

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
August 9, 2021

Mayor Sally Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Stephen Smith, Mike Andrews, Deb Nebel, Rob Anderson, Ken Schultz and Rowie Hansberger. Dan Harrington was absent. Mitch Brown, David Wilson, Julie Hustvet, Johnathan Brown, John Salstrom, Brandon Wilger, Vicki Swan, Mike Swan and Andy Eiche were also present.

Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the council minutes from July 12, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Peterson moved the New Business of the presentation by Brandon Wilger (Two Rivers Accounting) of the 2020 City Financial Statements to the beginning. Wilger presented the 2020 Financial Statements.

Public Comment: John Salstrom thanked the governing body for their years of service. He went on to say he is looking forward to the Town & Country Days event, and that the Lake Park Alliance Church will be hosting the service at the beach this year.

Brown presented the Public Works Director Report.

Wilson presented the Police Chief report.

Eiche presented the Zoning Administrator's Report.

Peterson presented the Library Board minutes.

Rob Anderson presented the Lake Protection Advisory committee letter that will be going out to lake residents regarding a shoreland buffer grant being offered to the residents. By consensus, the council approved.

Mayor Peterson asked David Wilson to update the council on information he had received as a member of the County Board of Supervisors. Wilson informed the council he had participated in a meeting at Noon today, in which it was disclosed that there was only one active case in Washburn County relating to COVID. Wilson mentioned that the letter sent out by Washburn County Health the previous week was via the State, and the County Board of Supervisors has yet to take a position and that the County Executive committee will be meeting on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. to discuss their position.

Stephen Smith asked informed the council that he has been tracking COVID for over a year now, and suggested the council use common sense in their decisions.

Rowie Hansberger informed the council of a meeting she had with Washburn County Department of Health in which she was informed that there were 10 reported COVID cases in the last 2 weeks in Washburn County. Hansberger went on to provide info from her discussion with Washburn County Health Department on the Delta variant, reporting that 94% of the infected are now infected with the Delta variant, and that the Delta variant is "A better mouse." When Hansberger asked for guidance on the Shell Lake Lions fish fry event, the health department advised they do everything outside and mask indoors.

Wilson pointed out that there is still no legal enforcement to masking.

Mayor Peterson asked Rowie Hansberger if the information was from the State Public Health Department. Hansberger replied; "No, Washburn County only.

Anderson noted; "We can disagree about the definition of the word substantial. The experts are saying that Delta is highly contagious. The definition of substantial is not important."

Smith pointed out information that he had tracked stating that the big numbers of infections were coming out of Eau Claire County and Chippewa County, and out of the small counties in our area, Sawyer County had the most active cases.

Hansberger noted that the Washburn County Health Department had commented that where we are sitting now is worse than this time last year. Hansberger continued; "I am a believer in science, and science is telling us to be as safe as possible and that Delta is worse than COVID-19."

Mayor Peterson asked if the city follows County Public Health. Wilson replied yes. Mayor Peterson responded, "Until we hear from the County, we should wait." Smith added; "We select the County Health Department as the city Health Officer, we should not precede her decision."

Carlson moved, seconded by Schultz, to make no decision. Schultz asked what decision.

Smith moved, seconded by Carlson, to amend the original motion to say no changes and stick with the current policies we are following right now. Andrews voiced his opinion to make no decision until the county decides on Wednesday afternoon. Anderson spoke stating; "I think the guidance is very clear the county is giving. They are giving recommendations and we are ignoring them."

Roll call vote was taken on the amendment; Anderson – No, Nebel – No, Schultz – Yes, Hansberger – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes, Carlson – Yes. Motion carried.

Roll call vote was taken on the original motion as amended; Carlson – Yes, Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Hansberger – No, Schultz – Yes, Nebel – No, Anderson -No. Motion carried.

Anderson voiced disappointment for organizations needing to make decisions, and we did not make a decision. Carlson replied that we did make a decision. Smith added; "I don't think it should be the City Council telling the Lion's what to do. The Lion's should do that. Town & Country is mainly an outside activity." Anderson replied, "I don't know what you're saying Steve. It makes no sense."

Mayor Peterson thanked Hansberger for talking with the State. Hansberger corrected that she had spoken with Washburn County.

Mayor's Report: None.

Executive/HR Committee: Mayor Peterson presented the minutes.

General Administration: No meeting.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented the minutes. Schultz moved, seconded by Smith, to approve the amendment to the supplemental agreement on the 3rd Avenue project in the amount of \$2,400.00. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Parks and Recreation: Mayor Peterson presented the minutes. Carlson moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the following recommendations:

- To increase the Municipal Campground rates on all 4 rows by \$5.00 per night.
- To increase the ATV campground rates to \$45.00 per night.
- To increase the city pier boat slip rates to \$10.00.

Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Financial Administration: Smith presented the minutes. Smith moved, seconded by Carlson, to approve vouchers 758-978. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget status report was reviewed.

New Business: Andrews moved, seconded by Schultz, to approve the Street Use Permit for Town & Country Days. Motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the temporary class "B" Retailers License for Town & Country Days. Motion carried.

Nebel moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the Street Use Permit for the Lakeland Family Resource Center. Motion carried.

Andrews moved, seconded by Hansberger, to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer