



# CITY OF ELY

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

## ELY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 23, 2025, 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
- Councilwoman Melody Van Camp
- Councilwoman Samantha Elliott
- Councilman Dennis Perea
- 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 Fire Chief Pat Stork
- City Building Official Don Hendrickson
- City Attorney Chris Arabia
- City Police Chief Scott Henriod
- City Municipal Court Judge Mike Coster (Zoom)
- 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, Wyatt Cox-KELY, Eugene Wyatt, and Lena Ocasio with the USDA.

### ELY CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2025

Print name below

Print name below

Dean Reynolds  
George Chachas  
MARTY WESTLAND  
Andrea Westland

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## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated on your agenda, item 7A-2 regarding payment of bills; invoice number 53176 from Sharp Ambulance Billing in the amount of \$1,849.97 is a lot of money leaving the City. You have a city clerk, city treasurer, and the fire chief that are all well paid, and they need to do the ambulance billing. Farming out of their responsibilities needs to stop. Try replacing the burned-out streetlights, some of which have been out now three or four months, that's not a good sign. On your agenda item 7B-4 you are to consider the possible appropriation of \$1,730,000 for future capital projects. What are the proposed projects? I want to know if the drainage from the west side of the tracks on 7th Street erodes my property at 622 High Street and Ely Street is on that list. On your agenda item 7B-2 you are to consider the possible appointment of Steve Baer to the Regional Transportation Commission, and I ask that you appoint someone else.

Approximately three years ago Engineer Almberg and NDOT Engineer Steve Baer asked me if I had a permit to park behind the sidewalk at my motel property at 710 Avenue G. I told him I didn't know that I was required to have one. I then asked for an application, and to date I have not received an application. My property's closed. I'm tired of the games. Either we have rules and regulations that apply to everybody, or they apply to nobody.

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

Councilwoman Elliott moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

No Reports

## 5. REPORTS

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS-HARPER

Councilwoman Williams-Harper stated Ely is just a wonderful place, and the way its citizens rally. It was great to see so many people come out for the fireworks and the burning of the Viking ship the Lions Club did. It was cold as heck, and people stood around and just had a wonderful time and that really shows how much our residents care about the place in which they live. I just want to remind people how wonderful the college is speaking from my school district side. We have students taking college courses, and the college only charges the students \$75.00 for those courses, and we also have some courses where the School District has been able to cover the cost. For instance, I teach the education courses, and my students don't have to pay anything. I really love the way the college is working with our students in the community. I've got one young lady that will be graduating and she's taking thirteen courses when she graduates this spring. The College is good to our kids and it's affordable. The kids really like what happens at Great Basin College (GBC).

### ➤ COUNCILWOMAN VAN CAMP

Councilwoman Van Camp stated I attended the Town Hall meeting for the Great Basin College, there were many in attendance. They talked about all the wonderful programs they've got going up there, and of course, like everyone else, they need money, and they've outgrown their facility. The Redevelopment Committee hasn't met for well over a year, so I met with Jennifer to jump start this committee, and we're in the process of getting it going, as spring is just around the corner. I also attended the Natural Resource Advisory Committee, and there was a wonderful presentation from SixCo. Nevada Company. It's currently located in Lincoln County, and they did a wonderful presentation regarding its biomass to biofuels. They gave a nice report on what they're doing down in Lincoln County, and it is possibly something that we could look at for here. The U.S. Forest Service is rebuilding all their own fencing that's over sixty years old. They're putting up new barracks down at their agency. There's interest in the old mining explorations. They're working on bike trails, campgrounds, and all their SNPLMA grants. The National Park Service is going to be doing a lot of maintenance work up at Lehman Caves with new electrical going in the caves so it's going to be closed for a few months.

There was a big concern about their snowpack. The filling of Cave Lake is going really well and they're going to start stocking it with fish in the spring. It's filling up faster than they expected, and they're also concerned about the snowpack. Resource Concepts did a little bit on the pumped storage issue. It was a well-attended meeting, and it lasted for a couple hours, but it was really interesting.

➤ **MAYOR ROBERTSON**

Mayor Robertson stated I appreciate everybody who went to the Great Basin College Town Hall. I wasn't able to do it because of a conflicting meeting, but it sounds like the City was well represented. I was able to attend some of the Fire and Ice Festival this last weekend and appreciate all the volunteer work, and certainly the work from city staff, including our Fire Department, which spent a lot of time making sure everybody was safe. There were a lot of fireworks and a lot of events, and it sounds like everything went off well.

## 6. GEORGETOWN RANCH QUARTERLY REPORT

**From:** Betsy Vogler <[betsyvogler77@gmail.com](mailto:betsyvogler77@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 8:04 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Lee <[CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov](mailto:CityClerk@cityofelynv.gov)>  
**Subject:** Quarterly report 10/1/24- 12/31/24

Hi Jennifer,

Here is the quarterly report. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Betsy K Vogler

10/1/24- Joe Noyes with NRCS called and asked if he could go on Georgetown with new employee to do training with items the 3 of us had discussed a week or so earlier. I said that was fine.

10/23/24 Moved cows back to Georgetown

11/9/24 Had hunters on the field shooting ducks while trying to move livestock across meadow into corrals. Not given permission. Contacted NDOW and sheriff's office.

11/13/24 - Removed all cattle but 7, until first part of April 2025. They will be fed at Georgetown until sold.

12/16/24-Ethan Marshall called and decided to go a different direction so he will not be using Georgetown to feed his cattle.

Plans for next quarter.

Inspecting the BLM allotment including springs, troughs, piping or anything else needing to be fixed at the 3 water locations. Work on fencing along with inspecting the feed. Working on allotment range improvements and bringing them back up to the requirements of the BLM to meet the standards for leasing. Discussing items with the Range Specialist for other ways to improve allotments health for wildlife and livestock. Getting a list of scheduled events for outdoor recreational uses during grazing season to keep livestock out of the area for everyone's safety.

If the weather continues to stay mild mowing/controlled burning and seeding areas with thick brush, including south end corner by radio station.

Improving ditches for water flow. Improving fencing along Georgetown Street.

## 7. 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. I would also like to disclose I did receive payment for my business for the work I did for the Animal Control Department.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 7A-1 Minutes and 7A-2 Bills.

Moved by: Councilwoman Van Camp Second by: Councilwoman Williams-Harper Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action – Minutes.
  - January 9, 2025
2. Discussion/For Possible Action – Bills.
  - January 6, 2025

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Acceptance of Mary Kerner’s resignation from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Mayor Robertson stated I would just like to thank Mrs. Kerner for all of her work. She brought some good expertise on contracts and dug into some stuff while she was there. Unfortunately, she has some things that are taking her in some other directions.

Councilman Perea moved to accept Mary Kerner’s resignation from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mayor Robertson – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approve Mayoral appointment of Steve Baer to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) with term expiring December 31, 2027.

Mayor Robertson stated Mr. Baer was the local resident engineer for NDOT. He’s retired and is going through some health issues but was willing to do this. I appreciate his willingness because he does bring a lot of expertise to the board and has a good working relationship with a lot of these people already.

Councilwoman Williams-Harper moved to approve Mayoral appointment of Steve Baer to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) with term expiring December 31, 2027. Councilwoman Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Councilwoman Elliott – Councilman Trask – 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 December 2024

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**Appropriations Requests**

- Awaiting final passage of the FY25 funding bills, expected to occur mid-March 2025, for the Radio Systems CPF to be funded

**Additional Grants**

- Arranged meeting with FRA to determine next steps for the CRISI Grant.
  - Grant was not funded due to concerns around the NEPA process/ environmental unknowns.
  - Followed up with Mark Bassett to determine next steps, and plan to update the EA done previously. It’s expected to be completed in June, 2025 in time to reapply again.
  - Arranging a second meeting with FRA to see if they agree this addresses their concerns.

**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.

Councilwoman Elliott stated we are still waiting to have a meeting and see about our projects, and resubmitting those.

Mayor Robertson stated we're hoping to have a meeting Thursday. I know Brian has been working on some questions with City Clerk Lee. I know he's taken some of my calls as these executive orders have come out. One came out this morning having to do with projects funded by the EPA. As you know, some of our earmarks are funded through the EPA. He assured us that that was not what was going on here. Our earmarks are part of Congressional law to be rescinded. Technically it has to be an act of Congress, but a lot of fun things are happening lately, and you never quite know, but Brian has been researching a lot of that, and we appreciate their work.

4. Council Members – City Treasurer Trask – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval to appropriate the following Community Support expense budget (10-68-817) amounts to the following transfer budget expenses for future capital projects: 1) \$450,000 – Transfer -Capital Project Fund (10-69-950); 2) \$600,000 – Transfer-Water Fund (10-69-935); and 3) \$680,000 – Transfer-Sewer Fund (10-69-930).

City Treasurer Trask stated I'm coming to you guys to request these transfers to move the committed funds from the committed fund, which was the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that we received. The Council has already committed those funds for infrastructure and housing so basically, most of it is for capital projects already. By transferring this, it cleans up my General Fund and reflects a true balance of what is coming in and out of that. So going forward, I can move that out of the General Fund and put it in these funds that it was intended for.

Councilman Perea asked at one point you had said some of that ARPA funding was going to go back as it was unrestricted?

City Treasurer Trask stated it has always been unrestricted. I budget it, but the Council has always been the one to say what they want to use it for

Councilman Perea stated so it more clearly delineates the money.

City Treasurer Trask stated yes, and I just feel at this point it would be nice to have the General Fund reflect what it really has coming in and out of it as we go forward.

Councilman Perea stated then that balance wouldn't be distorted.

City Treasurer Trask stated yes.

Councilman Perea moved to approve appropriating the following Community Support expense budget (10-68-817) amounts to the following transfer budget expenses for future capital projects: 1) \$450,000 – Transfer -Capital Project Fund (10-69-950); 2) \$600,000 – Transfer-Water Fund (10-69-935); and 3) \$680,000 – Transfer-Sewer Fund (10-69-930). Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Council Members – City Clerk Lee – Discussion/For Possible Action - Review and possible approval of Verizon request to allow Vertical Bridge to lease, operate, and manage the Verizon Site, owned by the City of Ely. Vertical Bridge will be leasing or managing Verizon's interests of the Site and will lease back a portion of the site to Verizon and may sublease space to other wireless telecommunications and fiber companies.

City Attorney Arabia stated I want to thank Councilman Perea and Jennifer Lee for helping me with this issue. I spoke to the person representing Verizon and there's actually a bunch of issues involved, a couple of which he wanted to take to whoever is above him. I was hoping he'd get back to me today and he wasn't able to, so I'm going to ask that it be tabled. To reiterate there's several different things going on, and I am confident that we will get a good outcome for the City.

Councilwoman Elliott moved to table Verizon’s request to allow Vertical Bridge to lease, operate, and manage the Verizon Site, owned by the City of Ely. Vertical Bridge will be leasing or managing Verizon's interests of the Site and will lease back a portion of the site to Verizon and may sublease space to other wireless telecommunications and fiber companies. Councilwoman Van Camp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

George Chachas stated I've yet to hear whether the former City Attorney ever filed any kind of concern with regard to 408 High Street. I also want to know who the inspector is or was for the Bell Avenue CDBG project. I want contact information for the inspector and the CDBG people that you're reporting to. Mr. Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding the alleged fence damage during the Bell Avenue Project; Drainage off of Avenue M affecting his property at the end of Avenue M.; the roadway near Golden Gate not meeting Code; lack of curb, gutter, sidewalk, and ADA access from the south end of the Golden Gate RV park going towards the Holiday Inn; Code violations by members of the Planning Commission, former city council members, and some county commissioners; and the drainage from the Bath property draining onto his property located at 622 High Street causing erosion.

**9. 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 **5:23 p.m.** Councilwoman Williams-Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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MAYOR

  
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ATTEST