



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301
City Hall (775) 289-2430
Cityofelynv.gov

ELY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 2024, 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 8:00 a.m., led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for Roll Call.

Members present:

- Chairman John O’Flaherty
- Vice Chairman Dale Derbidge
- Member Ken Ross
- Member Sherrie Marquez

Members absent

- Member Greg Rivero

City Officials and staff present:

- City Clerk Jennifer Lee
- City Public Works Director Mike Cracraft
- City Attorney Leo Cahoon
- City Engineer B.J. Almberg
- Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below): Rebecca Murdock, and Kathy Workman.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: May 9, 2024

Print name below

George Chachas
Janet VanDang
Frederick Parbey
Kyle Tate

Print name below

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas stated Mr. Chairman, you need to take public comment back to what it was before on all items, not just on the agenda items. There's not enough time at the end of the meeting to bring everything forward. On your agenda item 3C-1 you're to consider removing past due utility fees and penalties on that property and again, I'm not against them getting the write off, but I want consideration and protection under the law. I want to remind you again that I paid for my property at 490 High Street, the principal, and penalty amount as instructed in the letter from City Clerk Jennifer Lee, dated November 25, 2019, and yet, to date, the city continues to bill me for \$1,727.04. The City has failed to reimburse me for the overpayments that I made for the old Ely Grade School at 622 High Street. You wrote off all the back billing for young Tom Bath when he purchased the Plaza Hotel. I remind you again, the City gave the property owners of 790 avenue I a \$4,000.00 or more write off and that property used all utilities for years and had not paid. The City claimed it was an employee error to justify the write-off. Your City employees have committed and are committing gross errors when it comes to me. I want to remind you; federal law prohibits discrimination in any federally funded or assisted public utility. The City cannot selectively enforce the law. The City must be compliant with federal law in particular, the Ages Discrimination Act, 1975; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title 6. The items that I brought before you, not one item has come up on your agenda for you to give me an answer on or to clear the item up. It's about time we started doing what the law requires.

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 Derbidge Second by: Member Marquez Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - April 11, 2024

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.

Robinson Mine Senior Manager of Environmental Resources Frederick Parthey PhD, PMP reviewed the information below in the email and stated I am here today with Kyle Tate who is the new Environmental Manager for Robinson Mine. I've been going back and forth between all of our mines. There will be somebody representing Robinson Mine at these meetings. If I'm in town, I'm going to attend, but if not, Kyle is going to be attending. Another reason why I'm here today is to talk about a need to start looking for water for 7P, which is our main well that provides water to the City of Ely. Last year we put some money into the budget to start looking for water. It took us awhile to zero in on where we would put this potential new well and we realized in March that we wanted to

put in a pilot as an exploratory well, to help us identify and make sure there is quality, quantity, and the fractures are good. This will be a 1,500-foot pilot well. We did a test to look for fractures. 6P was an area that we know very well that's gone dry and would be ideal if we could put a pilot well there, but that's not feasible, because when you look at a fracture system at depth, there is not enough fracture structure to actually help with production, and we know 7P does based on the testing. The other question that came up is why are you telling us now and why wouldn't you have come earlier on? I was actually coming to this meeting today to talk about this pilot well and we realized that we needed to start drilling earlier than we had anticipated. We have two wells that were planned; one was going to be for the Ruth General Improvement District (GID), and the other one was this pilot well. We were going to go to the Ruth GID first, and then come to 7P and that would have given me enough time to come talk to the Municipal Utility Board before we got there. Unfortunately, we had to do some work around 2P and we can't have the two rigs in the same area. We decided to come to 7P earlier and that has contributed to the fact that there wasn't enough time for me to tell the Municipal Utility Board about the drilling of this pilot well, that should help us make sure we always have continuous water supply to the City of Ely. We don't want 7P to go dry before we start looking for a new well, so we want to do it now. Once the pilot goes in, then, if it's productive, next year we will drill the actual well, and hopefully should have both wells. If 7P continues to have water we will continue to pump, if it doesn't have enough water, we will have this new well to produce if not 3,000 GPM close to 3,000 GPM. We'll find out because the pilot is going to tell us everything that we need to know for production and what our quality is. We met with a section of the board and Jennifer on Tuesday to talk about this, and I told them I would be here today to talk about this with the whole Municipal Utility Board. If there are any questions with regards to this pilot well, I'm hoping to answer them as I am able.

Jennifer Lee

From: Frederick Parthey <Frederick.Parthey@us.kghm.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 6:26 AM
To: Jennifer Lee
Subject: Utility Board Meeting Update

Hello Jennifer,

I will be able to attend the utility board meeting this morning, however, I am providing you an update on "Old Business" Item B 1. *Ruth Pit development and water mitigation efforts within the City of Ely* for the records.

Robinson continue to mine from the Ruth pit complex, here is the breakdown of fresh water dewatering effort from the South block.

About 8,082gpm is being pumped, 2,354gpm is going into Gleason Creek and the rest is going to the mill for ore processing. RW-7P is delivering 1,071gpm into the city water system.

Please let me know if the utility board has any questions. See you soon.

Thanks,

Frederick

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City Clerk Lee stated just for clarification it was the City's Water Committee that met on Tuesday.

Chairman O'Flaherty asked what size in diameter are you proposing on the pilot well?

Frederick Partey stated it will be four inches.

Vice Chairman Derbidge asked how close to 7P will this pilot well be?

Frederick Partey stated it will be within fifty to one hundred feet.

Vice Chairman Derbidge asked won't that be in the same water base?

Frederick Partey stated yes. We know that the water quality is good; we just don't know the depth. 7P is 1,000 feet deep and the pilot well will go 1,500 feet deep. We will need to shut off 7P for about three weeks while we are doing this pilot, and I'll be working with Kyle to make sure that we give him at least a forty-eight-hour notice. The drill rig is coming in on Monday, then they will set up on Tuesday, and probably will put in the case on Wednesday. Probably Wednesday or Thursday is when we will need to shut 7P off and I will give Kyle enough time to make sure the tank is full, and I know for sure we have five wells in the alluvium that will be pumping to make sure that there is continuous supply of water to the city of Ely.

Member Ross asked to clarify do you have an idea of the mortality of 7P?

Frederick Partey stated yes, right now the water level there is 748 feet, and we have about 240 feet of head on that. At 800 feet is where we know a lot of water is coming in. If you look at it, there's about 50 feet of where we know there is enough water coming in, and we are drawing down about 25 feet a year. So, we probably have about two more years on 7P. The mortality will probably be 2026 and in 2025 we will put in the new well. We want to make sure that the City's covered.

Chairman O'Flaherty asked during this period, Robinson Mine is taking the burden of the additional electrical costs the city will occur?

Frederick Partey stated we always do. The truth of the matter is, even when 7P is pumped in the summer we pump maybe 4,500 gallons per minute, and Robinson is paying for everything. We are trying to figure out at what point to stop, but we've not stopped, and we pay everything that comes to us right now. The exploration is going to go up to 1,500 feet and if we realize that we have a very good aquifer zone. The actual well may end at 1,200 feet or 1,300 feet, but we want to make sure we go as far as we can and know there is water. This exploration well is really telling us where to end the actual well.

Chairman O'Flaherty asked you're pumping goal or rate is still 3,000 gallons per minute on the new well?

Frederick Parthey stated yes, that is our goal.

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 \$148.73 from 10 Avenue F, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Grant Chilson.

Member Ross moved to recommend the removal of past due utility fee penalties up to the amount of \$148.73 from 10 Avenue F, McGill, Nevada at the request of Property Owner, Grant Chilson. Member Marquez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ CITY CLERK

City Clerk Lee stated as the CDBG Administrator, I traveled over to Carson City with Mike and B.J. for them to present at the allocation meeting. They did a great job and we were awarded our full request of \$671,625.00 for our Morley project. Our Bell Avenue Project bid opening has been pushed back.

➤ CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer AlMBERG stated Jennifer expressed some of the things that I was going to say. We did have a meeting with Robinson Nevada Mine Company (RNMC) this week and I just want to express it was a very good meeting about this pilot well. We agreed to come back in July and meet again to start our negotiations and figure out what they discovered with this pilot well. We did get the data collector for our GIS system that will go to our crews. We anticipate that we'll have all the information on it uploaded and that we can spend time with the crews next week training them, so they'll have it with them every day out in the field, continuing to collect for our system as they have leaks and everything else they deal with.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Chachas stated ongoing concerns regarding his concerns with the egress and ingress at the Golden Gate project; the drainage from the Bath property onto his property at 622 High Street; permitted RVs throughout the City and if they are paying utilities; remedies regarding code violations on his property located at 710, 729, 733, and 745 Great Basin Boulevard suffered by the NDOT Project; the alleyway between his property and Napa having a problem for over a year and wants that rectified as he is unable to get in there and do maintenance; reimbursement for the sewer problem he took care of at his property located at 681 Parker Avenue; if the City ever collected in full for water, sewer and landfill services from the Historical Railroad when they owned the White Pine Trailer Park; and the two waterlines that were removed during the project on Bell Avenue that service his property and states he would like to have those put back and not at his expense.

Municipal Utilities Board – Regular Meeting – May 9, 2024

City Clerk Lee stated the next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024, with a Special meeting being held on May 23, 2024.

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

Chairman O’Flaherty adjourned the regular meeting of the Municipal Utilities Board at **8:22 a.m.**



Attest



Chairman