

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2025
Hazen City Hall**

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

Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Donovan, Chief Wolff, Myra Savelkoul, and Auditor Erhardt.

President Schiferl called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

President Schiferl led the pledge of allegiance and said the prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the November 3rd meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

Agenda: Commissioner Haack moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: The commission reviewed the written engineer's report which included no action items. The commission was advised that underground work on the sewer project is complete and patching of the asphalt will be completed in the spring. Auditor Erhardt informed the commission that he requested an estimate to install lighting in Expedition Estates and is still waiting for a response and has been trying to contact Mr. Williams regarding the final punch list items with the last contact being about a week to ten days ago. No further action taken.

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Golf Cart Ordinance – 2nd Reading: The commission was provided comments prepared by Attorney Donovan relating to items that may need further clarification prior to approving the ordinance. Since these recommendations were provided just prior to the meeting, Commissioner Folkerts moved to postpone action on the ordinance until the December 1st meeting, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

Purchase Agreement – Water Plant: The commission was provided a proposed agreement, from Knutson Properties, to purchase the water plant building. Commissioner Folkerts commented that there was still no comment as to intended use of the building and Commissioner Wiedrich was concerned about the price proposed. During further discussion, Commissioner Stern commented that the building should be worth \$80 to \$90 thousand. President Schiferl asked about negotiating a price in a public meeting. Attorney Donovan commented that there are some instances when this type of discussion would be excepted from an open meeting and Editor Arens agreed there are some exceptions for negotiations but that any decision would have to be made during the public portion of the meeting. The commission was advised that Attorney Donovan had provided a draft purchase agreement which was shared with Knutson Properties, but they didn't have time to review it and respond prior to this meeting. There was discussion about licensing issues with Mr. Knutson

in the past and discussion about this property's ability to qualify for renaissance zone exemptions. Commissioner Haack moved to postpone action on the purchase agreement until the December 1st meeting, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Stern reported that a change in landfill tipping fees was approved by the county commission at their November 5th meeting. It is assumed this change is effective January 1, 2026. Additional information regarding income/expenses for 2025 will be reviewed to determine if the city needs to make a change to the fees charged for garbage collection.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack had nothing to report but commented that CC Steel has been in town to address the patch locations to make them smoother prior to winter. PW Director Brousseau said the storm sewers have been cleaned. When asked why the city is selling the old loader outright rather than trading, it was noted that the trade-in offers were low.

Finance/Busing/Library: Commissioner Folkerts informed the board that a transit staff meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 20th at 2:00 PM at the bus facility. Commissioner Haack asked about license requirements for the new transit director and was advised that a Class C, with passenger endorsement is acceptable.

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich asked Chief Wolff for a report on the targeted patrol at the intersection of 1st Ave/1st St SW. Chief Wolff reported that there was no traffic violations noted during the department's targeted patrol and that he would not recommend any changes to the traffic control devices at this time. Commissioner Folkerts said he had no concerns of inherent traffic violations and his concern related more to the increased activity of people and children at the location. Commissioner Folkerts will maintain contact with the business owner. There was discussion about the ten-minute parking spaces on a portion of the west side of 1st Ave, near the post office. Chief Wolff reported that the new in-vehicle cameras have shipped and a technician will be sent to perform installation prior to the end of the year.

HCD: Myra Savelkoul informed the commission that she finalized the informational advertisement regarding the renaissance zone. Four (4) commercial properties are, or will be, advertised on the city website and that with some businesses changing ownership there may be some Flex Pace interest buy-down approvals by HCD. Ms. Savelkoul reported that she submitted her letter of resignation a few months ago and that the golf course recently lost its manager. Ms. Savelkoul informed the commission that Vision West will be meeting at Hazen City Hall on Thursday, November 20th and encouraged everyone to attend, if available. Ms. Savelkoul received some preliminary plans for a hotel project, and this subject is still in the beginning process.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Welcome Sign: The commission was provided additional cost information for installation of different "highway signs" that display text without animation. Cost of a 7'5" x 16'4" sign is estimated at \$98,939 without electrical and permitting, and the cost of a 4'5" x 16'3" sign is estimated to be \$69,114 without electrical and permitting. There was discussion about rehabilitating the current sign and, if a digital sign is purchased, responsibility for maintenance and content management. No further action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

Approval of Bills and Financial Statements: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills and financial statements, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: MDU, 4023.60; Roughrider Electric, 3563.47; West River Telecommunications, 925.68; Axon Enterprises, Inc, 2281.60; Bank of ND, 141524.09; Bismarck Cancer Center, 250.00; Cenex, 2218.00; D&E Supply, 203.27; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 2311.00; Ecolab Pest Elimination, 139.95; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Health Equity, 3.25; In Control Inc, 200.00; ITD, 34.50; James Wolff, 138.80; Lexipol LLC, 357.48; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6786.45; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; ND One Call Inc, 21.90; ND Planning Assoc, 55.00; Ronnie Blekestad Jr, 239.60; Stamps.com; 119.67; The Hub, 1505.86; Vestis, 429.09; Western Plains Public Health, 125.00. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jesse Schiferl, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor