

# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301 City Hall (775) 289-2430 - Fax (775) 289-1463

# ELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2019 5:00 p.m. - Ely Volunteer Fire Hall - 499 Mill Street-Ely, Nevada.

**1.** Mayor Van Camp called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at **5:03 p.m.** led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

Mayor Melody Van Camp Councilman Ernie Flangas Councilwoman Jolene Gardner

Councilman Sam Hanson

Members absent:

Councilman Kurt Carson Councilman Tony DeFelice

City Officials present:

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Attorney Charles Odgers
Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Building Official Brad Christiansen
City Engineer B.J. Almberg
Police Chief Scott Henriod
Water/Sewer Leadman Carl Siemer

Also in attendance: Members of the public signed in (appears below).

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerrie Pintar stated under New Business Item 1, do you seriously think the .50 you receive for each policy purchased will mitigate budget shortfalls in all three enterprise funds. Individuals in this community can't afford your already budgeted proposed 3-10 % increase for FY20, which I'm advocating to squash as the impact study is yet incomplete. The City shouldn't be in the business from profiting from insurance sales for unexpected water/sewer line failures. Insurance policies are unnecessary and if you would just take ownership that arise from our aging infrastructure, such as Mr. Chachas' issue on Parker

Avenue . . . Shame on you for not reimbursing him his out of pocket costs of over \$5,000.00 and let this item die for lack of a motion. Having sat through three presentations on the need to raise our fees and possibly installing water meters, the City needs to look at whether the charges being assessed to residents are correct. Have you implemented my suggestion to physically verify the charges are correct when properties are sold and the new owners are coming in to sign up? Are City staff willing to visit 5-20 homes to verify they're being charged correctly? Under New Business Item 4, utilizing City Staff to haul refuse after Memorial Day: Do you expect people to use the first three days of summer cleaning their property? Again, the solution to City beautification is not to create ordinances we can't possibly enforce, but to overburden the already overworked Sheriff's Office to write the tickets for neglected property within City limits. Sheriff Henriod's staff responds within 24 hours.

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding no ADA access in the 400 block of Murry Street and bringing the utility billing back in-house. On Item 6B-3 White Pine County providing street services, there is nothing in the packet. On Item 6B-4 using City staff for a community wide clean up, the City departments have their hands full now. We can't get our street potholes patched now. Declare a Community Clean Up period and people can haul their own trash; it worked while I was in office. On Item 6B-5 to build outdoor kennels, we have other projects where there's a greater need. On Item 6B-12 to fill vacant positions, you haven't identified which positions you're considering; the Open Meeting Law states you have to be specific. Bring an accountant into City Hall so people can understand their billing.

City Clerk Lee read CV Inspections, LLC letter appearing below into the record.

April 25,2019

Attn: Jennifer Lee, City of Ely NV Clerk

Re: Landfill fee yearly charge for non-resident business licenses

TO BE READ IN THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Mayor, City Council Members and Citizens of City of Ely,

My name is Patrick (known as Chris) Flannery and my wife is Valerie and we recently applied for a non-resident business license to perform Residential Home & Commercial Inspections through our business CV Inspections, LLC for the City of Ely. We are based in Clark County and decided, due to the multiple requests to perform home & commercial inspections in your area, to follow the proper procedure of obtaining a City of Ely non-resident business license. We are Certified through Nevada Real Estate Division as Inspectors of Structures, husband and wife team and licensed through the State of Nevada.

We were advised in obtaining the City of Ely non-resident business license that the landfill fee must be paid as well and understand for certain non-resident business licenses this is necessary, but due to we only are providing a service and not creating any type of debris or garbage, that it should be considered that your policy be amended to NOT charge this fee to any type of non-resident business that is only providing a service.

We are from Ely and looking forward to providing our professional, knowledgeable services to the area and will do so whether we are required to pay the landfill or not. As all small business owners know, it is in our best interest to try to save where we can and feel that this landfill fee is not justifiable in our situation, in which this cost could be passed back to a client.

As some of you may recall, I was the White Pine County Building Official from 2007 to 2014 (also performing the City of Ely Inspections from 2007 to 2008) and now have had our Home Inspection business in the Las Vegas Valley since 2015 and have been very successful thus far and know that with our background that my wife & I have, can provide the most un-biased and thorough inspections for the citizens of Ely.

Thank you for your time and in considering amending your policy.

Regards,

Chris & Valerie Flannery with CV Inspections LLC.

3.

# 3. Mayor – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Agenda, including removal of agenda items.

Councilman Hanson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated between yesterday and today, Teri has processed 214 absentee ballots, so we're caught up with the permanent list. The last day to register to vote in the General Election is May 14<sup>th</sup>. McKay has provided us an updated budget/actual and it reflects the \$590,000 salaries/benefits in Fire, a 3% increase – instead of a 10% increase –the 7% increase from *Mt. Wheeler* in the <u>quadra mine</u> revenues/expenses and \$20,000 being put into the Redevelopment Fund for streetlights.

#### • CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Almberg stated we have drainage issues at the Railroad and did some topo to see what we can do to remedy that situation. We've had meetings on Aultman Street; some improvements we did not expect will be paid by NDOT. The CDBG grant was awarded to the City for two more blocks of Murry Street and we are doing the EA leading up to that.

#### 5. REPORTS

### CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Hanson stated I attended the Railroad board of directors meeting and the County Water Advisory Board meeting, where we were advised we have 20+ inches of water content in the snow. I also attended the Main Street advisory committee meeting.

#### **MAYOR**

Mayor Van Camp read the report, email and letter appearing below into the record and stated on May 4<sup>th</sup>, *Family Dollar* will be having a ribbon cutting at their Great Basin Boulevard location; they were bought out by *Dollar Tree*.

April 25, 2019

### MAYOR'S REPORT

#### 1. I approved 24-Hour Liquor Licenses to:

- Ely Elks Lodge #1469 for Nevada Elks State Convention at Hotel Nevada;
- Ely Elks Lodge #1469 for Nevada Elks State Convention at Bristlecone Convention Center;
- Club Rio for KDSS 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Concert at Bristlecone Convention Center.

From: Patricia Herzog <pherzog@diversifynevada.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 2:55 PM

To: Melody Van Camp

Cc: jlee@elycity.com; Jean Barrette; Jessica Sanders
Subject: 2019 CDBG Advisory Committee Recommendation

Mayor Van Camp,

We are pleased to inform you that the City of Ely's application for the Murry Street Sewer and Water Improvement Project, Phase 1, was recommended for the full request of \$245,735. The CDBG Advisory Committee members believe the project is critical to public health and safety issues for the city and were pleased that the environmental assessment has been initiated. The fact that the project also aligns with the Department of Transportation's 2019 Highway 50 project is a sign of good planning. The completion of both projects will greatly enhance the community.

The recommendations of the CDBG Advisory Committee will now be reviewed and approved by the Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development before submitting to Governor Sisolak for final approval. The grant agreement will be sent to you for your signature prior to the start of the 2019 CDBG grant year on July 1, 1019.

Congratulations on this recommendation for funding. Should you have any questions regarding this email, do not hesitate in contacting me.

Regards,

Patricia E. Herzog

#### Patricia Herzog

Rural Director Economic and Community Development Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE Secretary of State

April 12, 2019

Mayor and Ely City Council 501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mayor Van Camp and Members of the Ely City Council,

I respectfully request that these remarks be read into the record during public comment at your next meeting. I am writing this letter in praise of the performance of Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Lee. As Nevada's Chief Elections Officer, I understand all too well the pressures and challenges of administering a smooth election during a time when there is increasing scrutiny of the processes involved. It is important that the citizens of Ely know what an exemplary job Jennifer did in running Ely's recent Primary. Her efficiency and professionalism are to be commended. The City of Ely should be proud to have such a dedicated individual in their Elections Department; on the State level, we are grateful for her efforts. I hope you will all join me in recognizing Jennifer and her staff for all of their hard work and commitment to fair and secure elections.

Sincerely,

Enchara K. Cegavske

cc. Jennifer Lee

# 6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ONLY OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL. A. CONSENT AGENDA

<u>MOTION:</u> Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 6A-1 Minutes and 6A-2 Bills. Moved by: <u>Councilman Hanson</u> Second by: <u>Councilman Flangas</u> Vote: <u>Unanimous</u>

- 1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
  - March 21, 2019
- 2. Discussion/For Possible Action –Bills.
  - April 10, 2019
  - April 17, 2019

### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Van Camp – Dennis Lyon of *Utility Service Partners, Inc.* – Discussion/For Possible Action\_– Review and possible Approval of City of Ely participation in National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program for City of Ely utility customers.

Dennis Lyon of the National League of Cities Service Line Program presented the information appearing below and stated we don't mail anything to any homeowner without the city's review and approval before it's sent.





- 2013 BBB Torch Award recipient
- · BBB Accredited Business with an

#### Commitment to Local Communities

Use of local area contractors keeps dollars in the community

#### Dedication to Service

A customer satisfaction rating of 98%





#### Public/Private Partnership Built on Trust

USP, a HomeServe company, has proven that a company committed to providing exceptional service and a valuable product at a fair market price can successfuly partner with government.



"This award underscores one of the primary reasons the National League of Cities selected USP as a partner. The organization's exemplary record of customer service and transparency is what has driven the success of this partnership over the years."

Clarence Anthony, Executive Director National League of Cities

For more information contact:

1-866-974-4801 or partnerships@utilitysp.net







# NLC Service Line Warranty **Program Overview**

### What We Do

The NLC Service Line Warranty Program offers affordably priced emergency repair/replacement plans to address aging private sewer and water infrastructure. Customers call to receive prompt emergency repairs provided by local, licensed and insured contractors.



Water Line



Sewer Line



**Interior Plumbing** 

## Benefits to Homeowners

Many homeowners are not aware of their responsibility for their service lines until they have a repair emergency. When they call the city, they often find that they are faced with a costly repair and that the city can't help them. Over the past three years, we have performed over 1.1 million repairs, saving our customers over \$341 million!



#### Convenience

- 24/7/365 claims hotline, including holidays
- No need to search for a qualified contractor in an emergency



### Peace of Mind/Trust

- Fully vetted, licensed and insured local contractors
- Covered repairs guaranteed for one year



## **Financial Protection**

- No deductibles or trip fees Affordably priced coverage 30-day money-back guaran with ability to cancel at any

#### Experience in Arizona

- 22 Partners
- Endorsed by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns
- Over 45,000 customers
- last three years



## For more information contact:

Phone: 724-749-1097 Mobile: 412-874-9454 ashiwarski@utilitysp.net







Councilman Hanson asked how many customers do you have in Lovelock?

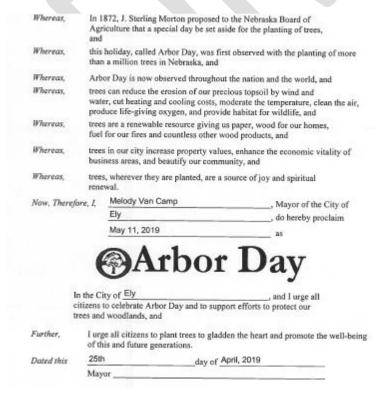
Dennis Lyon stated I would have to check. Those accounts were opened before I took over Nevada. Typically after three years, you can expect 30% participation.

Councilman Hanson moved to approve the City of Ely participation in the National League of Cities warranty program to City of Ely utility customers. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion failed 2 to 1, with Councilwoman Gardner voting Nay.

2. Mayor Van Camp – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Proclamation declaring May 11, 2019 Arbor Day in the City of Ely.

Harry Rhea stated because of student activities, we would like to change that to the 10<sup>th</sup>. The members of the Tree Board get together with many organizations to plant trees. This is a Tree City USA requirement and it says the City cares about the value of trees to this community.

Mayor Van Camp read the 2019 Arbor Day Proclamation into the record (appears below):



Councilman Hanson moved to approve the 2019 Arbor Day Proclamation. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilman Carson – Discussion Only – Consideration of White Pine County's proposal to provide Street Services to City residents.

White Pine County (WPC) Commissioner Shane Bybee stated the last several months the County/City Road Departments have worked on an hour sharing program. Kurt Carson and I had a discussion recently because we can see benefits of a combination of these departments into one road department. We had a meeting with Mike Cracraft, B.J., Chuck, Kurt, myself, and Mike Wheable. It's impossible to maintain paved roads in City. Running two road departments have created two overheads. The County Road Department would draw in the City for this year, which would take care of every road in White Pine County. The long-term goal would be to do what several rural counties in Nevada have done: Taking that combined service under the guise of the RTC.

Councilwoman Gardner stated I think it's a great idea.

City Attorney Odgers stated we would have one City Council Member; one County Commissioner and one community member knowledgeable about roads. The City would continue to maintain the streetlights.

WPC Commissioner Bybee stated it's the same in our individual townships: The lights fall under the townships.

Ann Schroeder stated I'm a resident of the County. When this merger goes into place, how will it affect our snow removal and maintenance? If Ely doesn't have the funds, that means the County will be taking funds away from the townships.

Kerrie Pintar stated I appreciate Mr. Bybee's history that he used to 'sit in that chair', that City of Ely's Road Department budget is dismal and doesn't begin to cover what is needed to maintain the roads. The County should cough up more money out of the net proceeds of mines business. The County treats City of Ely residents as stepchild and we're a big part of the County of White Pine. I called to ask for a copy of the proposal and learned there was no paperwork to consider. This has never been on a County Commission agenda, so where was this deal hatched? This has been up for discussion for quite some time, as was brought to my attention by the County Public Works Director. This stinks because it reeks of improprieties from the City and County elected officials. You are all under fire for the EMS proposal/situation and now you want to discuss merging the responsibilities of the street departments and in this exchange, I hear of the Parks department. It's only a matter of time before the City recall and disincorporation petitions start flying. If you're willing to combine these services, one has to ask why do we need these government entities?

George Chachas stated I share a lot of what Mrs. Pintar said. You have a good relationship right now with the RTC. You give up your Road Department, it's the beginning of the end. I'm pleased with how the RTC is working now.

Commissioner Bybee stated we know by combining these services we can cut costs and put those resources on the roads.

Councilman Flangas stated 90% of the tax on gasoline is raised within the City of Ely. Ely has the majority of the population.

City Attorney Odgers stated City employees would be put at the step closest to where they're at. By July 2020, employees would be consolidated under the Regional Transportation Commission. In 2010 the voters voted to consolidate services to save money. The RTC is funded solely by gas tax and the Legislature dictates the distribution is based on mileage.

Harry Rhea stated I don't see where a huge savings is going to occur. We're not going to have less equipment to maintain, fewer employees, or one building that gets closed? Where are the savings?

Commissioner Bybee stated the savings would be in equipment and duplication of administration.

Mike Sturgeon stated I work for the Street Department in the City of Ely. I think it's a phenomenally good idea. We're a department of three people We have a lead man and two workers. Lot of times, the leadman is busy meeting with you people. A lot of our jobs require four people. When we're out pothole filling with cold mix, it takes two to blow out the pot holes, one with the crack sealer, one in the loader and someone rolling, We're not able to do that. I know the County's not sitting idly when it's raining like today. If the reason for keeping this from happening is fear of disincorporation, you're not doing a service to the people who elected you. We're not leaving McGill out. We did dura patching through the entire County last year. It's scary for me to go to a new job opportunity, but it will be better for the City and the County. The County has seven graders that are all in better shape than our grader. We need a new grader badly for the City.

Commissioner Bybee stated just adding those three people to the crew, you see the cost benefit. The last project we fog sealed in Lund, we didn't have enough crew to do the fog sealing and handle the traffic control. We paid almost \$30,000 for a contractor to handle the traffic control; with a larger crew, we have the people to handle traffic control and save that \$30,000.

City Engineer Almberg stated I want to express my support of the concept. The County is not looking at absorbing the City Road Department. Both road departments are looking to be absorbed by the RTC. Everyone is always saying you need to run the City like a business. This is exactly how I run my business. My wife has a business; we share a secretary, copy machines, etc. We were fortunate to get the current work agreement and convinced the RTC to purchase equipment. I don't fear the County taking over the City. White Pine County doesn't have a water system or a landfill. You are always going to be a viable entity. Every dollar won't be spent in the City. Every dollar won't be spent in the County.

4. Councilman Flangas – Discussion Only – Consideration to utilize City staff to haul refuse for a community-wide Clean Up after Memorial Day.

Councilman Flangas stated if we want to encourage growth, we need to have a clean-up.

Mayor Van Camp stated Mike Cracraft told me we're short staffed.

5. Councilwoman Gardner – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to purchase materials to construct outdoor kennels at the City of Ely Animal Control facility in the amount of \$9,680.02, to be expensed to Capital Outlay in the Capital Project Fund this fiscal year.

Councilwoman Gardner stated this is for new kennels that need to be done desperately.

City Attorney Odgers stated in February, the Animal Control Board recommended to the City Council fencing and covers. Our City crews would install the fencing. We're averaging right now about 7 dogs a day; this would allow us 16 outside kennels.

Councilman Hanson moved to purchase materials to construct outdoor kennels at the City of Ely Animal Control facility in the amount of \$9,680.02, to be expensed to Capital Outlay in the Capital Project Fund this fiscal year. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to stay the implementation of Ordinance 720 Establishing an Ambulance Service Franchise for the City of Ely until July 1, 2019.

