

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2025
Hazen City Hall**

Present: President Schiferl, Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.

Others Present: Editor Arens, PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Donovan, Chief Wolff, Buster Langowski, Myra Savelkoul, Antoinette Heier, Jerod Klabunde & Aiden Kelly (Moore Engineering), and Auditor Erhardt.

President Schiferl called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

President Schiferl led the pledge of allegiance and said prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the October 2nd meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

Agenda: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of the golf cart ordinance as old business, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering reviewed the engineer's report. Regarding Expedition Estates, Mr. Klabunde reminded the board that this is a private development and that there are still punch list items that need to be addressed and the city will have to determine, pending a plan from the developer, if they wish to create a special assessment district, bid work to complete items, and then assess the property for costs of the work. Commissioner Wiedrich asked what issues still are outstanding and Mr. Klabunde indicated that the sanitary sewer on 11th Ave has come cracked "y's" and that he tries to contact the developer monthly for updates. The auditor has also reached out to the developer to discuss these issues and options to address the lighting concerns raised at the previous meeting. Regarding the sanitary sewer project, the works is approximately 80% complete with manhole rehab to be completed by month end and paving to be completed next spring. Mr. Klabunde presented pay application #5 of CC Steel and recommended approval. Commissioner Folkerts made a motion to approve pay application #5 of CC Steel in the amount of \$196,365.38, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, there were questions about how the process has been going and Mr. Klabunde reported that, for the manhole rehab, cameras are inserted with a 360° view to search for any issues. Commissioner Wiedrich asked about the transitions to be placed in pipes that have varying sizes and the auditor mentioned that some of these were recently completed. Commissioner Stern asked if the lining of lift station #1 was brought up and Mr. Klabunde was not aware of the issue so he will contact others within the company for information. Commissioner Folkerts asked about touching up the areas for spot repairs prior to snowfall and PW Director Brousseau indicated the contractor spoke about this when the areas were first prepped. President Schiferl asked about freeze/thaw concerns and Mr. Klabunde said the patch locations will be messy in the spring, but this will be less of a problem since the city's recycle asphalt was used to fill in the locations. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. As a final item, Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that four-hundred ten (410) applications requesting over \$765 Million dollars were received for the DOT Flex Grants. Mr. Klabunde will review the Capital Improvement

Plan with the commission at a future meeting.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Christmas Tree: A topic of placing a Christmas tree at the renovated intersection of Main Street and Central Avenue has been discussed by various organizations. Antoinette Heier, Chamber/CVB Director, contacted investors for input and stated that school clubs may be interested in decorating the tree but there is always the concern of who is to assemble/remove the tree. Pricing for various versions of trees was reviewed by the commission. President Schiferl spoke of envisioning a classic blizzard with winds and how the tree would stand up to these conditions. There was discussion about the base size needed for various trees and the power necessary to run the decorations as well as availability of a tree at this late stage or setting a live tree this year and reviewing the issue more in the future. No further action taken.

Chalk Fest-Heritage Park Improvements: The commission considered the previous request of the Chalk Fest Committee to remove a lilac bush from Heritage Park. Commissioner Folkerts said the library uses the tree for shade at different events and Commissioner Wiedrich said he would have less concern removing a declining tree, but this one appears healthy. No further action taken.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

Renaissance Zone Application – C. Johnson: The commission reviewed the application for Renaissance Zone exemption presented at the previous meeting. Myra Savelkoul, HCD Director, researched the process of transferring an exemption to another buyer and determined that commission approval is not required. Ms. Savelkoul reported that, based on a recent event, it was determined that every dollar spent on renaissance zone property returns three (3) to five (5) times over and that this application is for a person moving here, living here, and shopping here. Commissioner Wiedrich asked what the initial purpose of the renaissance zone was, and Buster Langowski spoke about how the city zone was adopted and renewed to incorporate legislative changes. Mr. Langowski spoke about the zone being established to spur development and spoke about other properties that have received the incentives. Commissioner Wiedrich understands the intent of the renaissance zone was to renovate and revitalize the core business area of the city and not only for new construction. Commissioner Stern spoke about other businesses that received the exemption and would no longer be in business after the incentives had expired. Commissioner Wiedrich has no objection to renaissance zone exemptions but doesn't want them only for new homes with Commissioner Stern commenting that the program was originally intended for repairs and updates. President Schiferl commented that every new home brings in tax revenue. No further action is required.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Stern had nothing to report at this time.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that street crews are prepared for winter. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that public works vehicles are in for minor repairs and that cleaning leaves from the streets continue.

Finance/Busing/Library: Commissioner Folkerts addressed the holiday policy of the transit staff and the fact that it varies from three (3) to eight (8) hours of holiday pay on a rotational basis. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve a revision of the holiday pay policy of transit staff to eight (8) hours/day, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. Commissioner Folkerts informed the

board that the city has received an application for a transit driver and that a potential application for the director's position may be coming, as well. Interviews will be scheduled.

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich asked Chief Wolff to address the camera system purchase brought up at the previous meeting. Chief Wolff informed the commission that he contacted three (3) other vendors for proposals to install surveillance cameras in the police department vehicles, and no one provided an estimate. Based on Chief Wolff's review of the Axon Enterprise proposal, he would request the commission consider purchasing the systems with Technical Assistance Program which includes upgraded equipment after five (5) years. There was discussion about possession of stored data when the contract ends or is terminated. President Schiferl indicated that he uses Axon systems professionally and is pleased with their equipment and customer service and the fact that the system interfaces with both vehicles to provide data from two (2) perspectives at the same time. Chief Wolff indicated there is funding from the Work Over Solutions donation that could be used for the first year's payment. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the Axon Enterprises system for two (2) vehicles with the TAP Refresh at a total cost of \$22,191.60, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Commissioner Folkerts asked about live viewing and President Schiferl indicated this can be done on the app and Chief Wolff said data can be sent directly to the State's Attorney. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. Chief Wolff advised the commission that the Back the Blue funding for officer retention has been received, and this will be shared equally among the four (4) licensed officers in the upcoming payroll process.

HCD: Myra Savelkoul informed the commission that she will post commercial property for sale on the HCD page of the city website and the city, and chamber, social media platforms. Some properties had been shared on the chamber page and had received more than four thousand (4,000) views. Commissioner Wiedrich would like to see the city Facebook page utilized more.

President: President Schiferl had nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Golf Cart Ordinance: Commissioner Wiedrich began discussion on changing the golf cart ordinance by referring to a memorandum as prepared by Attorney Donovan. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the first reading of the ordinance with section 7, (The operator of a golf cart shall take the most direct route between the golf cart's place of storage within the city and the golf course) removed, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Attorney Donovan clarified that it was not his intent to have something the commission could pass quickly but that they are the policy creators for the city and have responsibility to produce ideas and the attorney reviews them regarding legal aspects. Commissioner Folkerts spoke about one size not fitting all and that the ordinance may have to be amended with President Schiferl speaking about how equipment and state laws may change in the future. Commissioner Haack commented that the next issue will be E-bikes and Commissioner Wiedrich indicated he had already been contacted about them. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. The second reading will be on November 17, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Designate Bank Signatories: The commission was advised that the city holds accounts at Capital Credit Union, Union Bank and Union State Bank with former President Obenauer, Vice-President Haack, and Auditor Erhardt listed as approved signers for the accounts. Commissioner Wiedrich made a motion to remove all current signers for the bank accounts and appoint, President Jesse Schiferl, Vice-President Jason Haack, and Auditor Monte J Erhardt as new signers, second by Commissioner Haack. President Schiferl indicated some reservation because of being appointed. The remaining

board members expressed no concern, having had the opportunity to conduct a special election. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

Approval of Bills and Financial Statements: Commissioner Haack moved to approve the bills and financial statements, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: MDU, 4206.11; Roughrider Electric Coop, 2920.55; CC Steel LLC, 196365.38; Cenex, 1940.32; Coal Country CHC, 220.00; CVB, 3514.87; D&E Supply, 365.61; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1987.50; Duramax Holdings LLC, 950.00; Environmental Equipment, 411.32; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Fireside Office, 51.60; Fuelman Fleet, 784.82; IAAO, 255.00; Jim Block, 114.00; Loren Wiest, 675.00; Millennium Express, 12.00; Myron Stern, 43.34; ND League of Cities, 100.00; ND Surplus Property, 35.00; ND One Call Inc, 36.20; Patriot Fire & Safety, 371.48; Pens.com, 129.18; Power Plan, 2732.06; Pro Forms, 1993.93; Railroad Mgt Co III LLC, 417.05; Stamps.com, 120.46; Team Lab Chemical LLC, 749.50; The Hub, 2045.45; US Postal Service, 423.00; 429.09. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jesse Schiferl, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor