

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
March 10, 2025**

Mayor Rowie Hansberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Terry Severson, Mike Andrews, Steve Byrd, Ken Schultz, Dan Harrington, Rob Anderson and Deb Nebel. Stephen Smith was absent. Andy Eiche, Mike Jaszczak, DeEtt Rayman, Dan Rayman, Tom Rasmussen, Todd Felhofer, Bob Hapy, Carol Thompson, David Zeug, Dakota Robinson and Reagan Kohler were also present.

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the council minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Brown presented the Public Works Director report. Brown congratulated all of those who participated in creating a successful Winter Fest including his own team. Mayor Hansberger echoed the compliment, and also praised the public works crew for a fantastic job doing the snow removal in the last storm.

Jaszczak briefed the council of the recent critical incident event training that took place at the Shell Lake school. "It was a big success, with 17 agencies, school staff and various volunteers participating. Jaszczak thanked all departments that made the event possible. The event provided a very valuable training opportunity." On another note, Jaszczak noted that Gabe Kapanke received "A Ride" training through the Spooner Police Department.

Hansberger presented the Zoning Administrator report.

Hansberger presented the Plan Commission minutes.

Rob Anderson announced the Lake Protection Advisory committee will be meeting on April 23rd at 4:30 p.m.

Hansberger presented the library minutes.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hansberger announced the results of Shell Lake's first Winter Fest. "There were over 300 attendees, and the event was fantastic. It was the volunteers that made it all happen."

Hansberger announced she would be distributing the alderperson questionnaires, and asked the council to start thinking about which committees they would like to serve.

Mayor Hansberger moved the presentation by Todd Felhofer forward. Hansberger introduced Todd Felhofer, superintendent of the Shell Lake School District. Felhofer gave an overview of the upcoming referendum the school will be presenting on the April 1st Election. Felhofer explained how the school intends to utilize defeasance to reduce the impact to the tax payer over the next four years.

A number of questions were asked of Felhofer by the governing body and the audience in regards to the present school debt, fund balance in the debt fund, term details on defeasance, enrollment numbers both now and in the future and difference between request in November of last year versus the higher number on the April ballot.

DeEtt Rayman asked Felhofer what the fund balance in the debt fund was currently. The question was not answered. Dan Rayman commented that the information being provided was not answering the questions being asked. Eiche requested to display information in the hopes to clarify the impact to the tax payer under the

school's current plan to fund the referendum. Eiche noted, "I am not saying I am for or against the referendum, I am simply trying to clarify the potential tax implications to the tax payer. I am getting a great deal of questions from the public stating they are confused with the information that is being provided by the school." Eiche displayed how the literature provided by the school was somewhat misleading. "The city of Shell Lake represents 51.04% of the taxes collected by the school. There are 1204 tax-paying property owners in Shell Lake, with an average assessed value. With the estimated mill rates displayed by the school, the school tax would increase over the next four years by approximately \$84.50. This would be a collection of \$101,738.00. This is well short of the \$2,238,000.00 that the city of Shell Lake would be responsible for. Enter defeasance. My concern is the defeasance results in the school avoiding the debt problem until year 5. It is years 5 thru 9 that concern me. With the information you have been able to provide, I would estimate the next referendum in 2029 could start as high as \$3,000,000.00, and go north from there." Eiche and others went on to state perhaps the school should be tackling this head on and openly increase the mill rate to pay for their current request now along with reviewing management and restructuring of the debt to avoid such a great impact to the tax payer in 2029.

Mayor Hansberger asked how we could get the comments made by the public out to the masses. Felhofer noted he was sending out another mailer. Hansberger voiced her opinion that she did not have faith in the State or Federal governments coming through with increased funding for education.

The mayor thanked Felhofer for his presentation.

Executive/HR Committee: No meeting.

General Administration: No meeting.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented the minutes.

Parks and Recreation: No meeting.

Financial Administration: Andrews presented the minutes. Anderson moved, seconded by Schultz, to approve vouchers 103-228. Motion carried unanimously.

Andrews presented the budget status report.

New Business

Hansberger presented the dates for Open Book and Board of Review.

Hansberger presented the Agreement presented by MSA for consideration of Phase 1 work related to investigating the possibility of a future TID #3 in Shell Lake at a cost of \$6,000.00. Discussion ensued. Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve Phase 1 of the agreement presented by MSA relating to services offered for TID #3 consideration at a cost of \$6,000.00. Roll call vote was taken; Severson – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Byrd – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Nebel – Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Schultz moved, seconded by Nebel, to approve Resolution #2-2025 – Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Andrews moved, seconded by Schultz to approve the Agency Agreement and Federal Block Grant Owner Assurances. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Schultz moved, seconded by Severson, to approve the Public Participation Plan for the City of Shell Lake Comprehensive Plan as presented by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Andrews moved, seconded by Severson, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer