



CITY OF ELY

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

ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 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., led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Maryor Pro Tempore Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper
Councilman Terrill Trask – joined at 5:06 p.m.
Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
Councilwoman Michelle Yeoman
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
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
Municipal Court Judge Matt Hibbs
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; Shannon Cessford, Musicbox Bar; John Cessford, Musicbox Bar; Wyatt Cox, KELY; Eugene Harper; and Pat Robison.

ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: March 26, 2026

Print name below

Print name below

Dea Reynolds
George Chachas
Tony Locke Arevia Power

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 9B-1 regarding the possible approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Police Protection, there's no dollar amount listed, only a percentage increase of 22.5% of an unknown amount. I want to know what the financial impact's going to be on the City. On your agenda item, 4-5, City Clerk, 4-8, Public Works Director, 4-10, City Engineer, and 5-2, Mayor's Report; again, I want to know who authorized a 6-foot metal fence located on the 1200 block of Mill Street, circling around down Dickerson, and around the 1200 block of Murry Street. I've asked several times, but still no answer. I've talked to Councilwoman Van Camp, she lives in that area, and two-hundred feet from there is the former building inspector who may have approved it; this selective enforcement's got to stop. I don't know what you people ran for office for, but you have an obligation to the public and part of that is giving proper answers and treating everybody fairly. To date, no one has fenced off the White Pine Mobile Home Park during and after demolition. It's a safety hazard, an attractive nuisance, and not properly signed warning demolition hazard and tripping hazard. The selective enforcement and discrimination need to be terminated. I got two notices from your building inspector, the former one, regarding two properties that are fenced off with no weeds. This is an embarrassment and targeting certain individuals needs to stop. On agenda reports, item 4-5. Clerk, 4-8, Public Works Director, 4-10, City Engineer, 5-2, Mayor's Report; again, I want to know who authorized the new installation or connection of the sewer clean-out at 785 Bell Avenue on private property. What are you guys doing? I want to remind you that the City has yet to reimburse me for curing the sewer problem at 681 Parker Avenue. The plug was on the City line, not on my line. To date, the City owes me \$26,883.76, which includes penalties and interest. It's not anything different than what you folks do. I want to remind you that federal law prohibits the discrimination on federally assisted utilities, and you're discriminating against me; that needs to stop.

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 things are going really well and I have a couple of items on the agenda tonight.

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated at the close of business, March 13th, only one candidate had filed for each of the three council seats up for election. Therefore, Janet Walker, Michelle Yeoman, and Jerry Lynn Williams-Harper are declared elected, and will be sworn into office at the November 12th City Council meeting.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated we are working on our presentations that we will present to CDBG in the first part of April. We are continuing to work with all of our GIS and our water system information to help with the software. Our CDBG Morley Water Project is on the street. I am helping Mike with some curb and gutter around the cemetery to clean it up. The utility contractor is back in town and they're actually lowering a lot of the existing water and sewer lids and manholes down and hopefully they will be coming this way soon and a portion of our road will get smoother.

5. REPORTS

➤ COUNCILMAN PEREA

Councilman Perea stated I was able to attend the Railroad Board meeting, and the big item on there was the audit. It's done and it is an unqualified audit, so it's good to go, and they're going to, in theory, try to have 2024 done by June.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

I attended the March 17th Natural Resources Advisory Committee meeting. There was a lengthy discussion on possibly putting a moratorium on renewable energy projects, but it was decided to just review applications, update codes and ordinances, and also put together a group to review projects. Also, there was a discussion on the BLM sage-grouse mapping changes and there was a need for an update on the slide presentations. Resource Concepts gave updates on the State water issues. The Department of Wildlife had the only agency update, and they talked about stocking fish in multiple locations and the pike suppression that is underway. Also, the stars aligned, and I got an individual with twenty-four hours of community service. To date, I have got thirteen and a half hours of trash pickup with this gentleman. Keep sending me those offenders, Judge.

6. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE ELY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD.

1. Board Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Class IV Liquor License to C2 Microenterprises d.b.a. *Music Box Bar* located at 2250 Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the Class IV Liquor License to C2 Microenterprises d.b.a. *Music Box Bar* located at 2250 Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE ELY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

7. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A MEETING OF THE ELY GAMING LICENSING BOARD.

1. Board Members – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of City gaming license to William Hill Nevada I d.b.a. *William Hill Race and Sports Book* located at 504 E. Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada.

Councilman Perea stated they are in good standing?

City Clerk Lee stated yes.

A conversation was had regarding the business address.

City Clerk Lee stated 504 Aultman Street is coming up as the Jailhouse.

Councilman Trask stated the back up documentation we received today from the Gaming Board says 501 Aultman Street.

City Attorney Arabia stated I think at this point we need to table it and bring it back and I encourage everyone when the item appears next time, to scrutinize the address.

Councilman Trask moved to table the approval of the City gaming license to William Hill Nevada I d.b.a. *William Hill Race and Sports Book* located at 504 E. Aultman Street, Ely, Nevada. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE ELY GAMING LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY TREE BOARD.

1. Board Members – Tree Board Chairwoman Campeau – Discussion/For Possible Action – Possible acceptance of City Tree Board’s recommendation to replace Princeton Sentry Gingko that was the planned street tree from 4th Street to 8th Street on the Nevada

Department of Transportation’s Downtown Ely Landscaping and Green Infrastructure Project plans with either Autumn Gold Ginkgo or Regal Prince Oak.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated the City Tree Board unanimously approved the Prince Oak. Personally, I was a little more partial to the Ginkgo, and Public Works Director Cracraft I know you were as well, do you have any issues with moving forward with the oak because that is the recommendation of the Board.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I did my research on both trees, and I liked option one, the Autumn Gold Ginkgo, and there's a few reasons why. It is very hardy and cold tolerant. It also stated that it was drought tolerant, which is not going to be an issue, because we do have a drip system that will be installed. It also talked about the strong central leader in symmetry. I did the research on it, and it said that it's for a healthier and well-managed tree and increases resilience and beautification of the landscape. The oak is a nice tree, and I am not an expert by any stretch, but I just found it was a cleaner and more manageable option for urban settings, and that really appealed to me for maintenance purposes because I have three guys to maintain them. It also said it's highly resilient to the insect feeding and disease, and that was another key factor.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated the board did discuss the survivability of the oak. They said that the oaks tend to do well in Ely, so they had a good feeling about that, and that, there would be a higher pruning cost potentially associated with the ginkgo, just because of the branches being more splayed out. So, those were the items that were discussed with the City Tree Board. They were also unanimously in favor of the shape of the oak.

Public Works Director Cracraft stated I think it is really a personal preference.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated I think you're right that it's a personal preference, so I was more asking if there's any reason why we shouldn't move forward with the City Tree Board's recommendations since we have a tree board?

Councilman Trask moved to approve replacing the Princeton Sentry Ginkgo that was the planned street tree from 4th Street to 8th Street on the Nevada Department of Transportation’s Downtown Ely Landscaping and Green Infrastructure Project plans with Regal Prince Oak recommended by the City Tree Board. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members –Chairwoman Campeau – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of a Proclamation Declaring May 7, 2026, Arbor Day in the City of Ely, with a tree planting to be held in coordination with the Learning Bridge Charter School; Nevada Plants, a 501c3 Nonprofit, is donating trees for the project.



*** OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION ***

WHEREAS in 1872, J. Steadman Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, *and*

WHEREAS this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, *and*

WHEREAS Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, *and*

WHEREAS trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, *and*

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, *and*

WHEREAS trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, *and*

WHEREAS trees — wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nathan Robertson, Mayor of the City of Ely, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2026 as ARBOR DAY in the City of Ely, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, *and*

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

DATED THIS 26th day of March, 2026

Mayor Nathan Robertson



Councilman Trask moved to approve a Proclamation Declaring May 7, 2026, Arbor Day in the City of Ely, with a tree planting to be held in coordination with the Learning Bridge Charter School and trees for the project to be donated by Nevada Plants, a 501c3 Nonprofit. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. 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 9A-1 Minutes and 9A-2 Bills.

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

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
 - March 12, 2026
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
 - March 12, 2026
 - March 19, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Police Protection between the City of Ely and White Pine County July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Councilman Trask stated Treasurer Trask, if you want to step in and have a say on this as well, because I know you've been intimately involved in this project. We can fund some of it through capital as well, so I think that's a key feature that is nice.

Councilman Perea stated I don't have any real concerns. I mean, it's all in the same basket, but has there ever been discussion about a stop loss, a stopgap, or a cap at some point?

City Treasurer Trask stated yes, and I know the Mayor, when we were discussing it, had said if it ever gets to that point there is an out clause where we can go back and renegotiate. The theory behind how this was built is, by going with the percentages, if things hit hard, they're going to have to cut which means the percentage will go down. I do agree, I like the thought of doing a stopgap if needed.

Councilman Trask stated I also want to thank Sheriff Henriod for all the work on this. I know that this is not the most enjoyable process, but I appreciate everyone working together, and I feel like we came to a good conclusion.

Councilman Trask moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Police Protection between the City of Ely and White Pine County July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Council Members – Municipal Court Judge Hibbs – Discussion/For Possible Action – Selection of Stephen J Bishop for the Ely Municipal Court's panel of substitute judges, per NRS 5.023(1).

Municipal Judge Hibbs stated in the bigger counties, or in Vegas, where they've got, like twenty municipal judges, it's easy to pass off if there's some sort of problem. In our county you have just the one city judge and you may only have one justice court judge. There's really no one you can pass off to without getting a list going. We don't have these situations very often. Being a retired officer in this area it is possible some of the people I've arrested before will show back up, and that gets put on the record, and so far, other than one, they've had no issues with me being their judge. However, something else could come up where I just can't, or I'm sick, or whatever, and we need a list of people we can call in. We do have one case currently that Mike Coster, who was the previous judge, was going to be the Pro Tempore for, but now he's resigned, so he needs someone to take that over, and Stephen agreed to do so. In the past, it was \$50 per case, that was in 2011 when that was set, so I think we'd probably make it \$100 now. We prefer to use Stephen, but he has been a prior Deputy District Attorney, and he may have cases he will not be able to do either and that is why we want to get a list going.

City Attorney Arabia stated I would just add that we're fortunate that Judge Bishop is willing to do this, and as he pointed out in his cover letter, there's three ways you could be qualified and he's qualified under all three and he doesn't have to commute very far.

Municipal Judge Hibbs stated I have never done a jury trial, nor have the two Municipal Clerks. Stephen has done one before and this will be a good learning experience.

Councilman Trask moved to select Stephen J Bishop for the Ely Municipal Court's panel of substitute judges, per NRS 5.023(1). Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Council Members – Municipal Court Judge Hibbs – Discussion/For Possible Action – Determination of compensation for *pro tempore* judges for the Ely Municipal Court.

Municipal Judge Hibbs stated I think it should be \$100 a case like mentioned before. I don't see this happening very often at all.

Councilwoman Yeoman stated you keep saying per case, so it's not a per diem per day, it's per case that we are voting on?

Municipal Judge Hibbs stated yes.

City Attorney Arabia stated I would suggest or advise that the council consider giving the judge some discretion, because just as an example of this particular case we are not going to have the jury picked until probably lunchtime. So, it's going to be a full day, and I'm hoping we don't have to go to a second day, but that's kind of out of my hands. The other thing is it's one thing when Judge Bishop has to walk across the hall, but it's another thing if someone has to travel. If the judge is in a position where he needs to get someone appointed, if he had a little bit of flexibility, I think that might be the way to go, just because the cost is going to be much higher if someone has to come from outside of Ely. The good thing is this isn't going to come up very often, especially where there would be a jury trial.

City Treasurer Trask stated there are certain funds that we carry that are strictly under their control, and I budget the biggest chunk of it every year, so they can use it at their discretion.

Councilman Trask moved to compensate the *pro tempore* judges for the Ely Municipal Court at a rate of \$100 per case with discretion for travel following the City of Ely Travel policy. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to release a Request for Proposals for Conflict Prosecutor.

Municipal Court Hibbs stated It's the same idea as the last item, but basically, it's getting a list of possible prosecutors that can come in if the City Attorney is unable to do certain cases for whatever reason.

Councilman Perea moved to approve releasing a Request for Proposals for a Conflict Prosecutor. Councilwoman Yeoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated to date you have not responded to my request for public information regarding the new structure at 292 Aultman. Is it going to be a storage building or a commercial building? I did not see a footing or a foundation 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. It appears you're selectively enforcing building codes. The discrimination needs to stop. I didn't make the rules, people like you did. 17th Street was partially paved with cold mix or a chip sale, I'm not sure which, and does not meet City code for new streets. I want to know who authorized the project, and who inspected it. Either you have rules and regulations, or you don't. I'd like a copy of the Railroad audit the City paid for. It's a public document, and I'm entitled to it. I also want to know who owns Avenue A. The street survey you approved was poor at best. It didn't mention the streets on your map that you gave, or the length; completely improper. You need to give me the information, or find someone who can give it to you, so you can give it to me. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding RV's permitted in the City of Ely and whether they are paying for utilities; and whether or not Tim Vidrine out on the highway, as well as Mr. Ramsey, have connected to City water and sewer per NRS.

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

Councilwoman Yeoman moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 5:50 p.m. Councilman Trask seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


MAYOR


ATTEST

