

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
July 10, 2023

Mayor Sally Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephen Smith, Terry Severson, Rowie Hansberger, Ken Schultz, Dan Harrington, Rob Anderson, Mike Andrews and Deb Nebel. Andy Eiche, Regan Kohler, David Wilson, Mitch Brown, Brandon Wilger, Dan Rayman, Mike Mayne, Pat Mayne, JoAnne Wartgow, Janis Burkhardt, Mark Burkhardt, Chad Crow, Megan Johnson, Fred Johnson, Rick Cleary, Phil Sylla, LaVonne Kimmes, Gene Harrington, Todd Felhofer, Ann Ring, Mike Ring, Bryan Rydberg, Carol Thompson, Bob Van Arp, Bill Taubman, Brian Janz, Renelle Gill, Mary Dunbar, David Zeug and Leo Dunlavy were also present.

Mayor Peterson brought the presentation by Rick Cleary to the forefront of the meeting. Rick Cleary gave a presentation on the feasibility of building a trail on the properties the city is considering selling along County Hwy B West. Cleary gave a background to the audience on his experience in developing nature trails in the River Falls area. Cleary went on to explain how a switchback trail could be developed on the properties in question without the need for fill. Cleary also mentioned how trails can increase the value of the surrounding area, and how they can have a positive impact on neighboring businesses. Mayor Peterson introduced Todd Felhofer, Shell Lake Superintendent, who was in the audience. Smith asked Cleary about population of River Falls and the population of the area under the school district of River Falls. Smith felt River Falls was not a good comparison to Shell Lake, as River Falls has more available resource. Rick Cleary pointed out how the trail systems he developed were not funded or maintained by the city, but by non-taxpayers through donations and fund raising.

Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the council minutes from June 12, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Todd Felhofer informed the council the school approved an Eagle Scout to perform a clearing project of the trail in the school forest. Fred Johnson Thanked the mayor for vetoing the council decision related to the petition request on the lots being considered for sale. Johnson empathized with the council's desire to be pro-business, and explained how he had shown how businesses can benefit from a trail system. Carol Thompson stated, "As a hiker that uses that space, there is a great deal of activity. I have nothing against breweries. We use trails and businesses. Shell Lake, get on board." Megan Johnson displayed to the council a number of resources she found related to trails and how they benefit businesses. She stated, "I believe voting for trails is a pro-business vote. Historical and heritage ranks high in drawing in tourism."

Brown presented the Public Works Director Report.

Wilson presented the Police Chief report.

Eiche presented the Zoning Administrator report.

Eiche presented the Zoning Board of Appeals minutes.

Mayor Peterson read the letter of veto she had delivered to the City Administrator, and opened the floor to the city council for comment. Smith stated, "My feelings remain the same." Smith went on to describe how the original donation to the city was much more land, and all that is left is the remnants no one else wants. Nebel commented on the present zoning of the lot nearest the Dunlavy property and how it is zoned resource conservation. Nebel continued by noting how people are willing to donate funds toward trail development, there are lots of volunteers, and how they would be keeping history alive by preserving the lots. Smith stated, "Trail enthusiast would be able to bid as well." Nebel responded, "Why should the people have to buy property back when it was gifted for \$1.00?" Severson asked, "Why can't we do both?" Nebel asked, "Once sold, what restrictions are there?" Severson replied, "That is still not decided." Anderson noted, "The previous decisions by the City Council and the Plan Commission were based on environmental impact. I don't see any mention to business benefits." Mayor Peterson stated, "I wish you would listen to the constituents." Anderson replied, "I am." Harrington stated, "I will not change my vote tonight." Harrington continued, listing off a number of nearby trail systems already available to the public. Hansberger stated, "My recollection was we did talk about turning business away." Mayor Peterson stated, "As mayor, I don't think you can listen too much. Carol Thompson mentioned how some

have already made up their mind. I am disappointed in the council. You are not listening to the public. This borders on steering, and you should be ashamed. You will have to live with the consequences.” Hansberger replied, “I voted not to do this. I don’t think we should be scolded however. Mayor Peterson replied, “You can discuss this in private.”

Smith moved, seconded by Anderson, to override the mayor veto. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Nebel – No, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Hansberger – No, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes, Severson – Yes. Motion carried.

Gene Harrington presented the street use permit request and triathlon details. Smith moved, seconded by Hansberger, to approve the street use permit for the Shell Lake Lions Triathlon dated July 22, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Peterson announced that people looking to speak at the petition hearing related to the city lots would need to sign up with the court.

Schultz stated the following in relation to the Hangar 97 proposal; “The Shell Lake City Council had received a proposed lease agreement from Hangar 97. The Shell Lake City Council had requested Hangar 97 to negotiate with our City Attorney on the proposed lease. As of today’s date, this has not happened. I therefore move to discontinue further hangar lease discussion with Hangar 97 in relation to the original proposal.” Smith seconded the motion. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Brandon Wilger of Two Rivers Accounting, presented the 2022 financial statement, noting the city received the highest ranking possible. Mayor Peterson thanked Eiche and Wilger for their excellent work.

Nebel presented the Lake Protection minutes.

Andrews presented the Fire Association minutes.

Mayor Peterson gave the Mayor’s Report. The mayor requested the city council delay moving forward with a generator at the community center, feeling the quote would not be below the \$25,000 cost that was being assumed. She noted how the quote from Mr. Schultz did not include all costs related to the generator installation. Anderson stated, “I thought the cost would be coming in under \$25,000.” The mayor replied, “I disagree, I think it will be over \$25,000.” Schultz responded, “The concrete will be no more than \$1,000. The propane tank and piping are being donated. The city can use the frontend loader to place. This will be under \$25,000.00 when complete.” Mayor Peterson replied, “This concerns me that we are skirting the bid process. I don’t believe anyone contacted Carol Buck. I spoke with Keith Dahlstrom, and he can’t guarantee a generator for the city. I am concerned we are going off of word-of-mouth. We need to check with emergency government to see what they have to say.” Severson questioned, “To satisfy the mayor, can Schultz get a letter of commitment from the propane donator?” Schultz responded by informing the council the donor wished to remain anonymous. Anderson added, “With all of the research Ken Schultz has done for the city in the past, I trust his word.” Schultz replied, “It is under \$25,000.00.” Smith reminded the mayor he had made a motion at the previous meeting to communicate with Carol Buck, but the motion failed. Mayor Peterson replied, “I have a right to know who is donating.” Schultz replied, “The donor wishes to remain anonymous.” Mayor Peterson replied, “I know it is the Dunlavy’s.”

Executive/HR Committee: No meeting.

General Administration: No meeting.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented the recommendation for bid on the South Lake Drive project. Schultz moved, seconded by Harrington, to award SB Madison Construction as the winning bidder for the South Lake Drive project, with a winning bid of \$296,105.97. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson – Yes, Nebel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Hansberger – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes, Severson – Yes. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation: Nebel presented the minutes. Nebel moved, seconded by Schultz, to raise the following rates for 2024; \$55.00/night on the lake-front row, \$45.00/night in the middle two rows and \$40.00/night in the parking lot row, along with an increase at the dump station to \$10.00. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Nebel moved, seconded by Schultz, to eliminate seasonal campsites via attrition at the lake campground. Eiche voiced concern regarding potential lost revenue as a result of the decision. Roll call vote was taken; Anderson –

Yes, Nebel – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Hansberger – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Smith – Yes, Severson – Yes.
Motion carried.

Financial Administration: Smith presented the minutes. Smith moved, seconded by Hansberger, to approve vouchers 670-861. Motion carried unanimously.

Smith moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the Temporary Class “B” Retailers License for the Shell Lake Chamber of Commerce, September 1st thru the 4th, 2023 – Shell Lake Town & Country Days. Motion carried.

Budget status report was reviewed.

New Business: Schultz moved, seconded by Harrington, to approve a street use permit – Shell Lake Chamber of Commerce – Town & Country Days, September 1 thru the 4th of September. Motion carried.

Hansberger moved, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer