

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SHELL LAKE  
November 29, 2017**

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were McCumber, Edlin, Andrews, Harrington, Smith, Anderson, Leckel and Schultz. Also present were Danielle Danford, David Wilson, Sally Bartz, Amy Stormberg, Bill Jenderny, Brandon Meyer and Andy Eiche.

Sally Peterson requested David Wilson to present a letter of accommodation to Officer Brandon Meyer for his outstanding performance relating to a recent burglary.

Eiche presented the 2018 budget recommended by the Finance Committee.

Sally Peterson gave an overview of meeting procedure to the audience.

A Public Hearing was held on the proposed 2018 city budget. The budget includes Funds 100, 260, 270 and 310. Copies of the budget were distributed.

Sally Bartz, President of the Shell Lake Library Board, and Amy Stormberg, Director of the Shell Lake Library, gave an over view of the libraries budget request in light of the recommendation by the Finance committee.

Stormberg explained the library request to be the \$5,000.00 recommended by Finance, plus the desire to receive an additional \$3,358.11. Schultz requested to comment. Mayor Peterson asked the Council to refrain from commenting until the Public Hearing was closed.

Bartz presented the council with an article relating to the subject of library employee classification as a municipal employee.

Bartz continued, wishing to express clarification regarding Amy Stormberg's duties as Director of the Library, stating; "Amy Stormberg does help the general public along with performing her administrative duties."

Stormberg explained how the decrease in funding by the County was the biggest contributing factor to their need for an increase in funding from the City tax levy.

The Council was presented with several pages of information pertaining to the usage of the library.

There was no further public comment. Peterson closed the public hearing.

Edlin asked why the Library was bringing up the article relating to library employees.

Schultz commented on the document. He pointed out areas of the document which were not mentioned by the library, saying that comments and responsibilities within the document were ignored by the library in their presentation. Schultz continued; "I don't have the ability to tell departments what they can and can't do. We are limited to the resources available to us. I support the library, but, there are fiscal limitations."

Smith added that although he is not a lawyer he did have concern about some of the material within the document.

Leckel presented the Council with a list of considerations for the budget, with the request that each item go toward either reducing or increasing the contingency account.

Leckel expressed his concern over the amount of money being spent on fireworks. Eiche explained how the additional \$500.00 was not for the purchase of additional fireworks. The additional \$500.00 was to be spent on the replacement of old tubes used to shoot off the fireworks. It was a safety issue expressed by the Fire Chief Keith Dahlstrom.

Leckel moved, seconded by Andrews, to reduce the fireworks budget by \$500.00. McCumber, Schultz and Smith voiced their concern for safety as it related to this decision. Vote was taken; Leckel voted in favor, the other seven members voted against. Motion failed.

Leckel introduced his desire to move \$10,000.00 from the contingency account to the tennis court outlay account, stating that it would get us closer to the amount needed to refurbish the tennis courts. Smith moved, seconded by Andrews, to move \$10,000.00 from the contingency account to the tennis court outlay account. Vote was taken; McCumber was opposed, the other seven members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Leckel introduced his desire to move \$1,500.00 from the contingency account to the Street Equipment-Equipment Purchases account. Smith requested the Council come back to this later in the meeting.

Leckel introduced his desire to move \$2,500.00 from the contingency account to the Police Department Wages (LTE) account to provide room for more coverage if needed in 2018. Wilson explained his reasoning behind his \$4,400.00 reduction from last year as he was able to manage the City's coverage needs while still anticipating finishing the year of 2017 in the black for this account. Schultz asked why they would throw more money at a department that already received what they needed. Smith suggested the City could look at the contingency account in 2018 if they experienced an unforeseen need. Edlin mentioned this was already discussed. Schultz added this request should originate from the Chief of Police as a need and it didn't. Wilson added he was comfortable with the original decision he and the City Administrator had made. Andrews called the question. Leckel moved, seconded by McCumber, to move \$2,500.00 from the contingency account to the Police Department Wages (LTE) account. Peterson expressed her opinion that they look to the contingency account if the need arises next year as it would provide the City with more flexibility. Roll call vote was taken: McCumber – Yes, Smith – No, Andrews – No, Edlin – No, Schultz – No, Harrington – No, Leckel – Yes, Anderson – No. Motion failed.

Leckel introduced his desire move \$2,126.63 from the contingency account to the Library fund. The figure he proposed was based on his desire to bring the contingency account down to \$10,000.00. Leckel went on to state he felt the library needed to consider a restructuring of their personnel, and hopefully county funding will bounce back in the future. Schultz explained his request of the City Administrator to break down the libraries original request. He went on to explain the elimination of health insurance from the request, the addition of 1 hour per week for the Director and the net loss of funding between the County shortfall and the adjacent county increase. Schultz added; "Can we continue to make up shortages due to other entities reductions? The counties formula

reduced your funding from them due to lower circulation, yet we have to make up the difference. I support the library, but on this side of the table I need to wear a different hat. Since Finance, you revised the budget again. Now you have increased categories based on Finance's decision. The challenge is the Library asks for more money every year regardless of what they get from the county, and it becomes the new base for their next year's request. Streets, roads and buildings are important too. We have to borrow to do major projects." Harrington asked how many libraries there were in the County. Stormberg answered two. Some asked about Minong, and Stormberg responded; "That is not a library." Harrington asked if the school gave money. Stormberg responded; "They can." Harrington asked if the county funding will continue to go down. Although Stormberg could not answer that quest, she did add that the tendency shows that when Shell Lake goes down, Spooner goes up and vice versa. Stormberg mentioned factors relating to Chapter 43. Smith asked if there was a trend relating to circulation. Stormberg responded that it is up and down. Smith asked if the Library could promote circulation. Stormberg responded; "We design programs to promote increased circulation." Smith responded; "The Library needs to increase circulation. We can't do it for you." Anderson added; "I am sensitive to the needs of the library, but we need to be sensitive to all the needs of the City. We can't be expected to continually make up the County's shortfalls. Andrews moved, seconded by Leckel, to move \$2,126.63 from the contingency account to the Library fund. McCumber asked several questions requesting they be answered simply with a yes or no answer; "Did the County give less money because circulation was down?" Stormberg responded; "Yes." McCumber; "Does your request include a 2% raise for all Library employees?" Stormberg responded; "Yes." McCumber; "I can't justify increases when circulation went down. Ken Schultz is absolutely correct." Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – No, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – No, Schultz – No, Edlin – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – No, McCumber – No. Motion failed.

Schultz requested the Council vote on the Libraries request at the beginning of the meeting for an additional \$3,358.11. Discussion took place regarding the necessity of the motion. McCumber moved, seconded by Anderson, to deny a move of \$3,358.11 from the contingency account to the Library fund. Six members of the Council voted in favor of the motion, Leckel and Andrews voted against. Motion carried.

Schultz voiced a desire to reduce the \$5,000.00 recommendation by Finance down to \$2,229.00, but said he would not do that. Schultz added he was not sure how many years we can continue doing this. Andrews added; "This should have been handled differently."

McCumber moved, seconded by Edlin, to deny the request to move \$1,500.00 from the contingency account to the Street Equipment-Equipment Purchases account. The motion carried with Smith and Leckel voting no.

Schultz moved, seconded by Edlin, to adopt the 2018 budget as amended, representing a total levy of \$990,406.00. Leckel asked if anyone else had any ideas. McCumber pointed out the contingency account would have a balance of \$15,626.63. Smith asked the City Administrator questions relating to contingency balance. Eiche responded. Anderson added: "This is not a huge safety net." Smith also mentioned how \$15,000.00 is miniscule when compared to the big picture. Roll call vote was taken: McCumber – Yes, Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel – No, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Smith asked if the Mayor intended to veto.

Leckel commented he did not like the new chairs.

McCumber moved, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. The motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_, City Administrator