

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
September 8, 2025**

Mayor Rowie Hansberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephen Smith, Mike Andrews, Steve Byrd, Dan Harrington, Ken Schultz, Rob Anderson and Tom Rasmussen. Andy Eiche, Mitch Brown, Reagan Kohler, Dakota Robinson, Dawn Schrankel, Ken Schrankel, Jocelyn Ford, George Cusick, Gene Harrington, Kent Wabrowetz, Bernadette Wabrowetz, Adam Wabrowetz, Sandy Kensy, Jim Kensy, Jim Lindberg, Beth Lindberg, Larry Found and Bob Hapy were also present.

Mayor Hansberger requested a moment of silence to observe those that had been killed in the shooting at a church in Minneapolis.

Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the council minutes from August 11, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Sandy Kensy noted her support of the objection to place the sculpture in Memorial Park. She also asked how the city would intend to pay for the placement of the sculpture.

Jim Kensy spoke against placing the sculpture in Memorial Park. Mr. Kensy shared the personal experience his son had encountered while serving in the United States Army. He concluded by stating, "The surfboard is free, our freedom is not."

George Cusick spoke about the Memorial Park usage, and how he was trying to understand how the Veterans are trying to control the park. "We are supportive of all the activities in the park. We just don't need this statue there." Cusick went on to mention three options: "One, reject the structure and use the funds elsewhere. Two, give it to the Shell Lake Arts Center, or three, accept the sculpture, but place it elsewhere."

Dawn Schrankel noted that the issue is not about usage of the park. "The issue is how the sculpture does not represent the Memorial Park. We are not here to offend the governing body."

Kent Wabrowetz noted how there was much misleading information. "The statue has no meaning to the city or the park. I find it odd that a Lion's member would imply we don't want usage in the park. Please focus on the matter at hand. Why is the mayor pushing so hard for this in the park?"

Ken Schrankel read the following; "I recommend that this entire issue be put on hold until a policy document can be developed with guidelines for placing items in the park, now and in the future; assuming the mayor and city council desire to ignore that it is a memorial park to honor veterans and fallen heroes. Which means, non-military items should be excluded from the park, except reasonable items like playground equipment and picnic tables away from the beach. This also includes development of better signage with proper name and historical information/knowledge that this park is dedicated to the veterans and fallen heroes/soldiers. Should an ad hoc committee be developed and assigned the task of finding a location for placement of the sculpture, it should be composed of two city council members and three citizens; one veteran, one representative of the Shell Lake Arts Center and one person living west of Hwy 63. The mayor should be required to reveal a budget with total costs associated with the accepting of the sculpture, i.e., cost for cement pad, cost for fence, moving, etc. The government does the same when they purchase snowplow trucks."

Jocelyn Ford noted how Spooner has a beautiful park, and so does Shell Lake. "They are beautiful, yet different. But there are none with girls on paddleboards."

Larry Found noted he is a veteran. "I don't understand this statue in Memorial Park. Why are we accepting this statue? I don't know the cost. Why are we separating accepting and placement?"

Gene Harrington noted that he agreed with Ken Schrankel's comments. Harrington stated three truths; 1) The village of Shell Lake received the park for recreational purposes, camping, etc. 2) This city council can do whatever it wants. Many members of the community support the veteran cause. 3) "If you accept and place the sculpture where we don't want it, we will remember."

Brown presented the Public Works Director report. Brown thanked engineering firm SEH for all of their work relating to the lift station project. He also thanked the Town & Country Days committee for all their hard work this year. Schultz asked if everything was complete with the lift station. Brown noted everything was complete except for the cellular application for monitoring the generators.

Hansberger presented the Zoning Administrator report.

Hansberger presented the minutes from the Plan Commission. Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, to accept the sculpture. Dan Harrington stated, "Should we accept it? Where will we put it? I think accepting the sculpture is putting the cart before the horse." Smith agreed with Harrington. "The Arts Center would take it. I do remember when paddleboards were rented at the beach. I'm not saying I'm against the sculpture. I think we should know where it is going." Byrd agreed with Smith and added, "The public should have input. The bench would be donated. Mike Andrews declared he was making a privileged motion, and moved to postpone any decision on the sculpture until after the ad hoc committee meets and determines location and cost. Dan Harrington and Steve Byrd voiced agreement. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken on Mike Andrews motion; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Byrd – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Rasmussen – Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Hansberger presented the Library Board minutes.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hansberger noted that the Town & Country Days event this year was the biggest on record in terms of attendance, estimating over 10,000 people. "Every vendor went over what they have done in the past, and the merchants on Main Street did terrific." The mayor went on to announce the groundbreaking event at the Shell Lake Arts Center this Thursday and encouraged attendance. Hansberger also noted she will be getting together an ad hoc committee for the sculpture shortly.

Executive/HR Committee: Hansberger presented the minutes. Andrews moved, seconded by Rasmussen, to create a part-time (permanent) Chief of Police position and direct the City Administrator to begin the advertising for the position. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

General Administration: Mike Andrews presented the minutes.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented a request to replace the back door to city hall. Schultz moved, seconded by Smith, to replace the back door at city hall, with the cost not to exceed \$3,500.00, with the funds coming from the city hall upkeep account. The motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation: No meeting.

Financial Administration: Smith presented the minutes. Smith moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve vouchers 984-1140. Motion carried unanimously.

Smith moved, seconded by Schultz, to approve a Class "A" Beer and a Class "C" Wine license for CO% LLC, dba Corner of Fifth. The motion carried.

Smith moved, seconded by Byrd, to approve the following list of Temporary licenses to the Shell Lake Arts Center;

- Peter Meyer Concert October 10, 2025
- Freuds Lost Session – October 23-26, 2025
- Smokin Loons – November 8, 2025
- Greetings – November 20-23, 2025
- Krismas Kookies – December 5, 2025
- Pretty Good Winter Variety Show – January 10, 2026
- Mimosas with Ave Generosa – February 14, 2026
- Triple Fiddle – March 7, 2026
- When Dylan Met Guthrie Lil' Rev and Will Branch – April 11, 2026

The motion carried.

Smith presented the budget status report.

New Business

Hansberger presented a gift she was given (a ukelele) by the Northwoods Ukelele Festival. Smith said the gift could not be accepted, as state statute does not allow a gift over \$5.00 in value. Eiche noted how city ordinance allows the gift if the city council approves. Schultz moved, seconded by Anderson, that if the league attorney approves the gift and it meets state statute, the governing body will allow her to accept. The motion carried unanimously.

Eiche presented the Clean Boats Clean Waters grant application, which requires council approval to allow him to submit the application. Smith moved, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve allowing Andrew Eiche to act on the city's behalf and submitting a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Project Funding Request and Agreement. Roll call vote was taken; Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Byrd – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Rasmussen – Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Andrews moved, seconded by Byrd, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer