

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
April 10, 2023**

Mayor Sally Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephen Smith, Mike Andrews, Brian Carlson, Rowie Hansberger, Ken Schultz, Dan Harrington, Rob Anderson and Deb Nebel. Dan Harrington was absent. Andy Eiche, Regan Kohler, David Wilson, Mitch Brown, Terry Severson, Jon Hailey, Mike Mayne, Pat Mayne, Phil Soltis, Chad Crow, Jean Milligan, Mary Harrington, Gerry Winch, Art Berlin, Mike Ring, Carol Thompson, Mary Dunbar and Nick Nelson were also present.

Mayor Peterson requested a moment of silence for the two officers from Cameron and Chetek.

Mayor Peterson thanked Brian Carlson for his service as an Alderperson for Ward 1.

Smith moved, seconded by Carlson, to approve the council minutes from March 13, 2023. Smith noted that the minutes reflected public comment from Carol Thompson, and, Ken Schultz responded to her question. Smith expressed his belief that Robert's Rules of Order do not allow for any feedback from the governing body when a person speaks during public comment. Mike Andrews agreed with Smith's statement. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Jon Hailey asked the mayor if the council would be providing opportunity for public comment during discussion of Hangar 97, or if any public comment needs to happen during the public comment section of the agenda. Mayor Peterson responded that the public's opportunity to speak is during the public comment section of the agenda.

Chad Crow commented on the Hangar 97 proposal, and noted on his 50+ years of experience in the aviation industry. Crow noted, "I know what a maintenance repair station looks like, and Hangar 97 in Forrest Lake is not a maintenance facility." He went on to express his inability to get Hangar 97 to respond to many calls he had made to their Forrest Lake facility. Crow also voiced concern relating to safety, parking, proximity of residential homes to the airport and noise. Crow finished stating, "In my opinion, Hangar 97 is primarily an event center."

Gerry Winch voiced his desire that the city negotiate with Hangar 97 before making any decision. He stated, "I know they are willing to limit the event sizes." Winch went on to mention how the fuel station can be made mobile.

Jon Hailey handed each council member a copy of the results to the petition he had facilitated.

Hansberger announced the donation of art from Fred Johnson Sr. to the Shell Lake Police Department. The city and Chief Wilson thanked Mr. Johnson for his generous donation.

Mayor Peterson moved the agenda item pertaining to hangar 97 forward on the agenda.

Old Business

Nebel moved, seconded by Anderson, to discontinue any further consideration of the proposal from Hangar 97.

Smith stated, "I disagree with this motion. It sends a message to any business wanting to come to Shell Lake that we do not want business." Smith went on to note they didn't send us a business plan, but we should negotiate." Anderson replied, "We don't need to. We already know what our citizens concerns are. They are opposed. I have only had one person speak to me in favor of the Hangar 97 proposal, but I have had many opposed." Smith replied, "I would like to see more about the repair facility. I'm still willing to listen and want to hear what they have to say."

Hansberger mentioned she is not saying she is pro or con to the proposal. Hansberger went on to mention that Hangar 97 has mentioned that their calls were not being returned. She also pointed out several rumors she had heard that were tainting peoples opinion of Hangar 97:

- It's a ponzi scheme
- It's a shell organization
- They are laundering money
- They will take the Federal grant money and run

- There will be planes circling waiting to land

Hansberger stated, "People are making decisions on Hangar 97 based on falsehoods." Hansberger went on to point out the strict regulations regarding airport fuel, and felt it would be in the best interest of the city to weigh the pros and cons before making any decisions. Hansberger concluded by stating, "We have not sat down at the table. Are we selling the city short? Can we negotiate? How many businesses are aware of this proposal?"

Andrews stated, "We need a business plan. The proposed agreement doesn't provide us with enough."

Schultz stated, "I have listened to them. 95% of their presentation was about events, with only 5% on aviation. At this point, I'm not sold on it. I would like the opportunity to do it."

Eiche commented on the various comments being made.

Mayor Peterson stated, "People here are opposed. I ask everyone here to put themselves in the place of those living on Burg's Park. They have neglected to provide a plan. The presentations they gave were foo-foo. I agree with the people hear tonight. We owe it to these people to give them an answer."

Anderson noted that every person has said the present agreement is "crap," and asked, "Why do we want to negotiate?" Carlson replied, "I'm not for it at all, but I agree with Smith that we should negotiate."

Schultz noted, "If we negotiate, I want it to happen within 90 days."

Hansberger noted, "I never said the present agreement was crap." Hansberger went on, "Foo-foo? What meetings?" Mayor Peterson replied, "The presentations they gave." Hansberger responded, "So, in my mind, that was not a meeting."

Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Nebel – Yes, Schultz – No, Hansberger – No, Andrews – No, Smith – No, Carlson – No. Motion failed.

Smith moved, seconded by Andrews, to refer the Hangar 97 proposal to the General Administration committee to negotiate a new proposal, and to bring it back to the City Council with a recommendation by the July City Council meeting.

Anderson voiced displeasure in having it sent to the General Administration committee, feeling that it should be handled by the City Council. Andrews and Mayor Peterson debated on Andrews previous comments from past meetings indicating his disfavor toward the proposal. Andrews explained how he had meant he was not in favor of events, but would listen if it were aviation related.

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

Brown presented the Public Works Director Report. Hansberger asked for a description of the base for the city walleye. Brown described the approved base. Hansberger asked if the city had any new bids for the Main Street sidewalks. Brown informed of the recent quote he received and plans to present to the City Council. Hansberger asked about the tennis courts. Brown replied he was presently in communication with Tennis West in getting a quote.

Wilson presented the Police Chief report. Schultz noted the police station is now if the Police Chief's hands. Hansberger asked if there would be an open house. Wilson replied in the affirmative.

Andrews noted the library had a meeting.

Mayor Peterson presented the Lake Board of Commissioners meeting minutes.

Andrews presented the Fire Association minutes.

Mayor's Report: None.

Executive/HR Committee: No meeting.

General Administration: Anderson presented the minutes. Anderson moved, seconded by Hansberger, to approve the 4th Avenue parking plan recommended by Washburn County. Motion carried.

Anderson moved, seconded by Hansberger, to approve allowing the Shell Lake Library to move into the space being vacated by the Shell Lake Police Department. Motion carried.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented the minutes. Mayor Peterson asked that the warming house be referred to the Parks & Rec. committee.

Parks and Recreation: Nebel presented the minutes.

Financial Administration: Smith presented the minutes. Smith moved, seconded by Carlson, to approve vouchers 256-394. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget status report was reviewed.

New Business: Andrews moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the mayoral appointments of David Zeug and David Ekern to the Board of the Shell Lake Housing Authority. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson referred the request by WashCo Grows for a community garden to the Parks & Rec. committee.

Mayor Peterson reminded everyone of the re-organizational meeting next week on Tuesday at 5:15 pm.

Andrews moved, seconded by Hansberger, to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer