

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SHELL LAKE
March 9, 2026**

Mayor Rowie Hansberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Mike Andrews, Terry Severson, Steve Byrd, Ken Schultz, Rob Anderson and Tom Rasmussen. Stephen Smith and Dan Harrington were absent. Andy Eiche, Mike Jaszczak, Regan Kohler, Carol Thompson, Dan Rayman, DeEtt Rayman, Brian Janz, Bruce Hansberger, Chuck Levine, Mike Decker, Jill Decker, Jane Byrd, Cathy Berger, Mark Berger, Ann Ruschy, Nicole Tims, Todd Felhofer, Deb Nebel, Jake Anderson, Brad Volker, Renelle Janz, Gerry Winch, Beth Carlson, Ellen Poehler, Ken Poehler, Jody Roeser, Bob Hapy, Donny Marker, Dave Zueg, Beth Deneen and Marianne Rigby were also present.

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to approve the council minutes from February 9, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hansberger announced she would be moving the presentations by Brad Volker and Todd Felhofer to the front of the meeting following public comment. She also informed the room of proper procedure regarding public comment.

Public Comment: None.

Mayor Hansberger introduced Brad Volker with Cooper Engineering. Mr. Volker was contracted by the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics to serve as the lead engineer for the upcoming FAA Avigation Easement project. Volker gave an overview of the Avigation Easement project, detailing the need for approach safety. Volker noted there are six property owners located on Ridgeway Drive which will be receiving letters from the WI DOT. The properties will be appraised to determine compensation for the owners for easement rights to trees on their property which come within the glide slope of aircraft.

Mayor Hansberger introduced Shell Lake School District Superintendent Todd Felhofer. Before handing the floor over to Felhofer, Hansberger highlighted a recent article in the Spooner Advocate talking about an action taking place by residents of Wisconsin versus the State of Wisconsin for the lack of funding public schools have been receiving over the past several decades, and how these decisions have created the need for school districts around the state to take the referendum approach in trying to fund their operational expenses.

Felhofer began by introducing his school board members that were in attendance; President Nicole Tims, Jake Anderson, Scott Smith and Bethany Deneen. Felhofer presented the upcoming referendum in the April election. He took a moment to talk about the achievements academically that the School District of Shell Lake has experienced over the past four years, highlighting how Shell Lake is doing extremely well academically both at the local and state level. He also noted how Shell Lake students are involved at a much higher level than state average in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, band and other similar programs, noting how participation in these activities has shown great academic results in students.

Felhofer went on to explain how and why the referendum is important. "Costs continue to rise, as with any where else, but the state funding we receive stays stagnant. Shell Lake School District resides in the bottom 5% for funding per pupil in the state." He also noted how the state's decision to continually under-fund the Special Education Program continues to add a great deal of stress to school's general fund. Felhofer stated, "Why is the amount of the referendum lower this year than last year? Because we listened. We made cuts where we could while minimizing the impact to our students. We also saved monies where we could by increasing the deductibles on health insurance."

Felhofer showed how the increase in the mill rate would be \$0.07 per \$1,000.00 under the new referendum. "We know this will not pay for the \$2,600,000.00 we will be receiving. By restructuring our debt, we hope to minimize the impact to the tax payor."

Jake Anderson informed the room of recent improvements around and in the athletic fields, and wanted to make sure everyone was aware how those improvements weren't achieved via school funding, but was funded and done by volunteers and local programs and fundraising events. Anderson noted, "The board will do what it can to keep the mill rate as level as possible." Anderson concluded by thanking the community for their support, and reminded the audience of a meeting the school will be hosting for the community on Wednesday night, March 11th at 7:00 p.m., at the Shell Lake High School.

Hansberger presented the Public Works Director report, and reminded the public that the weight limit road bans in Shell Lake began at Noon on Friday, March 6th.

Jaszczak presented the Chief of Police Report. Mike noted Gabriel Kapanke's recent resignation from the Shell Lake Police Department to move onto a career in law enforcement on the east side of the state. Severson noted a recent incident he had witnessed, and wanted to commend Mikayla Greisen for the wonderful job she had done handling the matter.

Hansberger presented the Zoning Administrator report.

Hansberger presented the minutes from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Hansberger presented the Plan Commission minutes.

Hansberger presented the library minutes.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hansberger presented a recognition of service award to Marianne Rigby and thanked her for her years of service as President of the Shell Lake Police Foundation. Hansberger noted how Marianne had visited her at City Hall shortly after she became Mayor, and welcomed her. "Marianne explained the foundation and gave me a cup. I still have that cup. Her visit meant a great deal to me." Jaszczak recognized the entire Shell Lake Police Foundation for the they do throughout the year for the Shell Lake Police Department. Rigby thanked everyone for the award, and expressed her appreciation toward the entire Police Foundation membership, and noted the great deal of time and effort the whole group brings every day. "I did something I loved. I encourage anyone to consider getting involved with the Shell Lake Police Foundation."

Mayor Hansberger informed the room of the successful 2nd Annual Winter Fest, noting there were over 325 people that attended. She thanked the community for all of their support, and listed off a special thanks to Ben Juza and his crew, Nick Dillon (The Shell Lake Lodge), the FFA for the soup and sandwiches, the entire Spooner Hockey crew, the Public Works crew, the city council members that helped, and, Shell Lake State Bank. The whole event was achieved through donations. "Thank you all."

Mayor Hansberger informed the council of an upcoming tour being presented by the Shell Lake Arts Center for the governing body of Shell Lake.

Executive/HR Committee: Hansberger presented the minutes.

General Administration: No meeting.

Public Works Administration: No meeting.

Parks and Recreation: No meeting.

Financial Administration: Andrews presented the minutes. Schultz moved, seconded by Byrd, to approve vouchers 123-234. Motion carried unanimously.

Andrews presented the budget status report.

New Business

Andrews moved, seconded by Anderson, to approve a "Class B Beer" and "Class C Liquor (wine only) License for the Shell Lake Arts Center. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hansberger announced her appointment of John Nesheim as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Noticing Michelle McIntosh had entered the Council Chambers, Mayor Hansberger asked her if she would like to say anything to the audience. McIntosh introduced herself and informed the room she was running as a write-in candidate in the April election.

Schultz moved, seconded by Andrews, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Andrew Eiche, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer