

# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
[Cityofelynv.gov](http://Cityofelynv.gov)

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 14, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Mayor Robertson called the regular meeting of the Ely City Council to order at 5:00 P.M. Pastor Joshua Beck offered an invocation. Mayor Robertson led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Mayor Nathan Robertson
- Councilman Kurt Carson
- Councilwoman Samantha Elliott
- Councilman Jim Alworth
- Councilwoman Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper

Members absent:

- Councilman Terrill Trask

City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Treasurer-HR Director Janette Trask
- City Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- City Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Building Official Don Hendrickson
- City Attorney Shain Manuele
- City Municipal Court Judge Mike Coster (joined by Zoom at 5:39)
- City 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: Geri Wopschall; Councilwoman-Elect Melody Van Camp; Councilman-Elect Dennis Perea; Eugene Harper; Lena Ocasio, USDA; Ben Bailey; and Paula Carson.

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Print name below

Print name below

WWE DERRIDGE  
George Chackas  
Dean Reynolds  
MARK BASSETT  
Todd Fincher  
Shadrach Robertson

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Derbidge stated I'm an Ely resident and I'm here to comment on action item number thirteen, the rPlus project. If this project were to go through, it would increase the County tax base by four times its current value; this is huge. It's projected that the County's property tax collection would increase by over \$12 million annually. This would also increase the CTX Tax the City receives. The school district, the hospital, the county fire departments, and EMS would all benefit from the increased property tax collected. As our residents all know, our roads need repair, the middle school is a hundred years old, many of the water and sewer pipes serving the residents are in need of replacement and the City doesn't have enough money to do that. The City crews struggle to fix all the problems. If you vote to shut down the rPlus project, do you have any plans for the future to replace this income? I've been a business owner in Ely for over fifty years and there has been no other project this size interested in Ely or White Pine County. The Nevada Northern Railroad Foundation is a great asset to our community however, they do not generate tax dollars; they're a tax user. The Nevada Northern Railroad Foundation is a beneficiary of \$400,000 a year in room tax. I believe that a vote to deny rPlus access to cross City property would show that the Council would be ignoring its physical responsibility to the City of Ely and its citizens. The Council needs to weigh the benefits of this project to all citizens versus the wishes of the Railroad Foundation. If the Council action causes this project to fail, who or what will replace the millions of dollars lost to the City and County residents. I feel the City should negotiate with the County to have them set aside, say, \$3 million dollars of this money they're going to receive for a certain number of years to build homes in the City. Housing is the number one problem when a business or an individual wants to relocate to Ely. Thank you for your time.

George Chachas stated on agenda item three regarding swearing in newly elected officers no names are listed for the different positions. The Nevada Open Meeting Law specifically states that the agenda item must be clear and precise on what is to be contemplated; you haven't done that. Agenda item 10B-13 needs to be denied. The Nevada Northern Railroad Foundation needs to stop litigating and throwing roadblocks in front of any potential industrial growth in our City and County. They forget where they are in the food chain. They cost the City and the Railroad possibly millions in lost track rental fees as well as millions in litigation against S & S Short Line, which went nowhere. They just flush millions down the tube. I want to remind you the Railroad Foundation does not operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law, and the taxpayers have no idea of how their money is spent. If they want any kind of consideration, they have to come under the City Council's auspice and operate under the Nevada Open Meeting Law. On your agenda item 10B-12 I remind the members of the City Council that are also members of the Chamber of Commerce that you are intentionally violating the ethics laws that pertain to using taxpayers' dollars to benefit themselves. The Council must remove the City from any membership that does not assist all citizens and businesses. The Council is funding an entity that excludes businesses individuals that are not dues payers. Does the City of Ely accept chamber bucks? This game's got to stop folks. Thank you.

## 3. SWEARING IN NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS BY CITY CLERK

### 1. Mayor – Four-year term

Nathan Robertson was sworn in by City Clerk Lee as Mayor of the City of Ely for a term until City elections are held in November 2028.

### 2. Council Member Seat 2 – Four-year term

Melody Van Camp was sworn in by City Clerk Lee as City Council Member Seat 2 of the City of Ely for a term until City elections are held in November 2028.

### 3. Council Member Seat 4 – Four-year term

Dennis Perea was sworn in by City Clerk Lee as City Council Member Seat 4 of the City of Ely for a term until City elections are held in November 2028.

## 7. REPORTS

### ➤ MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson stated I wanted to go over just a couple of procedural things as a reminder for the council members that are here, and for the new council members that are coming in. The City of Ely has adopted Robert's Rules of Order for how they proceed in their meetings. We have the manuals on hand if anybody ever wants to review those, but for the purposes of this meeting, the highlights are that any discussion that's going to happen needs to happen after a motion and a second. We typically allow the item to be read, any explanation on the item from those sponsoring the item, and then we'll ask for a motion. After a motion and a second we can discuss all we like. The thing we need to keep our minds on is the difference between discussion and a report. On a report, especially the City officials, council members may ask follow up questions on any information provided. It is not the time to bring up any new items or any other things that haven't been brought up that would constitute discussion. If you have items when you get the agenda that you'd like to discuss they will need to be put on a future agenda as an agenda item. I'm always happy to help you craft agenda item wording. I know City Clerk Lee's office and her administrative assistant are really great at that, and they're always available for those things. If you ever have a question on something you want to talk about, it's always best to do that under an agenda item, and as council members you're all well within your rights to request those items. The thing to remember is, discussion happens after motions and report items can have follow-up questions, but not discussion. If you have any questions, our attorney is generally on hand to answer those. Don't be afraid of asking a dumb question because the only dumb question is one you didn't ask.

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

City Attorney Manuele asked for item thirteen to be removed for further attorney review.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to accept the agenda as presented with the removal of item number thirteen under New Business. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 5. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### ➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated Nevada State Senate Bill 54 requires city clerks to attend biennial election training, which is being held December 9-13 in Las Vegas; the Secretary of State is paying expenses for the city clerk and one staff member from each municipality, so Patti and I are attending. Therefore, Patti and I will be participating remotely in the December 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, if possible, and posting that agenda December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### ➤ CITY ENGINEER

### **City Council Report (11/14/24)**

- City Slurry Project Complete.
- Bell Ave CDBG construction is complete.
  - Received NDEP approval to turn the water into the system.
  - Contractor is just completing minor cleanup.
- Working on Landfill Quarterly monitoring report.
- Assisting City Hall with CDBG applications for new projects.
- Coordinating with the railroad on some drainage on North Street and the railroad crossing.
- Morley CDBG project SHPO is complete. EA is submitted to CDBG for approval.
- Researching BLM water tank right-of-way and will bring before City Council next meeting.

## 6. NNRy FOUNDATION REPORT

Mayor Robertson disclosed I am a part-time employee of the Foundation, but this is not a voting item, and I don't vote anyways.

NNRY President Mark Bassett reviewed the following report:

### NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



#### Nevada Northern Railway Foundation

A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation  
Depot: 1100 Avenue A, Ely, Nevada 89301  
Mailing Address: PO Box 150040, Ely, Nevada 89315  
Voice: (775) 289-2085 • Web: www.nnry.com • E-mail: info@nnry.com

#### Monthly Operations Report for October 2024

1. Locomotive Status – No change
  - a. Locomotives in service: #93, #109, 204, 310, 801, Wrecking Crane A & Rotary B.
  - b. Locomotive 81 is out-of-service with running gear and boiler issues. The staff and volunteers have done incredible work on Locomotive 81. The Federal Railroad Administration was here and passed all of the boiler repairs.
  - c. Locomotive 40 is out of service for her heavy repairs. We have started on her repairs; she will be out of service until 2025.
  - d. Locomotives out of service needing moderate repairs: #201 and #802
  - e. Locomotives waiting funding for restoration: Steptoe Valley Smelting and Mining #309 and Rotary Snowplow B (for boiler overhaul.)
  - f. Locomotives out of service needing heavy repairs #80 and the military locomotives.
3. Rolling Stock Status – No Change
  - a. Passenger equipment in service: #07, #08, #09, Flatcar #23, Baggage/RPO #20, Outfit Car #06.
  - b. Passenger Coach 5 in for painting.
  - c. Passenger equipment out of service: #10, #2 and #05 needing heavy repairs.
  - d. Caboose in service: #3 and #22 are operational.
  - e. Caboose out service: #5 and #6. Caboose #6 needs a 50-year waiver.
4. Track Status – No change
  - a. Keystone Branch is open.
  - b. Adverse Branch is open.
  - c. Museum Branch is open.
5. Ridership and Ticket Sales – Updated
  - a. In October, we carried 1,572 passengers, this was a decrease of 34% compared to the previous year.
  - b. This year to date we have carried 12,103 passengers, this was a decrease of 15% compared to the previous year.
  - c. Since operations began in 1987, we have carried 376,808 passengers.
6. Economic Impact – The average non-gaming & gaming daily expenditure per overnight visitor \$170.  
Economic impact for October 2024 was  $1,572 \times 80\% \times 170 = \$213,792$ .  
Economic impact year to date was  $12,103 \times 80\% \times 170 = \$1,646,008$

#### Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenaline Rush in Rural Nevada – 2020  
Best Historic Railroad of the West – 2023, 2022  
Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2022, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008  
Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014  
Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

These numbers only reflect the economic impact of our train passengers and does not include visitors who did not ride the train.

7. Social Media: Our reach on social media continues to expand:
  - a. Our Facebook reach last month was 350,452
  - c. We have 135,100 page likes.
  - d. 198,920 people follow our page.
8. Track Repair



The track repair is complete thanks to the City of Ely's assistance in funding this repair. The slow order has been removed.

**7. REPORTS CONTINUED**

➤ **COUNCILMAN PEREA**

Councilman Perea stated I just want to say thank you for the support from the staff, and I look forward to working with everybody here to serve our community.

➤ **COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP**

Councilwoman Van Camp stated thank you again. I did visit most of the departments. I did attend the Veterans Day Memorial Program, and the Mayor gave a very nice speech, and it was really well attended.

**10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ONLY OF THE ELY CITY COUNCIL.**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Robertson disclosed my husband is a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and is not treated any differently than any of the others so I will not be abstaining, and I also don't vote.

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I would like to disclose my granddaughter is an employee of the City of Ely Fire Department.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 10A-1 Minutes and 10A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: Councilwoman Elliott Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - October 24, 2024
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - October 28, 2024
  - November 7, 2024

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

14. Council Members – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Road Slurry Seal Project 2024, PWP # WP-2024-505, Contract Change Order requested by American Pavement Preservation, LLC for a net increase in contract price of \$930.80.

City Engineer Almberg stated this project is complete. This increase is a section of the road that was basically left off the original request that the City wanted to get completed. During the construction, we recognized that we left it off, so we added it on. This is based on the unit cost they had bid us. I recommend approval.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve Road Slurry Seal Project 2024, PWP # WP-2024-505, Contract Change Order requested by American Pavement Preservation, LLC for a net increase in contract price of \$930.80. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Council Members – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of the following project: Road Slurry Seal Project 2024, PWP# WP-2024-505.

City Engineer Almberg stated this is just finalizing this. With the change order done we can finalize all the billing and everything else associated with it to close it out.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to accept the Road Slurry Seal Project 2024, PWP# WP-2024-505. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

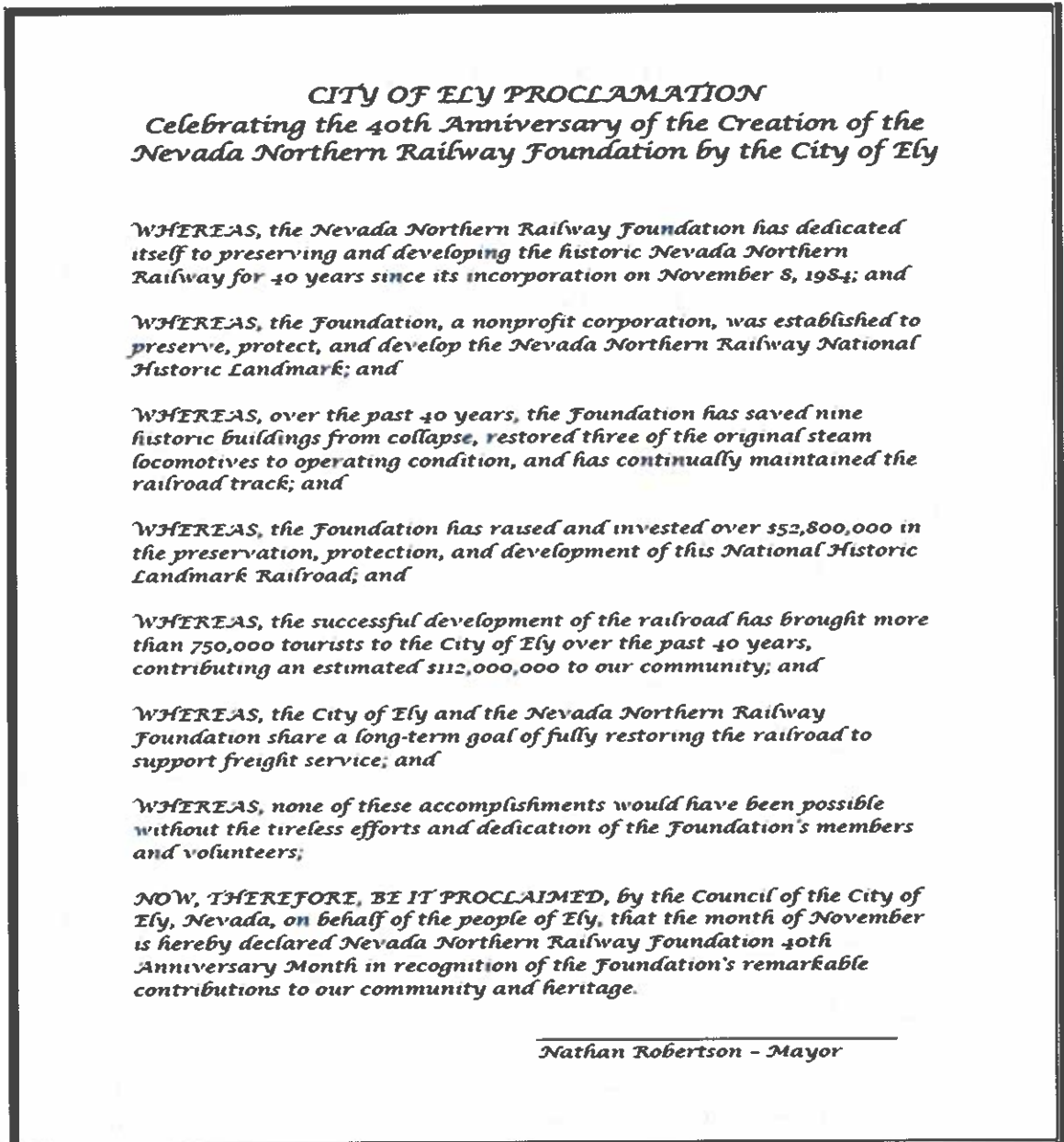
1. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – *Keddington & Christensen, CPA's* representative (s) - Discussion/For Possible Action – Presentation and possible acceptance of the Year Ended June 30, 2024, fiscal audit for the City of Ely.

Keddington & Christensen, CPA's representative Ben Bailey stated I would just like to thank the Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to audit the City again. The audit went really well again this year and working with Janette and her staff was great. We Didn't really have any setbacks or problems getting the audit done. I'll just go through this really quickly. Our standards require that we communicate a few things to you guys. We consider you the Council governance and responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process and the audit of the statements does not relieve either management or governance of their responsibilities. On page one is our opinion. We designed the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, and in our opinion, they are and they present fairly. We have a couple other reports that we issue. One is on internal controls. We look at internal controls, not for the purpose of testing them, just to see that there is a control environment. That is over payroll, financial close, cash receipts, and cash disbursements. We don't do this for the purpose of expressing an opinion, and we did not see any issues with the control environment, or any findings related to compliance. There's another report we have to issue for the State, on page sixty-eight, not for the purpose of an opinion just to see the compliance with certain laws; we didn't notice any issues there. Note one on the financials explains the accounting policies of the City of Ely. The City has a reliable accounting system that produces reliable financial information and sound accounting policies that haven't changed during the year and the disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear so there's good information coming from the accounting system. There were no disagreements with management and like I said before, working with Janette has been really great. In addition to the audit internal controls, we also watch for fraud during our procedures. We take fraud very seriously, that includes designing our procedures with that in mind, and we ask questions of staff and governance. The audit went great.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to accept the Year Ended June 30, 2024, fiscal audit for the City of Ely. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of Proclamation Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Creation of the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation by the City of Ely.

