



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2130

Cityofelynv.gov

ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD REGULAR MEETING

May 8, 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 **8:01 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

Members absent:

Chairman John O'Flaherty

City Officials and staff present:

Councilwoman Melody Van Camp

City Clerk Jennifer Lee

City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask

City Engineer B.J. Almberg (Zoom)

Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

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

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: May 8, 2025, Regular Meeting

Print name below

George Chachas

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on agenda item C-1 you are to consider the removal of past due utility fees, and penalties in the amount of \$2,775.55 from 24 Avenue A in McGill for Elaine Blackham. I'm requesting a copy of the letter that was given to Ms. Blackham outlining the terms requested for consideration to write off penalties and interest on her property. I want to know, did she pay the total amount of \$4,457.22 so she can be considered, and then be eligible for a refund of \$1,681.67? I want to remind you that I was made to pay the full amount on one of my properties in order to be considered, and only then was I given a refund for the difference. I'm still waiting for the letters you sent to Ralph Jones and Tina Templer, outlining their terms. Selective enforcement and discrimination need to stop. I need that information and I'm allowed to have it under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. I'm getting tired of being stonewalled in regard to Ralph Jones and Tina Templar. Hopefully, I won't have the same problem with Ms. Blackham's letter.

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

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

City Administrative Assistant Cobb stated I attest the February 13, 2025 minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the Zoom recording.

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

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - February 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.

City Clerk Lee stated I didn't receive an email from Kyle today, but they did provide the Negotiating Team with a dewatering update earlier this week.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Recommendation to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,775.55 from 24 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Elaine Blackham.

Member Stagg moved to recommend approval to remove past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$2,775.55 from 24 Avenue A, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Elaine Blackham. Member Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated NDEP required a full application for our Morley Capital Improvement Grant. I got that submitted on April 4th and they'll be considering it May 21st.

➤ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated The Aultman Street project is moving along very well. By the end of this week the contractor will have the sewer flowing through the new sewer on the north side of Aultman Street down near the central Ely area. That's a big step for us, because that sewer main actually went right through people's backyards where we had no access and could not do maintenance and if we had a backup in that area, it would have been extremely difficult to get it taken care of. So, that should be all up and running, possibly by the end of the day or tomorrow. As far as water is concerned with this job, our first section of waterline is active and up and running. We pressure tested it at the completion, got water samples completed and approved, and turned that sampling back into the State for approval. The State gave approval to go ahead and connect that into the system and get it functioning; that portion is also down on the main street near Central Ely. They are beginning to start work on the big drainage boxes and that is going pretty well, but you always run into something that you do not expect from the old infrastructure we have. On the Morley Project we are working very closely with the Water Department to locate the existing water line. That project has been a challenge from the standpoint of the sewer that goes up to Morley is extremely deep and so it's adamant that we know exactly where that water line is, so that during construction there is minimal impact to that water main. It looks like we will be able to relocate that sewer based on our findings this week and proceed with that project. We would like to upgrade the water system, and we are looking into a pumping system that will be able to improve the water pressures up there in that area of town so that we're in compliance with all the regulations and minimum pressures that we're supposed to be providing. As Jennifer said, we did go to Robinson Mine and listened to their dewatering report from last year. I think it was a good meeting, good discussion, and to me it appears that at this point in time they're pretty much through dewatering and what they're doing now is pumping just to maintain water levels.

Member Ross asked how are we doing on the storm drains? We talked about upgrading and increasing the volume.

City Engineer Almberg stated the storm drains are NDOT's infrastructure, and they are paying for all of those improvements. Those big concrete boxes will substantially increase the capacity of that storm drain system. During the design of all those boxes, NDOT had created a projection of the existing floodplain down in Central Ely and the anticipated floodplain at the end of completion of that big box covert, and it's estimated to substantially reduce that floodplain down in Central Ely at the completion of this project. Once the project is complete and that system is functioning, the City could then

work with FEMA to try and get them to recognize that floodplain reduction and reduce that floodplain size. That will reduce lots of people's flood insurance for their homes down in Central Ely and be a substantial benefit to many of the citizens in town.

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; his concern of his fence being damaged on Bell Avenue and who is going to repair it; alleges during the Bell Avenue project a sewer line was put in that should have been the homeowners responsibility; Title VI needing reviewed; 582 Highway North 93 property hooking up to City sewer, water, and has not put in a fire hydrant; and 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.

City Clerk lee stated the next meeting will be June 12, 2025.

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

Vice Chairman Derbidge adjourned the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board at **8:18 a.m.**



Attest



Chairman