CITY OF ELY

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ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

October 8, 2026, 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 **8:00 a.m.**, led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:
- Chairman John O'Flaherty
- Vice Chairman Dale Derbidge
- Member Ken Ross
- Member Tom Stagg
- Member Kelly Jackson

City Officials and staff present:
- Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Treasurer Janette Trask
- Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- Deputy City Clerk/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: Michael Miller

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting

Print name below	Print name below
George Chachas	
Michelle Yeaman	

DRAFT

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 3C-1, you are to consider possible rate increases on a variety of City fees. Any consideration of fees as proposed by Councilwoman Van Camp and Treasurer Trask need to be denied. The City Council and its staff continue failing to collect proper fees now and selectively enforcing codes. The discrimination needs to stop. Their failure should not be the reason for increasing fees. To date, City Clerk Lee, Councilwoman Van Camp, Public Works Director Cracraft, City Engineer Almberg, and Treasurer Trask have not provided information requested regarding who authorized the installation of a clean out at 785 Bell Avenue, that was a private property, not a City obligation. Which Water Department employee requested the meter to be changed at the Cal Ranch store, which was approximately $30,000? It was approved by the City Engineer, but it wasn't budgeted; a clear violation of NRS 354 stating money that isn't budgeted cannot be spent. The City has yet to reimburse me for curing the sewer problem at 681 Parker, which was the City's responsibility. To date, the City owes me $30,275.47 which includes penalties and interest. Selective enforcement of the law can't be tolerated, Mr. Chairman. I want to remind you that federal law prohibits discrimination on any federally funded or assisted public utility. I'm again requesting, who inspected the Bell Avenue project, CDBG 22\ PF\04. My fence was damaged and needs to be repaired. Water lines and meter pits were not put in front of my property, and the lines were not extended, as was done with other properties. I gave you a diagram prior to the project taking place, you guys didn't adhere to it. My meter pits are one hundred to two-hundred feet away. I want equal protection of the law. I'm not going to pay to put my lines back in. City took them out; City needs to put them back in. I remind you the City Council is contemplating trading the Armory with a $50,000 income for the Railroad Depot and the Red Barn at the Railroad Museum, which provides no revenue. The Railroad Museum cannot afford to maintain it. They don't own the Armory, the City does. The City Council has no business trading it off for the Red Barn and the depot. They can't even pay the rent on the gift shop that they've got now. The Museum was behind in paying their rent to the State also. Now this board is thinking of raising rates? Hell no! You need to show accountability. Thank you.

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 Ross Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
    - September 10, 2026

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board Members – Discussion only – Robinson Nevada Mining Company update to the Municipal Utilities Board on *Robinson Nevada* mining activities, South Block dewatering, Gleason Creek discharge and water mitigation efforts within the City of Ely.

Michelle Yeoman with Robinson Nevada Mining Company stated we currently have mining activities occurring in all three of our pits; Ruth, Liberty, and Veteran. The following is a breakdown of our dewatering efforts from South Block. As of this morning, approximately 6,600 gallons per minute (GPM) is being pumped, and of that, approximately 1,300 GPM is going to Gleason Creek, and the rest is reporting to the mill for ore processing needs. RW-7P is currently producing approximately 800 gallons per minute that's being distributed into the City water system.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilwoman Van Camp – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) City of Ely Drinking Water Rate Study, with recommendation to accept and direct City staff to conduct a Business Impact Study regarding possible increases to water, sewer and landfill rates, including hydrant rental and Will Serve fees.

   Councilwoman Van Camp stated I read the survey and one way or the other we're going to be in a deficit if we don't do something about it early.

   City Treasurer Trask stated it has been since 2019 that any rates were raised. I would recommend that we put in place a yearly increase instead of limiting it to a period of time.

   Chairman O'Flaherty asked, "You are recommending the rate plan that they recommend, which is an increase, but not as significant?"

   City Treasurer Trask stated yes.

   Vice Chairman Derbidge stated if you're talking about increasing the fees, certainly we'd be going back to the Robinson Mine and saying that needs to be updated yearly, too?