Mayor Robertson read the following:



Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve the Proclamation Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Creation of the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation by the City of Ely. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. THE MAYOR WILL RECESS THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.**

- Council Members – City Clerk Lee – City Engineer Almberg – Public Hearing – Discussion Only – Prioritizing and final Selection of CDBG project(s) for the 2025-2026 Program Year application submission; the City’s eligible projects include the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Drainage Improvement Project for \$265,400.00; North Street and Fay Avenue Storm Drainage Upgrade for \$511,800.00; and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project for \$603,750.00.

George Chachas stated I want to speak in favor of the 7th Street Drainage Improvement Project for 265,400.00. I have a concern that in the Engineers list of items to be contemplated there's nothing for sidewalk yet and on the North Street and Fay Avenue Storm Drainage Project there's a considerable amount of sidewalks. I want the same consideration on that property. I've been telling you for years that the erosion is causing considerable damage to my property. I told you that I

suffered over \$24,000.00, according to an estimate by the Reck Brothers on my south access and I want some consideration. I also have a concern in regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project on your agenda. It says \$603,750.00, but on the Engineer's estimate it is over \$6 million. Which one is it? I ask you to endorse the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Drainage Improvement Project and the North Street and Fay Avenue Storm Drainage as they have been on there for years and they need some consideration to stop the damage to those areas.

## **9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

1. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – City Engineer Almberg – Discussion/For Possible Action - Prioritizing and final Selection of CDBG project(s) for the 2025-2026 Program Year application submission; the City's eligible projects include the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Drainage Improvement Project for \$265,400.00; North Street and Fay Avenue Storm Drainage Upgrade for \$511,800.00; and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project for \$603,750.00.

City Clerk Lee stated the area for the 7th Street Drainage Improvement Project is low-moderate income eligible due to an income survey City staff conducted, which GOED approved on February 13th this year. The areas for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and North Street- Fay Avenue Drainage Upgrade are not currently low-moderate income eligible based upon US Census data. The CDBG Director has advised that we can have a city-wide income survey done to provide new low-moderate income data for eligibility, which the Rural Community Assistance Corporation has agreed to do, but it will not be completed in time for our CDBG application deadline in February. I encourage you to prioritize the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, but we will not be able to apply for it. In February we can apply for 7th Street, and in your backup documentation you'll notice the White Pine Public Fence Project was denied, based on CDBG criteria. I recommend prioritizing the 7th Street Drainage Improvement Project as number one and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade as number two in anticipation of next year's CDBG grant cycle.

Mayor Robertson stated for the benefit of the public and council members, the reason the Wastewater Treatment Plant is listed at 603,000.00 and the engineer's estimate is \$6 million is that is being applied for as matching funds for a federal earmark that we already had been awarded.

City Clerk Lee stated that's been discussed in several public meetings. The City has a \$1.2 million cost share to make and has already allocated \$600,000.00 in Community Service Funds towards it. We need an additional \$603,000.00 to complete that match.

City Engineer Almberg stated when we get a project with CDBG, and we do the Environmental Assessment (EA), we try to be efficient about it and actually expand the area we cover. The EA is good for five years and so that allows us to come back in and do some additional projects within that area that qualify for CDBG. We will not have to do the EA again as the 7th Street Project is covered.

Councilman Perea asked how long do you have to match that earmark?

City Clerk Lee stated we currently have a Request for Statement of Qualifications out for the engineering design which is going to take six to nine months.

City Engineer stated next year would be a good time for us. The other thing to say about this earmark and our match that we have to come up with is CDBG funds are one of the federal funds that are allowed to be used.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to Prioritize the 7<sup>th</sup> St. Drainage Improvement Project for \$265,400.00 as number one priority and Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project as the second priority for final selections of CDBG Project(s) for the 2025-2026 Program Year application submission. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried with three ayes and one nay from Councilwoman Van Camp.



