

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
May 14, 2020**

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Council members present were Smith, Andrews, Harrington, Schultz and Anderson. Andrew Eiche, David Wilson, Danelle Danford, Ben Dryden, Vicki Swan and Mike Ring were also present.

Dan Harrington requested the floor. Harrington apologized for his behavior at the previous council meeting, explaining that he had taken medication just prior to the meetings beginning, not realizing the meeting would take as long as it did. He stated how the medication must have started taking effect before the meeting ended. Peterson accepted the apology.

Smith declared that the council should treat both campgrounds the same. Peterson requested they handle the agenda items one at a time. Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to open the municipal campground while encouraging safe/social distancing. Smith pointed out the last two bullet points in the recent Washburn County Public Health Department statement. Smith went on, "I do not agree that the Supreme Court decision is our only option. I can't see how we could stay socially distant." Schultz agreed with Smith that the City has power over its own properties.

Leckel arrived at 5:08 p.m.

Schultz stated, "The reality is I can't justify keeping the campgrounds closed. It is the people's individual choice." Harrington asked what the volume of reservations was for Memorial Day weekend. Eiche informed the council that the ATV campground was 100% full, and as of this evening the Municipal campground has 3 remaining sites available. Anderson stated, "Let me re-iterate what I said from the previous meeting. We need to put safety and health before economic concerns. Currently, over 80,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. alone. The death rate is currently 2,000 per day. That is more than Katrina and the World Trade Center. We would be bringing in people from out of State. We have limited health care facilities. Our hospital has only one ventilator. We also must consider the safety of our employees. How will we enforce social distancing? Smith added that the number of deaths will be over 100,000 by Memorial Day. Harrington asked how we would plan to clean bathrooms frequently. Eiche explained that current employees are either working or ready to work, and we may need to use additional employees for continual disinfection cleaning depending upon what gets opened.

Edlin arrived at 5:17 p.m.

Leckel stated, "We have an opportunity to take control back from Madison. We need to use common sense. The reality is no one has COVID-19 in Shell Lake. We have businesses that could lose everything. Yes, the numbers are terrible, but not everyone that is dying is killed by corona. People die every day. We need to take a leadership role. If we don't, there will be irreparable damage to businesses. We need to get Shell Lake up and operating." Mike Andrews agreed with Leckel. Andrews stated, "The Burnett death was shipped to Minneapolis. We may only have one ventilator, but that is used to stabilize before they are shipped somewhere else. I have spoke to several businesses in town that have stated they will go bankrupt if we do not open the campgrounds." Anderson stated, "I remember Donald Trump saying the same things. Now look at the U.S. I am sensitive to the businesses needs, but I don't want to go to a funeral either."

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to amend the original motion to include that the municipal campground will open on May 20, 2020. Roll call vote was taken on the amendment; Anderson – No, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – No. Motion carried.

Roll call vote was taken on the original motion as amended; Smith – No, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – No, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel – Yes, Anderson – No. Motion carried.

Anderson asked for clarification on the length of the decision. Eiche informed the council that the City Attorney advised that all decisions can be reversed or altered at any time. Anderson asked how enforcement would be handled. Wilson answered that they would be enforcing social distancing, but he was hopeful that they would be receiving near-term guidance from the Washburn County Public Health Department. In the meantime, the Shell Lake Police Department will be encouraging safe, social distancing. Said Wilson, "I think we will be able to accomplish this."

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the opening of the ATV campground as of May 20, 2020. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – No, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – No. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Harrington, to put both the City Pier and City Dock in the water for use immediately. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – No, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel – Yes, Anderson – No. Motion carried.

Harrington moved, seconded Andrews, to open the tennis court, basketball court, volleyball court and baseball field at Tip Town Park. Smith voiced that baseball, volleyball and basketball were contact sports and stated, "It is way too early to do this. This is crazy." Anderson pointed out that the Shell Lake Lion's have already cancelled the Triathlon, and the Shell Lake Arts Center is closed for the season. Anderson went on, "How much lip service are we giving to social distancing? How do you stay 6 feet apart playing volleyball or basketball?" Schultz agreed with Anderson on the volleyball and basketball. Andrews agreed with Schultz. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – No, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – No, Edlin – No, Andrews – No, Smith – No. Motion failed.

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to open the tennis courts, keep basketball court closed, open the Tip Town baseball field and keep the volleyball court closed. Smith asked how you keep socially distant in baseball. Leckel responded, "We can't protect people from themselves." Schultz stated he agreed with Smith. Peterson stated, "We are forgetting about the youngsters. They can make a choice. If someone doesn't like it, stay away." Anderson responded, "We are thinking about the children. The parents won't be there. The kids are alone." Peterson responded, "Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am entitled to mine." Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews to amend the original motion to state the opening of the tennis courts with the basketball, volleyball and baseball closed at this time. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – No, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – No. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to keep the Shelter House, Community Center and Pavilion closed indefinitely. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – No, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – No, Leckel – No, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Eiche explained how current staffing would make it challenging, but possible, to open the campground bathrooms. Peterson voiced a desire to see the North beach bathroom opened. Harrington was concerned about the public flooding local business restrooms if ours were not open. Edlin moved, seconded by Leckel, to follow the City Administrator's advice and open the campground restrooms and the Tip Town restroom since the tennis courts were opened, with the remaining restrooms closed. Peterson voiced concern in not having beach restrooms open. Anderson stated, "They will go where they have always gone; In the 2,600-acre lake." Andrews pointed out how smaller restrooms like the North beach restroom are very hard to keep clean as there is only one toilet. Andrews began to speak on the Pavilion restroom, but was not able to finish. Schultz requested to hear Andrews comments on the Pavilion restroom. Peterson apologized to Andrews for interrupting, but she was having a difficult time hearing due to background noise. Andrews suggested the North beach bathroom remain closed, but the Pavilion bathroom should be opened. Andrews moved, seconded by Schultz, to amend the motion to include the Pavilion restrooms. Smith voiced desire to make sure we have cleaning done on a frequent basis. Roll call vote was taken on the amendment to the original motion to include the Pavilion restrooms opening; Anderson – No, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – No. Motion carried.

Roll call vote was taken on the original motion as amended: Smith – No, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel - Yes, Anderson – No. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Harrington, to not put out the beach rafts. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes. Motion carried.

Schultz suggested a sign be placed on the beach saying “Swim at your own risk.” Smith suggested the sign only say “No Lifeguard on Duty.” Harrington pointed out, “People can still swim, they do all the time regardless of lifeguards presence or not.”

Peterson voiced her opinion that governing committees can meet in person, but City Council should not. Leckel requested we take the lead from the County and meet in person. Smith stated, “I am on the County Board. We are able to spread out. City Council does not have the space in the Chamber to accommodate special distancing. However, we could use the community center.” Schultz voiced agreement with Smith. Schultz moved, seconded by Smith, to have the City Council hold meetings in the Community Center, and that sub committees hold their meetings at City Hall unless there is something on their agenda that suggests the potential of a large audience. Edlin asked if the option to call in would remain. Schultz said the call option would be eliminated. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel - Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Eiche framed the request to limit socialization at City Hall, and to restrict presence of employees at City Hall if the work can be accomplished via the telephone. Anderson agreed with the assessment and thanked Andy. Peterson echoed the opinion stating, “If business can be conducted by phone, stay home. No lingering.” Anderson moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the City Hall arrangements as presented. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel - Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to not have the Shell Lake Art Fair in 2020. Eiche informed the Council that David Haessig was not going to be able to provide social distancing during the event. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Leckel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the July 3rd/4th events. Eiche reminded the council that they did not need to make a decision tonight. They could make a decision on the events at their June meeting. Schultz asked the council to wait until the Chamber and Town & Country Days committee meet so their opinion can be heard. Leckel asked if the fireworks had been ordered. Eiche said yes, however, if we do not use them this year, the company we purchased them from will store them off site for use next year. Andrew moved, seconded by Harrington, to postpone the decision on the 3rd of July Fireworks event until the next monthly meeting. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Edlin – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Leckel - Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Smith, to adjourn at 7:03 pm.

Sally Peterson, Mayor

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer