



# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

October 11, 2018 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 **8:14 a.m.**, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

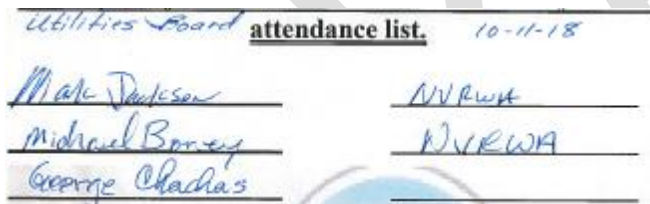
Members present:

- Chairman John O’Flaherty
- Member Dale Derbidge joined the meeting at 8:19 a.m.
- Member Ken Ross
- Member Paul Holdaway joined the meeting telephonically at 8:14 a.m. and left the meeting at 8:19 a.m.

City Staff present:

- Councilman Kurt Carson
- City Administrator Robert Switzer
- City Attorney Charles Odgers
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Water/Sewer Leadman Carl Siemer
- Deputy City Clerk Jennifer Lee

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



### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding reimbursement for curing the sewer problem at 681 Parker Avenue; the City paying \$60,000 for a water line extension from *Love’s* to the Charter School; whether the 490’ Murry Street project pipe has been returned; bringing back utility billing to City Hall; misbilling of his accounts; his request for an itemized list of properties that have been overcharged ; hiring someone with a bachelor’s degree in accounting; his 490 High Street billing; and his request for backflow device requirements at 7<sup>th</sup> and Clark Street and at the *Copper Queen*.

### 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: Member Ross Second by: Member Derbidge Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
  - September 13, 2018

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chairman O’Flaherty reviewed the September 28, 2018 letter from *Robinson Nevada Mining Company* notifying the City of Ely that the pump and motor in the RW-7P well will be lowered.



13582

September 28, 2018  
COR-18-123  
**Hand Delivered**

City of Ely, Nevada  
501 Mill Street  
Ely, Nevada 89301

**RE: Lowering of pump and motor in RW-7P Well, Robinson Nevada Mining Company.**

**Dear Mayor Melody Van Camp;**

Robinson Nevada Mining Company (RNMC), would like to inform the Mayor of the City of Ely that water level in the south block aquifer, which provides water to the City of Ely through pumping well RW 7P and RW-6P is declining. As a result of the decline in water level in the aquifer, RW-7P needs to be lowered 200 feet to continue providing water to the city of Ely. The lowering of the pump would occur first or second week of November and this project would take the well off-line for approximately 7 days. During this period RNMC would like to request other wells own by the city to be pumped to supplement RW-6P to provide the needed 3000 gpm per the agreement to the City of Ely.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time in this matter and if you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to give me a call at 775 289 7040.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Partey", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frederick Partey

Manager, Environmental Resources  
Robinson Nevada Mining Company

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Board Members – City Administrator Switzer – Nevada Rural Water Association Representatives Michael Boney and Adele Basham – Discussion Only – Presentation of workshop on effectively managed water utilities.

Adele Basham of Nevada Rural Water Association presented the Water Board training workshop.



Mike Boney stated I rode around with Carl yesterday and O & M is being done to extend asset life. Keep records on O & M data. Have O & M as a line item in the budget. What if Ely contracted out the operations and maintenance? What activities would that contract include? Board recommendations are based on 1. Cost & Condition; 2. Performance; 3. Repair & Replacement; and 4. Disruptions. NDEP is now requiring a fiscal sustainability plan for communities that receive grants and we can help you with it; it should be in the annual budget.



**City Attorney Odgers left the meeting for Municipal Court at 8:45 a.m.**

Adele Basham reviewed the Financial Viability slides appearing below and stated your water rates should be reviewed annually and be sufficient to cover expenses.

**Financial Viability**



## Financial Viability



## Water Rates



Mike Boney stated you should budget three percent (3%) inflation for cost increases, raises, and the cost of materials.

Adele Basham stated small rate increases are better than huge ones.

## Water Meters



Mike Boney stated water meters are essential for driving revenue and looking at how much water is used, because you have a production number that can be compared to the usage number to curtail water loss.

Adele Basham stated if you have to conserve, the best thing you can do is water meters. There is additional O & M cost to water meters. The days are past of someone going out to read meters.

Mike Boney stated there are receivers in trucks that pick up readings as the driver goes down the road. Meters can tell pressure difference versus having to buy leak detection equipment.

Adele Basham stated add water meters to large projects because you'll save administrative costs. You can also do it in stages. Nevada Rural Water can help.

Chairman O'Flaherty stated all commercial businesses in Ely have water meters and new residential have water meters installed.

### 4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### ○ CITY WATER/SEWER LEADMAN

Chairman O'Flaherty stated I know you had a major break. It looks like you got everything taken care of.

Water/Sewer Leadman Siemer stated yes.

Chairman O'Flaherty stated the result of that was faulty pipe?

Water/Sewer Leadman Siemer stated yes, just old rusty pipe.

Chairman O'Flaherty stated I know it's a twelve-inch (12") drain, which created an issue.

Water/Sewer Leadman Siemer stated that it was.

○ **CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

City Administrator Switzer stated we will be having the patch, which was a cold patch – a temporary measure from that water break in front of *Sportsworld* last week – done in a hot patch, a more permanent patch. The patch will be an area about three times larger than what you see right now and that's because of the significant heaving of the pavement, due to the force and action of the break itself. It looks like any damage claims from businesses will be minor and those will be turned into insurance.

Chairman O'Flaherty asked are we receiving some money off of liens?

City Administrator Switzer stated we're receiving some. We need to file additional liens.

○ **CITY ENGINEER**

City Engineer Almberg stated we're working a lot on getting our Aultman Street improvements completed; this portion of the line that failed is on the list to be replaced. We got an email from the contractor installing the liner at the Landfill; hopefully the material will be available next week. We will be meeting with NDOT next Monday regarding closing Avenue F.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated his ongoing concern regarding ADA access at 790 Avenue I; and City right-of-way encroachment on Park Avenue and Avenue K, off Great Basin Boulevard. On September 4, 2018, the Building Department sent me a letter on a building permit on a property I had at 692 Ogden; I ran out of money and stopped the project. I know I have to renew that permit; it's two years old. That person needs to go. I'm tired of being harassed. He's selectively enforcing the law. When I get riled, I look at who's in office, who's serving on what boards and I'm going to come after you guys. The public's being treated one way. The citizens are being treated another way and you guys are altogether different.

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

Member Derbidge moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board at **9:16 a.m.** Member Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**ATTEST**