



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

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ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Vice Chairman Derbidge 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:

Vice Chairman Dale Derbidge
Member Ken Ross
Member Tom Stagg
Member Kelly Jackson joined at 8:05 a.m.

Members absent:

Chairman John O'Flaherty

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
Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

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: December 11, 2025 Regular Meeting

Print name below

George Chacales

Kyle Tarr

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda item 3C-1, you are to consider the water agreement with the County involving the Golf Course; that needs to be denied. The Golf Course does not qualify for water allocation from the County's industrial water allocation; that allocation comes from the State. The Golf Course needs to apply under a different category. The City should not endanger the County's industrial allocation. The taxpayers are paying a horrendous amount of money now to provide a golf course for very few citizens, and that golf course can't pay for itself. The City Council and their engineer are tainted in their thinking. No other entity gets a discount of 50% on their usage. You need to review the federal law regarding public utilities assisted by federal dollars. On your agenda item 3C-2, you are to consider removing past due utility penalties up to the amount of \$90.33 from APN 005-003-03 in Cherry Creek, Nevada, at the request of Nicholas Bailey. I want to know if Mr. Bailey paid the full amount due of \$486.61 to qualify for the write-off of \$106.53. I'm requesting a copy of the letter sent to him, outlining the terms required of him for consideration to write off the penalties and interest on his property, and then be eligible for the appropriate refund. I'd like some kind of response, Mr. Chairman. 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.

Administrative Cobb stated I attest the minutes reflect a true and accurate record of the November 13, 2025 meeting transcribed from the Zoom recording.

Moved by: Member Ross Second by: Member Stagg Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - November 13, 2025

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.

Robinson Nevada Mining Company Environmental Manager Kyle Tate stated currently, we have mining activities occurring in both our Liberty and Veteran pits. As far as our south block dewatering efforts are concerned, it currently consists of about 5,000 gallons per minute being pumped and of that, roughly 2,900 gallons per minute is reporting down to the Gleason Creek Discharge. The remaining volume is going to the mill to help facilitate ore processing needs there. As far as RW-7P is concerned, it's currently producing approximately 870 gallons per minute, and that is being distributed into the City water system.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Robertson – City Engineer Almberg - Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to approve the Water Use and Deed Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County.

City Engineer Almberg stated the water well agreement that we've been working with the County on for about six months finally got approved yesterday at the County Commission meeting. The Golf Course is our biggest user in our highest demand time of the year so getting them off of the system during the summer will definitely increase our factor of safety for our water that we provide for our citizens. If this agreement is approved, the intention is we will deed water associated with that parcel in the back nine to them and in exchange, they're going to deed 420 acre-feet of water out of their industrial water rights that we can move into some of our wells to provide additional water for future development of our community. In this agreement, what is agreed upon is we have the water rights, and we can water the back nine of this golf course, and they're going to drill a replacement well for the existing well up there that is not functioning to capacity. They will drill the well, and once that well is complete, it will be a shared well between the City and the County. Each will pay a proportion based on separate meters; one will go to our ranch that we can use this water at, and the other will go to the Golf Course. There were concerns from some of the commissioners that a replacement well was much more expensive, and they felt that they could refurbish the existing well at a cheaper cost. I, myself, didn't support it, and I wouldn't recommend the City support it. The Mine has participated in this well in the past, and they had some of their experts come and camera that well, look at the existing status of that well, and make a recommendation of what could be done with that well. Their recommendation was that you would never be able to refurbish it and get it back to its original production. The well is at least fifty years old. There is a provision where they could refurbish the well if they get bids that are extremely outlandish or way more than anticipated. As part of this agreement if they refurbish the well at the County's expense and that well does not perform adequately for the next twenty years, they're still 100% responsible for the replacement well. If they refurbish it and it lasts for twenty years, then at that point in time, we would be willing to participate in that next well. We do continue to provide a discounted water rate for the whole golf course, because it's going to take time to get this well drilled and connected to the system. Once the well is up and running, we will provide our discounted water rates for the front half, or the front nine of the water system, because our water rights that we're deeding to them do not actually cover the front portion of the Golf Course. The County has already filed water rights to bring water in for the complete Golf Course. Those water rights were protested, and that's what has put the County in a situation where they were stalled and couldn't do anything until that protest came through. I think it is a good agreement and beneficial to both parties and I definitely recommend approval.

Member Stagg moved to recommend approval of the Water Use and Deed Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County. Member Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$90.33 from APN 005-033-03 in Cherry Creek, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Nicholas Bailey.

City Clerk Lee stated Mr. Bailey purchased this property, and the debt transferred with the sale. He paid off the principal on the 18th of November and is asking for a waiver of the penalties.

Member Ross moved to recommend removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$90.33 from APN 005-033-03 in Cherry Creek, Nevada at the request of Property owner, Nicholas Bailey. Member Stagg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Derbridge asked how is it going with the County for them to take over the Landfill billing?

City Treasurer Trask stated since this was the County's idea, we are waiting to hear from them about what they would like to propose.

Vice Chairman Derbridge stated if I remember right, years ago, wasn't it always on the tax roll?

City Treasurer Trask stated at one time it was, and they got sued, and they had to repay. I don't know all of the details as I wasn't part of all that. When the City approached the County to do it again, if you remember correctly, there was a joint Council/Commissioner meeting, where they basically told us why it couldn't be done. County Treasurer Catherine Bakaric said it couldn't be done, and, at this point, her opinion still hasn't changed, so we are just waiting to hear what the County has to offer.

Vice Chairman Derbridge stated thank you for the update.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated my report that's in the packet just notes that NDEP did award us a \$260,340.00 capital improvement grant to assist with our Morley Avenue Water Upgrade Project and where we've added booster pumps to that, it's over \$600,000.00 now to do that. We will be able to complete that this spring, BJ can expand more on that.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated our staff attended USDA Funding Training by Zoom earlier this week. The sewer portion of the Morley Project is under construction right now and hopefully will be finished up in the next week and a half or so. They are through the deepest part of it, at one point they were about seventeen feet deep, and it was very challenging for them. They are past the deep section and now it is getting shallower as

they go and the progress is speeding up. For the water portion of this project, we have got a package we're getting together to electronically submit to the State for approval. We anticipate that we'll get approval for that and will construct in the spring. This, as I have said many times, will truly impact and make a big difference for these people, because they're currently operating under marginal pressure conditions up on the hill, and this will get them up into true pressures that are adequate. We are also working on our Central Ely Sewer Project. We've been on hold for quite a long time on that, pending some funding issues that were going on at the federal level. The Mayor, Public Works Director, and I spent some time out in the field looking at some of our surface waters, and how this water is running through the ditches down at the ranch, based on some questions that had come in. We are also doing some work on an asset management plan that is associated with the funding that we have just received as part of the requirements and working with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) as well.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his request for the address and a contact name regarding the Bell Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project CDBG 22/pf/04 and who inspected the project; the Bell Avenue Project change order; the damage to his property on Bell Avenue; information on who authorized the water crew to work on the sewer line at 785 Bell Avenue on April 19, 2025; the sewer problem he took care of at his residence located at 681 Parker; his request for 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; 582 North Highway 93 Ramsey project, if they've hooked on to city sewer and water as required by State law; and if the property Mr. Vidrine owns is connected to City water and sewer and what he has paid.

City Clerk Lee stated the next meeting will be January 8, 2026.

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

Vice Chairman Derbridge adjourned the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board at 8:22 a.m.


Dale Derbridge
Vice Chairman


Jennifer Lee
A Hest