City Attorney Odgers stated the County has closed the Fire Department in Station 1, effective 6 o'clock tonight. In order to start the recruitment, we need to allow the County to run. If we were to enforce Ordinance 720 today, it would put an undue pressure on the Volunteers.

Councilman Hanson moved to stay the implementation of Ordinance 720 Establishing an Ambulance Service Franchise for the City of Ely until July 1, 2019. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ely and Operating Engineers Local 3 for Emergency Service Personnel not currently represented by Operating Engineers Local 3.

City Attorney Odgers stated I have been working with Local 3; we have not reached an agreement relative to key issues. I received communication from the Union today that they understand we need to work on our positions.

8. Councilman Carson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Authorization to fill four Firefighter Advanced positions or under fill based on applicants, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County for Fire/EMS Services.

City Attorney Odgers stated part of the memorandum of understanding we're working on with the Union is to create three different classifications: Advanced EMT, Firefighter Basic and Firefighter Advanced. The City's position is we need to hire four individuals and we would like all of them to be Firefighter Advanced. With your permission I'll post it as a Firefighter Advanced or we'll backfill those as Advanced EMT or Firefighter Basic, depending on the qualifications of the four that are selected.

Councilman Hanson moved to authorize to fill four Firefighter Advanced positions or underfill based on applicants, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Ely and White Pine County for Fire/EMS Services. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 9. Councilman Carson Discussion/For Possible Action Authorization to create and fill a Service Worker position in the Water/Sewer Department.
- 10. Councilman Carson Discussion/For Possible Action Authorization to divide four Water/Sewer Department employees into two crews, placing them on 4 10s One crew Monday-Thursday and the other crew Thursday-Sunday thru the pay period ending October 4, 2019.

City Attorney Odgers stated we are unable to maintain our water sewer lines due to lack of manpower. We will get more productivity with 4 10's because there's not using as much time deploying/not deploying. Bruce Ashby has tendered his resignation, so we'd have coverage at the Treatment Plant.

Councilman Flangas asked are they Union employees?

City Attorney Odgers stated the Union is aware of this. There is provision under NRS that allows the employer to set work schedules.

City Water/Sewer Leadman Siemer stated most of our water digs are not scheduled. It's workable, but we'll need to have more discussions to make it work.

Councilman Hanson moved to create a Service Worker position in the Water/Sewer Department. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Hanson moved to divide four Water/Sewer Department employees into 2 crews, placing them on 4 10s thru the pay period ending October 4, 2019. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Council Members – City Attorney Odgers – Discussion/For Possible Action – Ratification of City Attorney Odgers' decision to post internally the position of Assistant Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, to be filled with a Service Worker I with a requirement to obtain their Operator in Training certification from the State of Nevada within six months of appointment, due to the resignation of Bruce Ashby.

City Attorney Odgers stated Bruce tendered his resignation a week ago Friday. Because of the nature of this job, it's imperative we backfill that job.

Councilman Hanson moved to ratify the City Attorney's decision to post internally the position of Assistant Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, to be filled with a Service Worker I, with a requirement to obtain their Operator in Training certification from the State of Nevada within six months. Councilman Flangas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Council Members – City Attorney Odgers – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval for City Clerk to fill vacant budgeted positions.

Councilman Hanson moved to grant approval for the City Clerk to fill vacant budgeted positions. Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerrie Pintar stated thank you for not taking on that gentleman's insurance proposal; it's no different than dental discount plans: If you have no provider willing to take them, it's not worth the paper you're paying for. Back to the City wide clean up, the only thing any resident needs to know is call the Sheriff because he responds. The time frames in these ordinances aren't practical. Back to the City Waste Water Treatment Plant, is there ever going to be a time when someone has that certification the gentleman in Wendover has? It's crazy that we're paying for someone in Wendover. I asked myself tonight why I want to stay in this community. I'm glad that elections are up. I pray that Tony will come back some day.

George Chachas stated I've never seen 210 dogs on your reports. In combining City/County services, there's been taxes passed for the streets, in particular Tour and Rec. money, 2.5%, strictly for the streets; you take it and spend it elsewhere which is a crime. You took part of that out to hire Donna Bath for economic diversification; it wasn't budgeted in the General Fund. The RTC can buy equipment that can be used by the City and the County. Tony DeFelice has a poor meeting attendance. Wolfie failed to clean up his lot next to Tony, but you cited Mr. Singh.

City Attorney Odgers stated the hotel tax was passed for infrastructure and any legal means identified by the City Council in the General Fund.

# 8. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Councilman Hanson moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at **7:04 p.m.** Councilwoman Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