**B. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**

3. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Council Member Dennis Perea to the Soil Conservation District Board and Mayor Nathan Robertson as the designated alternate per NRS 548.335, with terms through December 31, 2026.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Council Member Dennis Perea to the Soil Conservation District Board and Mayor Nathan Robertson as the designated alternate per NRS 548.335, with terms through December 31, 2026. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral reappointment of Council Member Samantha Elliott to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, per NAC 459.99131, with term through December 31, 2026.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Council Member Samantha Elliott to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, per NAC 459.99131, with term through December 31, 2026. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral reappointment of Council Member Terrill Trask as the City of Ely’s liaison to the Regional Planning Commission, with term through December 31, 2026.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Council Member Terrill Trask as the City of Ely’s liaison to the Regional Planning Commission, with term through December 31, 2026. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Council Member Melody Van Camp to the White Pine County Natural Resources Advisory Committee through December 31, 2026.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Council Member Melody Van Camp to the White Pine County Natural Resources Advisory Committee through December 31, 2026. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Council Member Terrill Trask to the White Pine Tourism and Recreation Board through December 31, 2025.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Council Member Terrill Trask to the White Pine Tourism and Recreation Board through December 31, 2025. Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Council Member Dennis Perea as a member of the Nevada Northern Railway Management Board.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Council Member Dennis Perea as a member of the Nevada Northern Railway Management Board. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral designations of Council Liaisons for following City Departments: Streets – Council Member Dennis Perea; and Utilities – Council Member Melody Van Camp; the primary

function of a liaison is to be a two-way communication vehicle between the Council and the department to which appointed; liaison designations are not supervisory roles per City Code 1-5-6.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to confirm the Mayoral designations of Council Liaisons for following City Departments: Streets – Council Member Dennis Perea; and Utilities – Council Member Melody Van Camp; the primary function of a liaison is to be a two-way communication vehicle between the Council and the department to which appointed; liaison designations are not supervisory roles per City Code 1-5-6. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Confirmation of Mayoral appointment of Tom Stagg as a member of the Municipal Utilities Board, fulfilling a term through December 31, 2027.

Councilwoman Van Camp moved to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Tom Stagg as a member of the Municipal Utilities Board, fulfilling a term through December 31, 2027. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Councilwoman Elliott – Discussion Only – Update on Porter Group efforts on the City of Ely’s behalf to secure federal and State funding.

## Activity Report for The City of Ely

### FOR THE MONTH OF October 2024

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#### Appropriations Requests

- The following projects were submitted to the Appropriations Committee for consideration in the Senate:
  - First Responder Communication Equipment Upgrade Project - \$5,000,000
  - Fire Station Solar Panel Project - \$375,000
  - Historic Ely City Hall Renovation Project - \$3,525,000
  - Water Meter Project - \$4,051,000
    - Total of \$12,951,000
- The following project has been accepted by the Senate Appropriations Committee:
  - First Responder Communication Equipment Upgrade Project - \$5,000,000
- Continuing to push additional projects to be included as we work through the appropriations process.

#### Additional Grants

- Touched base with House Transportation and Infrastructure staff regarding CRISI grant.
  - Awards expected to be announced towards the end of October.

#### Additional Activities

- Provided federal updates on variety of topics important to the City of Ely, including pending action in the House and Senate, potential legislative updates, and updates on grant award announcements.

Mayor Robertson stated I believe they are scheduling a meeting with the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) For a debriefing on why we didn't get this CRISI Grant this go around, and what we could do to be better in our application for next year.

12. Councilwoman Williams-Harper – Discussion Only – White Pine Chamber of Commerce monthly report on community activities.

Mayor Robertson stated I will disclose the Director of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce is my husband, but this is not a voting item, and I don't vote anyways.

White Pine County Chamber of Commerce Director Shadrach Robertson shared the following report:

## **White Pine Chamber of Commerce**

636 Aultman St. Ely, NV. 89301

775-289-8877 [WPCC@WhitePineChamber.com](mailto:WPCC@WhitePineChamber.com)

Good Evening, Ely City Council.

Please accept this White Pine Chamber of Commerce report for November 14th 2024.

Welcome to the New City Council Members. The White Pine Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Visitor Center and I look forward to working with you.

The Chamber of Commerce helps track labor statistics and provides that information to the Council at the next meeting, as we have all year. October's Nevada Labor Market Information made available from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation ([DETR](#)), is not yet available:

As of September the lowest unemployment rate in Nevada remains in White Pine County at 3.4 percent; down .4% from August. White Pine has maintained the lowest level of unemployment, for all of 2024.

In regard to the Visitation to our community, we have served over 1000 out-of-area visitors since we began tracking these numbers in MAY of 2024 for the Downtown Ely Visitor Center. Since October we have served 134 out-of-area visitors and guests in our Downtown office.

The Chamber of Commerce has begun a 4th quarter Shop Small Shop Local campaign to encourage holiday shopping here in Ely and White Pine First.

The Best of White Pine Contest online voter poll kicked off at the beginning of November and will run through December 31st.

We are also looking forward to working with the City of Ely in erecting the Christmas Tree in time for the Community Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting on December 7th.

We are also developing local business promotions to continuously bring crowds Downtown and throughout White Pine like the Christmas Window Display Contests and more.

It has been a very productive year for the Chamber, as we have reimbursed over \$100,000 in Chamber Bucks for local regional businesses and organizations, thanks to generous funding sources like KGHM and Kinroos Bald Mountain.

We wish you and every City of Ely employee a Very Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for the City's support and we are grateful to partner with you and look forward to a even more successful 2025.

16. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – City Fire Chief Stork – Discussion/For Possible Action – Review of Quotes received for the purchase and installation of three SolarEdge Energy Bank 10kWh batteries for the Ely Fire Station Photovoltaic Panel System with remaining Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Funds, Project #C66854, with possible award.

City Clerk Lee stated Pat and I were reviewing this quote today, it's approximately \$11,000.00 over what we have remaining in grant funds plus our match. I contacted this company representative, and he stated it wouldn't be a problem for them to start this project at the beginning of the next fiscal year. He's still waiting for the inverters for the first half of the project. We recommend approval with the contingency that the construction be done, and it be installed at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

City Fire Chief Stork stated this grant runs all the way until July of 2026, so we have plenty of time. We figured if we have to, we will try to budget that additional into capital. Right now, we have got all those panels out there not working at all. The first part of this grant is fixing the parts on the back to get them working and then this additional

portion will get those three big battery storages. What it will do is during the daytime collect all the extra energy we're not using and store it so at nighttime the fire station will use that energy off of those stored batteries until they are depleted, and we go back over to Mount Wheeler Power. In the end we'll be able to save a fair amount of money and get the system back up and running. It hasn't functioned for the last several years. The clarification on the budget issue was, if we approve this, it's not installed until next fiscal year and in the meantime, we will stick that \$11,000.00, if it gets approved, in the budget to go forward, and the rest of it is covered in the grant for next fiscal year.

Councilman Perea asked how long will it take to recoup the \$11,000.00?

City Fire Chief Stork stated because the system hasn't run for so long, and Mount Wheeler didn't have any of the actual data, we are unsure. The amount that it will run in the day with the number of panels we have got out there we should be able to run pretty much everything that we have for the most part.

Councilwoman Williams Harper moved to accept the quote received by Sol-Up Nevada for the purchase and installation of three SolarEdge Energy Bank 10kWh batteries for the Ely Fire Station Photovoltaic Panel System with remaining Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Funds, Project #C66854 in the amount of \$46,882.50 contingent on construction starting in FY25 to budget additional funds not covered by grant. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas stated ongoing complaints regarding the Pine West Development at 701 East Aultman needing to be fenced off for public safety; the progress of the Bell Avenue Project and that he has not seen any meter boxes installed; who paid for the asphalt paving at 901 Avenue H and 1100 Avenue L; concerns with water and sewer hook ups and no fire hydrant at the RV Park at 582 N. Highway 93; code violations not being addressed by the Planning Commission, some Council Members, and some Commissioners; selective enforcement and equal protection under the law; and the drainage coming off the Bath property onto the west side of his property located at 622 High Street.

**12. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Elliott moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Council at 5:53 p.m. Councilman Perea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST