



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

CITY OF ELY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Chairwoman Van Camp called the regular meeting of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission to order at **8:30 a.m.**, led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Chairwoman Janet Van Camp

Vice Chairman Mark Bassett

Member Anthony Ithurralde

Member Weston Johnson

Members absent:

Member Jason Bath

City Officials and staff present:

City Clerk Jennifer Lee

City Treasurer Janette Trask

City Building Official Chris Flannery

Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below):

CITY OF ELY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: July 23, 2026

Print name below

George Chachas
CHRIS FLANNERY

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ONLY OF THE CITY OF ELY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 3A-1 Minutes.

Moved by: Vice Chairman Bassett Second by: Member Ithurralde Vote: Unanimous

- June 16, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairwoman Van Camp - Discussion/For Possible Action - Update on remaining steps to request nomination of Ely City Hall to the Nevada State Register of Historic Places, with possible recommendation to the Ely City Council to proceed.

Chairwoman Van Camp stated last week I reached out to the State of Nevada Register of Historic Places and asked them what more we could do. There was work done on it several years ago, and I'm sorry I don't remember the gentleman's name, but he replied and stated that we could use the National Register of Historic Places form and all we would need to do would be add new pictures. We would have to have the City Council's approval of that, but that's what we need to do to get City Hall on the Nevada State Register of Historic Places.

City Clerk Lee stated I will say I spoke with Mayor Robertson about this, and he doesn't have any concerns about moving forward.

Vice Chairman Bassett moved to recommend requesting approval to proceed from the City Council in requesting nomination of Ely City Hall to the Nevada State Register of Historic Places. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Commission Member Johnson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Certified Local Government (CLG) Handbook section on establishing the City of Ely's system to identify, evaluate and register historic resources in its jurisdiction, with possible direction to a member to prepare a draft for future review by the Historic Preservation Commission and final approval by the Ely City Council.

Member Johnson stated I was thinking a feasible goal to have right now, is to get a local inventory of the historic resources that we have, and I found what Anthony was mentioning at the last meeting as far as the closest thing we have is the East Ely Historic Revitalization Project Survey and Development Plan, April 1984. It covers the area around the railroad, a lot of the buildings along 11th Street, and then the surrounding

area. A lot of the work has been done for that and all it would take, at least in that district, is just updated information. I really like how they lay out all the information for each building or lot. It's fairly basic, it's four pages. We could even reduce this to one page and just give a basic overview so that we get the basic information of all these places into a database or a file of some kind. Then as we prioritize those places we can investigate further and get more detailed reports on them. SHPO also has a one-page, called the Reconnaissance Form that is a pretty good template to work with, but I haven't been able to find that one online. There is something called an ARA form, which is, like, an architectural report that's seven pages long and pretty comprehensive, but that seems to me something to pursue later on.

Vice Chairman Bassett stated I think one of the things that we need to do is define what our historic district is. The City already has the Redevelopment District boundaries, and I'm wondering how that overlays with the historic buildings that we have.

City Clerk Lee stated the City also established a Cultural District that comprises the whole historic downtown and a little bit of the area around the historic courthouse, so I could provide that information, too, at a future meeting.

Member Ithurrealde stated I did some research on the downtown, and I would like to comment on that. As the Ely Historical Preservation Commission looks to the future, I believe we should, along with the City Hall project, begin focusing our efforts on Aultman Street from approximately 1st Street to 10th Street, where the new trees have recently been planted. This corridor is the original welcome mat and front door of Ely. It is the first impression for thousands of travelers each year looking for an early 20th century mining town and one of the places that makes Ely unique. This district tells the story of Ely through three defining architectural boom eras. The first era of Aultman Street was from 1900 to 1920, the train era. This time reflects Ely's mining industry, the ranching industry, and the train coming to town. Ely built quick, wooden clapboard facade buildings, some with galvanized metal veneers, and hand-painted signs. The second era in downtown Ely or Aultman Street was from 1920 to 1940, the age of the motor car with the completion of the Lincoln Highway and the dawn of automotive tourism. The thriving copper mining industry brought more prosperity to Ely and introduced substantial brick commercial buildings with revival styles, including colonial Revival, Spanish Revival and decorative masonry that gave downtown its lasting character. Here's a quote from the Reno Journal newspaper of 1929 about the opening of the Hotel Nevada. "It is future evidence of the continuance of the parting of the ways between typical mining camp shack and the newer day of substantial buildings, beauty, utility, and permanence combined." The third and final era of downtown Aultman Street was from 1940 to the 1960's, the golden age of the air travel. Ely had regular flights with United Air Service. It brought modernization with aluminum, stainless steel, opaque structural glass, tile, modern canopies, and neon signage. Today, communities along Route 66 such as Albuquerque, New Mexico and Tulsa, Oklahoma have successfully restored mid-century neon signs demonstrating that this era is now recognized as an important part of our architectural heritage and deserves preservation alongside our earlier buildings. The Ely Historic Preservation Commission should encourage facade

improvement grants that help property owners restore original storefronts, repair architectural details, replace inappropriate materials, repaint buildings, improve signage, and provide technical design assistance, so owners can choose historically appropriate colors, storefront designs, windows, and materials before construction begins. As we move forward, we should work to fill the gaps created by vacant lots with historically compatible infill buildings. Today, portions of Aultman Street resemble a smile missing its teeth. As we work to help replace some of the vacant lots between 1st and 10th Street on Aultman Street, new infill buildings should respect at least one of these three Ely architectural train, automobile, and plane architectural eras by following traditional Main Street design principles, like classic building materials, storefront windows at street level, buildings built to face Aultman Street, traditional storefront proportions and upper story windows and cornices that complement the surrounding Historic District, while still meeting modern needs, like what is now being showcased in the historic Main Street of Midvale, Utah, which also has mining town roots. Likewise, boarded-up buildings along Aultman Street do not create a welcoming first impression and we should help the owners become excited about making this a priority for restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse by concentrating our efforts on Aultman Street from 1st to 10th Street, we can create a downtown that honors Ely's past while building confidence in its future. A revitalized historic facade improvement will strengthen community pride, attract investments, support local businesses, and ensure that every visitor's first impression reflects the remarkable history and character that makes Ely truly one of a kind. I love doing the research and finding the style of Ely. You know, New Orleans has a style, the French Quarter has a style, Santa Fe has a style of Adobe. Virginia City has an 1800s mining town look, and Ely has an early 20th century mining town look, and tourists walking around on our new sidewalks with the lights and trees want to see that early 20th century mining town.

Member Johnson stated that information needs to go into our inventory as far as each building when it was built or like Mark was talking about with districts. What I want to walk away with today is an idea of what system can we get in place to start recording and inventorying this stuff? Even if it's from an outside perspective, until we can get in touch with owners and maybe even get interior access to get photos and an idea of what conditions these buildings that have been vacant for decades are in and what it is going to take to revitalize them.

Vice Chairman Bassett stated what we need to do is define the districts and give them boundaries. We basically will have two districts, downtown Ely, and then East 11th Street. Going back to the CLG manual, one of the things that they left out is a National Historic Landmark. Nevada is number forty-nine of all the fifty states on the National Historic Landmarks, and yeah, it's pretty sad. Virginia City's downtown is a National Historic Landmark, and I would suggest that one of our goals, going back to item 2, And item 3 is actually to define our historic district and then work towards making it a National Historic Landmark. The Railroad is already a National Historic Landmark, and so what we could do is extend the boundaries of the National Historic Landmark up to Aultman Street and that would give us something to work with. We need to educate the public, because when you go to people and say "I'm with the Ely Historic Preservation

Commission” they're going to say what are you going to do to my building? What do you want from me?

City Treasurer Trask asked if you form this historic district downtown, does that mean the old buildings can't be torn down and have to be restored?

Vice Chairman Bassett stated that is a lot of the myths that are out there. So, you create this National Historic Landmark, and people then become concerned, oh, I can't do something with my building and that's not true. Quite frankly, National Historic Landmark Status and five bucks will buy you a good cup of coffee somewhere. What it does is it elevates when you go for grants and things of that nature. Out of all the properties on the National Register of Historic Places, less than 3% are considered National Historic Landmarks. This is where the education comes in, you can't tear a building down with federal money, but there's no federal money to tear down buildings. In other words, if we were to include my house on 11th Street in the National Landmark, I can still modify my house. I could paint it pink if I wanted to, there's nothing against that. This is part of the education process letting people know the historic roots that we have here. Your idea of doing an inventory of the different buildings, I think would be great and then to actually publish that.

Member Johnson stated yes, that's the ultimate goal.

Chairwoman Van Camp stated I think we need some kind of a brochure or frequently asked questions handout to provide to the property owners and the public in general about what we're doing so they know what their options are, and if they don't want to do anything, that's fine too.

City Clerk Lee stated Madam Chair just to point out, on page 24 of the backup documentation, it talks about in that last paragraph, it's imperative that the local government follow its normal procedures for establishing local historic designations. That's what the action item on the agenda is today, is for someone on the Commission to draft what those procedures are so that those can be reviewed by the board or tweaked with however many reviews it needs, and then sent to the Council for approval, and then it's established as the procedure for designating historic buildings locally. Just a reminder, a historical district would have to be, again, figured out by this board, recommended for approval and that would probably be an ordinance. Let's start small, and just include it in the procedure, in the system to identify properties, and then build from there.

Vice Chairman Bassett moved to direct Member Johnson and himself to prepare a draft of the City of Ely's system to identify, evaluate and register historic resources in its jurisdiction for future review by the Historic Preservation Commission and final approval by the Ely City Council. Member Ithurralde seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Commission Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion only – Update on Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) grant award in the amount of \$77,550.00 to the City of Ely to re-secure and repair City Hall’s exterior decorative trim.

City Clerk Lee stated this was good news. Mayor Robertson and Deputy City Clerk Cobb worked on this and we got it. The only match required is just personnel time and assistance from Public Works.

5. Commission Members - City Clerk Lee – Discussion only – Update on Certified Local Government (CLG) training requirements and the September 25, 2026 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) training.

City Clerk Lee stated one Historic Preservation Commissioner and the City CLG Staff Representative are required to attend one training, approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) per state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). SHPO has notified us of National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) training to be held virtually and in Carson City on September 25, 2026; there is no cost for the virtual training and the City will provide the Commission registration information as soon as we receive it.

Chairwoman Van Camp stated the information you provided us; you had put in for a waiver. Have we heard anything back on that?

City Clerk Lee stated no, that's all part of the application process, but I'm optimistic. Everyone has good backgrounds, and all the letters of interest with our board’s qualifications were provided to SHPO.

2. Commission Member Bath – Discussion/For Possible Action – Determination of City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission Goals for FY 2027.

Vice Chairman Bassett moved to table the determination of City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission Goals for FY 2027. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated I've got a concern in regard to the museum on Aultman. It's starting to get overrun with weeds. If you take care of the weeds now and then go to Tri-County for about hundred bucks you can have your weed abatement done for a long, long time. In the past, I've reported it when it got up to five feet; I'm not going to wait for that to happen again. It's an important part of the community and needs to be addressed. The other item I have is I want to know who owns Avenue A, down by the railroad? Recently, I found out that I was accused of giving away property down at the Railroad depot and the red barn outside of an open meeting. I didn't do that without proper approval, and I want to know who my accuser or accusers are. From the time the Railroad came in, designated lots, blocks, streets, so on and so forth, you folks should look into that, and how it was dispersed from that point forward. Recently, Avenue A,

now I understand it might be Reck Brothers Way. Individuals can rename their streets, if they own them. You can't have partial designation of Avenue A in one section and Reck Brothers Way on another. It was my impression only the City can designate streets. Then I have a concern that we have signs that restrict parking. Okay, if it's a private driveway or Roadway, but if it isn't Taxpayers' monies are used on it. SNPLMA and other federal monies are also used on it, and we have a problem of Selective enforcement. There are regulations in regard to curb and gutter when you pave, not rocks piled alongside the roadway. We can't protect our roads if we don't do it properly. We have got to go back to who owns Avenue A, Is it a City Street? Is it a private roadway? Does it comply with City rules, regulations, and codes? We need to address that, especially if you're going to do a historical designation. The other concern was, I was curious about the book you referred to, Mr. Johnson. What was it called and can I look at that later on?

5. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Chairwoman Van Camp adjourned the regular meeting of the City of Ely Historic Preservation Commission Meeting at **9:04 a.m.**


Attest


Chairwoman

