Street; not receiving a copy of letters that the City sent to nine different people stating standards they needed to meet to get a refund; his request for the address and a contact name regarding the Bell Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project CDBG 22/pf/04, who inspected the project, and the damage to his property not being addressed; whether or not Tim Vidrine out on the highway, as well as Mr. Ramsey, have connected to City water and sewer per NRS; and local code violations.

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 5:39 p.m. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



MAYOR



ATTEST