   City Treasurer Trask stated that is a whole separate issue with that contract.

   Vice Chaiman Derbidge stated I understand that, but if the City is raising rates on the people, and if we don't plan for what happens in the future, then the City's going to be way in arrears.

   City Treasure Trask stated I'm not part of that committee, so I'm not the one that can speak on that.

   Vice Chairman Derbidge stated Melody, you're a council member. Are you talking to the mine about that? It's been going on for years.

   Councilwoman Van Camp stated I have not done that.

   Chairman O'Flaherty stated I think B.J. can tell us a little bit more about this.

City Engineer Almberg stated we are working with the Mine. One of the things that we are working on is trying to get to what is a letter of credit. For the longest time, we were kind of in disagreement with what a letter of credit was; we wanted a bond and they wanted to give us a letter of credit. As we worked through the situation, we are both talking about the same thing, we just got different terms. We met with the Mine about three weeks ago and what we're looking at doing now is seeing what efficiencies can potentially be improved and get everything running as efficiently as we can to keep our power bills down. Then we can project what our future costs are going to be, and the long-term costs, while we wait for the spring to recover. So, to answer your question, we are currently working with the Mine, but I don't know that what goes on there has necessarily anything to do with our water rate study that's in front of you right here to look at, but we are actively working with the Mine to get an agreement updated. The only other thing I guess I do want to say is Janette and I are working with Waterworth, which is a software program that shows long-term trends and projections. So, as you know, this is a part of what's on your agenda that's got to be done to be able to complete a rate increase. When it comes to presenting everything, we'll bring some of this Waterworth information with us as it produces graphs so you can visually see exactly what you're looking for in detail, and it will be a better breakdown of operating costs.

Chairman O'Flaherty stated the rate increase isn't just for the operational cost, it's also for the infrastructure which is aging.

City Clerk Lee stated just to remind the board, the item is to accept the study and to direct the staff to do a Business Impact Study. So, this isn't recommending rate increases at this point. This is recommending a Business Impact Study for potential rate increases.

Member Ross stated I agree it's a necessity.

Member Ross moved to recommend accepting the RCAC City of Ely Drinking Water Rate Study and directing City staff to conduct a Business Impact Study regarding possible increases to water, sewer and landfill rates, including hydrant rental and Will Serve fees. Member Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

  Councilwoman Van Camp stated I went to the Nevada League of Cities Conference, and everybody is short of money, everything's expensive and outdated, and what are you going to do? So, we hammered out that, I don't know how much we hammered out, but it was pretty good.

- **CITY CLERK LEE**

  City Clerk Lee stated as BJ alluded to, CDBG notified us that we can add a small section of Fay Avenue to the East 15th Street Waterline project that we submitted last year. We're going to submit that application again to CDBG. Just by way of update on the

intent to lien notices, we've received eleven payoffs and four payments as of Tuesday out of the forty-seven notices that we sent out.

- **CITY ENGINEER ALMBERG**
  City Engineer Almberg stated I guess the big news is the EPA approved our bid invitation for Central Ely Sewer. We're giving them a pretty long time to put in bids as it's a pretty good-sized sewer project. Our goal is to have it awarded in December and then they can go to work as soon as spring breaks. Supplies should be coming this week for our Morley Project so that should begin very shortly. The other big thing that we have got going on and may not be relevant to this board is the Trap Club grant finally got awarded with the value engineering bringing the project into budget and we are just dealing with submittals and everything that is going inside that building.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the quality of the sound system and the difficulty of hearing some of the speakers; the steel plates located near 622 High Street alleging they are preventing him from accessing his property and they need to be removed; 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; the drainage coming off of the Bath property onto his property on 7th Street causing erosion; whether or not Mr. Ramsey at 582 Highway 93, as well as Tim Vidrine have connected to City water and sewer per NRS; and whether the Historical Railroad, when they owned the White Pine Mobile Home Park paid any of their water and sewer back fees.

City Clerk Lee stated the next meeting will be on November 12, 2026.

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 **8:25 a.m.**

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Chairman

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Attest

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