



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD REGULAR MEETING

October 13, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Chairman O’Flaherty called the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board to order at **8:04 a.m.**, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Chairman John O’Flaherty
- Vice Chairman Dale Derbidge
- Member Greg Rivero
- Member Sherrie Marquez

Members absent:

- Member Ken Ross

City Officials and staff present:

- Councilman Kurt Carson
- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb (Zoom)

City Officials and staff absent:

- City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below): None

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: October 13, 2022

Print name below

George Church

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding drainage from the Bath property draining onto his property; if Mount Wheeler Power was ever contacted to move the power poles for the Murry Street Project; his request for reimbursement for a sewer problem he took care of at his property located at 681 Parker; the billing for his property located at 490 High Street; if the City ever collected in full for water, sewer and landfill services from the Historical Railroad when they owned the White Pine Trailer Park; and collected in full from Garnett Mercantile. Mr. Chachas stated this morning when I passed 166 Ely Avenue it appeared the City Crew was putting in sidewalk. Is there a reason for that when I can't get curb and gutter on Ely Street and 7th Street to keep the drainage from coming onto my property?

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE UTILITY BOARD.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Moved by: Vice Chairman Derbidge Second by: Member Rivero Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - September 8, 2022

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board Members – *Robinson Nevada Mining Company* (RNMC) representative – Discussion only – Update to the Utility Board on the *Robinson Nevada* Development, Ruth Pit Development and water mitigation efforts within the City of Ely.

City Clerk Lee read the following email into the record:

Jennifer Lee

From: Frederick Parthey <Frederick.Parthey@us.kghm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:11 PM
To: Jennifer Lee
Cc: Amanda Hilton
Subject: Utility Board Meeting- 10/13/2022

Hello Jennifer,

I will not be able to attend tomorrow utility board meeting, I am by this email providing you an update on "Old Business" Item B 1. *Ruth Pit development and water mitigation efforts within the City of Ely.*

Robinson continue to mine from the Ruth pit complex, here is the breakdown of fresh water dewatering effort from the South block.

About 8,777 gpm is being pumped, 2,341 gpm is going into Gleason Creek and the rest is going to the mill for ore processing. RW-7P- is delivering 0 gpm into the city water system, a new NSF-61 certified pump and motor has recently been installed and received approval from the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water on October 12 to operate.

Please let me know if the utility board has any questions.

Thanks,

Frederick Parthey (PhD, PMP)
Senior Manager Environmental
Resources-US Operations
T +1 775 289 7040
C +1 775 293 5261
frederick.parthey@us.kghm.com



Robinson Mine
4232 West White Pine County Rd 44
Ruth, NV 89319 USA
www.kghm.com

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilman Carson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to waive Landfill disposal fees in the amount of approximately \$225.00 for Golf Course tin shed.

Councilman Carson stated it is my understanding the Reck Brothers paved the Golf Course parking lot and donated time tearing down the old shed. I am looking for your thoughts on this matter.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated I believe they have done that in good faith and provided a service to the County and City and I think it warrants waiving those fees.

Vice Chairman Derbidge stated I agree with that, and it is amazing what it looks like now.

Vice Chairman Derbidge moved to recommend approval to waive landfill disposal fees in the amount of approximately \$225.00 for disposal of Golf Course tin shed. Member Marquez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated they need to pay as others do. The project does not meet guidelines in that it does not have curb and gutter and no sidewalk. We either have rules and regulations or we don’t. I am not blaming Reck Brothers, I am blaming whoever designed it. The Golf Course or the County can pay it out of their budget.

2. Councilman Carson - Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to renew the Agreement for Consulting Services between Basin Engineering Corporation and the City of Ely.

Councilman Carson stated I think B.J. and his crew do a good job and not only do we have an engineer, but his whole staff, and I would recommend approval of this item.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated Mr. Almborg has provided services to the City of Ely for an extended period of time. I believe he has done a good job and his staff has worked in good faith. He is a local engineer which makes it very convenient for the City of Ely. He seems to be available any time there is an issue. I would certainly reinforce Kurt’s feelings.

City Attorney Cahoon stated this is the same contract that has been in place for several years and the only significant change was the compensation.

Vice Chairman Derbidge moved to recommend approval to renew the Agreement for Consulting Services between Basin Engineering Corporation and the City of Ely. Member Rivero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated I have some concerns on this contract and you are giving away a lot of the taxpayer's dollars. There is concern with the liability and 8B-2 needs to be removed. I want to see accountability.

Chairman O'Flaherty opened items three and four together.

3. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of proposed Water Department projects provided by the City Engineer to be paid for with community service funds, with possible recommendation to complete engineering and go out to bid on any or all of them.
4. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of proposed Sewer Department projects provided by the City Engineer to be paid for with community service funds, with possible recommendation to complete engineering and go out to bid on any or all of them.

City Engineer AlMBERG stated we compiled a couple lists of sewer and water projects based on the ARPA funds at the time and now is called community funds. This list was compiled between the Public Works Supervisor, the Water/Sewer Leadman, and myself. When it comes to some of the sewer items it is where they have had regular issues, they have worked on two to three times a year dealing with backups and other issues related to these locations. As far as sewer is concerned, probably the number one priority or desire by the Water and Sewer Department would be the 17th Street sewer upgrade which is down by Suburban Propane. It is the line that comes down through Steptoe Apartments and has reoccurring issues. The second location for priority would be the sewer upgrades near David E. Norman. There was a portion of the alley we did complete because it was backed up with roots and Carl has said it is a much better situation. This would be a continuation of finishing up that back alley. The other priority is up on Elysium Drive. The sewer gets backed up and it is very steep and if it backs up it can potentially go into people's basements because the uphill manhole is higher than their houses. That is the order recommended for the sewer projects based on what we put together, but we will go with whatever you decide. The water items are not necessarily problem areas. What they are is where we have dead end mains or maybe not even a main in front of a road. The 1100 block of Avenue E, behind what used to be Anderson's there is only a main along a portion of that road. The water department recently remedied one of the situations they were having down there with their water service. The water service was coming all the way from Aultman Street, and they were able to patch it back in, so it is not on Aultman Street but on Avenue E. That is an area we could do a continuation and fix that block. The 15th Street water upgrade is the next and we are not really having problems, but it could be a potential bonus because the area shown on the green is what will be completed in two years with the Aultman Street Project. This would finish one of the last legs to give us a good line all the way from our Golf Course Well, up into Aultman Street and continuing on down. We could also take it down Avenue C, but that other portion of Avenue C and those upgrades are what we currently have in this year with the application for an earmark. The other upgrade would be the 900 block of Avenue E., which is in

front of the Forest Service. We found out during our last phase of the Aultman project that a house there was also serviced from Aultman Street. They are actually on a long service line that runs down 9th Street and so there is not a main in front of that house and is recommended for an upgrade. Our desire to come back up on A Street would be to tie into the new stuff that was just completed on Aultman Street. Those are the potential projects that we have looked at and I don't have an exact amount of funding that is available to us at this point in time but will continue to work with the City Treasurer.

Chairman O'Flaherty asked these projects would be funded through our local General Fund and not through CDBG?

City Engineer Almberg stated this is not a CDBG Project. These funds are now in the General Fund, but it was funds that came in through American Rescue Plan Act.

Councilman Carson stated I don't disagree with these projects, but the more I think about it I would like to see some of those trouble spots that need fixed, but on the water side we really don't have any trouble spots they are upgrades.

City Engineer Almberg stated right, the water areas are upgrades. The sewer we looked at down near Suburban Propane is definitely a top priority to replace.

Councilman Carson stated my idea is to take some of the money from the projects that really don't need to be done right now and put that into roads. The City is getting efficient with the cold patch and chip seal and I think that would help out more than some of these other projects.

City Engineer Almberg stated I was out in the field yesterday on 9th Street which did get the overlay and chip seal. A gentleman that is building a house there for his daughter was very excited about the chip seal and the roads getting fixed. It is not a new road, but it got done for pennies on the dollar compared to what a new road would cost.

Councilman Carson stated my recommendation would be to do the sewer projects but wait on the water projects and put that money towards the roads.

Vice Chairman Derbidge asked what did you say about connecting the Golf Course Well? If worse came to worse, we couldn't use the Golf Course Well?

City Engineer Almberg stated no, we can still use the Golf Course Well it is just once we get in here the line has been upgraded from the golf Course Well to 15th Street and then after that it goes to smaller lines and older lines. In fact, there is not even necessarily a line that goes all the way down 15th Street to Aultman Street as we proposed right there. There are some that go up one block and tie into Avenue D but doesn't go all the way through. What we proposed for what we are applying for this year was to upgrade that from 15th Street continuing in on Avenue C and getting that main updated. Over the years we have developed some of our water mains with the anticipation of trying to get down to the Golf Course to get a main line coming in. We are pretty good sized coming

from this end of town over to approximately Bell Avenue. On Avenue C between 10th Street and 12th Street there was a water line upgrade quite a few years ago through there. This earmark that we are applying for now we are coming in with an upgrade from 15th to 12th Street and then from 10th Street to Bell Avenue and some of the little side roads. If we are successful with that earmark, then we will have basically that new straw from our Golf Course Well that can feed water all the way up to this end of town. The one on 15th Street would just benefit that because it would open it up and basically have parallel lines to get water up through town. It is not that we cannot use the Golf Course well without the upgrade to 15th Street it would just be a benefit to it.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated the 15th Street upgrade would probably allow the Golf Course pump to produce another four to five hundred gallons?

City Engineer Almborg stated the issue with the Golf Course pump on some of those things is we are at the bottom end of our pressure zone and so it is pretty high pressure down there. We could surely push more but we don’t want to because it raises the pressure to push it back the other way and we are pushing it through old lines. I think that is where we create leaks is when we disrupt the normal everyday pressure of those lines.

Member Rivero stated I don’t see any fire hydrants in the plan and is there a need for an upgrade to the fire hydrants for the increased flows?

City Engineer Almborg stated anywhere we are doing these upgrades we would put fire hydrants that are associated.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated I certainly agree it is a continuous process of upgrading and maintaining. I know Carl struggles with a lot of the sewers, and I think the sewer items should be prioritized as the water projects are upgrades. The City has a lot of needs and I think you just have to prioritize what you want.

City Engineer Almborg stated I support coming in and doing some upgrades to the roads because people don’t always see you did positive spending in upgrading underground infrastructure, but they definitely see it when they drive down a nicer road.

Chairman O’Flaherty moved to recommend approval of prioritizing sewer projects to be paid for with community service funds. Vice Chairman Derbidge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Councilman Carson – Public Works Supervisor Cracraft – Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to approve purchase of Caterpillar Model 304 C3 TH Hydraulic Excavator in the amount of \$74,000, budgeted in FY23 Water/Sewer Funds.

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated we budgeted \$79,000.00 and we went through Sourcewell and it came in at \$74,000.00.

Councilman Carson stated it is definitely needed as our old one is about wore out.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated I am amazed at how well the water and sewer department do with their equipment they have. Every piece of equipment needs to be upgraded every year, so I am glad to see this is the first one you are bringing up for recommendation. I know they certainly need them.

Member Derbidge asked are you going to sell the old one?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated probably not. We will probably use the old one at the cemetery.

Councilman Carson asked did they say how long it would take to get?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated from what I understand it will be pretty fast.

Member Rivero asked will your operators need any additional training on this piece of equipment?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated no, this is pretty much the same one they operate now. It is just a lot newer and more efficient. The old one was worked on by Wheeler Machinery and they said it was only working at about sixty percent.

Chairman O’Flaherty moved to recommend the approval of purchasing the Caterpillar Model 304 C3 TH Hydraulic Excavator in the amount of \$74,000.00 budgeted in FY23 Water/Sewer Funds. Member Rivero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated I received notification the City was awarded its Green Up Grant, so I have been working on that. It is \$20,000.00 a year for five years so \$100,000.00 total.

Chairman O’Flaherty stated the Green Up Grant is reimbursement for batteries, tires, refrigeration, and things of that nature at the landfill. It is really a good grant for the City.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated there was a question today about a sidewalk on Ely Avenue. The utility crew is down there putting in a sidewalk because there is a broken meter pit box and in order to repair that they need to tear out some sidewalk and then will replace it. We have been working with Jennifer Lee on the upcoming CDBG applications by compiling information for her to submit. We do have a CDBG audit coming up for some previous projects, so we have been gathering that data, so we are

prepared for that. We are also gathering information for our current earmark project for the Central Ely Sewer because I think there may be potential to apply for a waiver of the matching funds.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated regarding 166 Ely Avenue where there is broken concrete. It is usually a four-by-four foot or a five-by-five-foot replacement around a meter box, not forty or fifty feet. The improvement at the Golf Course, again there is not curb and gutter and no sidewalk. We have rules and regulations that need to be adhered to. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for a list of properties that have been permitted to have RVs on them and if they are paying for utilities; the Regional Planning Commission, The County, and the City not addressing Code violations; and the need for accountability.

City Clerk Lee stated the next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022

6. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE MUNICIPAL UTILITY BOARD

Chairman O’Flaherty adjourned the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board at **8:47 a.m.**



Attest



Chairman