

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

Mayor Rowie Hansberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephen Smith, Mike Andrews, Terry Severson, Steve Byrd, Dan Harrington, Ken Schultz, Rob Anderson and Tom Rasmussen. Andy Eiche, Mitch Brown, Mike Jaszczak, Carol Thompson, Deb Nebel, Mike Norton, Jackie Smith, Bill Smith, Jeri Bitney, Bill Taubman, Robin Mercier, Megan Johnson, Fred Johnson, Duke Welter and Reagan Kohler were also present.

Anderson moved, seconded by Severson, to approve the council minutes from November 10, 2025 and December 3, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hansberger moved the item in new business relating to the 3 lots the city recently considered selling on County Hwy B (West) to the front of the agenda. Eiche updated the audience on the recent court ruling relating to the removal of the deed restriction requiring the land to be used as a city park. Eiche noted that he felt the judge made the correct decision, as the governing body never actually displayed how making the lots a city park was "impossible" or "impracticable." The governing body had a brief discussion and decided at this time to take no further action on the matter.

Public Comment: Robin Mercier noted she was happy with what she heard tonight, and thanked the governing body.

Jeri Bitney announced she was present to hear what would happen.

Deb Nebel noted she was happy to hear the discussion tonight, and would appreciate the city not spending any more money on the matter.

Bill Taubman said he would like to see the city consider making the three lots a park.

Duke Welter noted he was glad to hear the comments this evening, and expressed his desire to see the future development as a park.

Brown presented the Public Works Director report. Brown explained how plowing a gravel road after our first snowfall this year would have been a mistake, as it would result in a great deal of damage to the road. He also noted how salt/sanding the roads can only be done when the conditions are correct, stating, "Salt/sanding is useless if done when the temperatures are too cold and experiencing high winds." Brown thanked the governing body for the employee dinner that was provided by and paid for by the Mayor and City Council.

Jaszczak presented the Chief of Police Report. He noted the Police Foundation has created a new police station sign that will be installed in the spring. He went on to inform the council that mental health continues to be a problem, and has run into difficulties in trying to find a better process to address the matter.

Hansberger presented the Zoning Administrator report.

Hansberger presented the Plan Commission minutes.

Hansberger presented the Library Board minutes.

Hansberger presented the Airport Management Committee minutes.

Mayor's Report: Hansberger announced that a Second Annual Winterfest will be taking place on February 14th and 15th this winter. More information to come.

Hansberger thanked Rob Anderson for doing a fabulous job on the Christmas Light display in the park.

Hansberger noted how the Holiday festivities last weekend brought a great deal of visitors to our community, and thanked the Shell Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Shell Lake Arts Center (Quam Theatre) for all they did to make it happen.

Hansberger ended by thanking everyone on the City Council for making Shell Lake a true success.

Executive/HR Committee: Hansberger presented the minutes. Discussion took place regarding the desire to place a 12-month probationary period for the Chief of Police position. Schultz moved, seconded by Smith, to approve the hiring of Patrick Kraetke as the city's new part-time Chief of Police, with a 6-month probationary period, effective on his availability in mid-March, 2026. More discussion ensued relating to the length of the probationary period. Smith moved, seconded by Severson, to amend the motion to increase the probationary period to 1-year. Roll call vote was taken on the amendment: Severson – Yes, Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Byrd – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Rasmussen – Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried. Roll call vote was taken on the amended motion: Severson – Yes, Smith – Yes, Andrews – Yes, Byrd – Yes, Schultz – Yes, Harrington – Yes, Rasmussen – Yes, Anderson – Yes. Motion carried.

General Administration: No meeting.

Public Works Administration: Schultz presented the request to allow the Public Works Director to bring the city pickup truck home during the winter months as he is the employee that inspects the roads during the winter months in deciding if the public works crew needs to come in to plow. Brown voiced his desire to be able to do this, as the city insurance does not cover him during this task when operating his personal vehicle. Discussion took place on what months this would be approved for. Severson moved, seconded by Rasmussen, to allow the Public Works Director to bring the city pickup truck home during the period of November 1st, thru March 31st, in order to inspect the roads. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Parks and Recreation: No meeting.

Financial Administration: Smith presented the minutes. Smith moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve vouchers 1444-11551. Motion carried unanimously.

Smith presented the budget status report.

New Business

Rasmussen moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve the appointment of election inspectors with the addition of his name (Tom Rasmussen) to be placed under the "Independent" category. Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Schultz moved, Smith seconded, to approve the grant resolution for the Shell Lake Shoreland Native Plantings. The motion carried unanimously.

Schultz moved, seconded by Rasmussen, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer