

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

**Present:** President Obenauer, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern, and Commissioner Wiedrich.

**Absent:** Commissioner Folkerts

**Others Present:** PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Donovan, Police Chief Wolff, Auditor Erhardt and Jerod Klabunde (Moore Engineering-telephonically).

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

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

**Minutes:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. 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:** Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, reviewed the engineer's report with the commission. Regarding Expedition Estates, Mr. Klabunde reminded the commission that this work is being done by a private developer and that the city will assume control of the infrastructure when work is completed and approved by the city engineer. The city placed a moratorium on issuing any building permits until the corrective work is completed and a letter requesting a schedule of repairs was sent to the developer with no updates at this time. Regarding the alley project, there is still work to be completed behind one business and there is evidence of some concrete that may need to be repaired. Mr. Klabunde will review the work and advised the commission that retention of 10% of project costs is available to ensure work is completed to city satisfaction. Regarding the sanitary sewer project, the contract for work has been awarded to CC Steel who will serve as general contractor for the project and coordinate all underground, lining and asphalt repairs under one contract. Work on the project will begin in April or May and a preconstruction conference will be held as schedules are determined. In 2024, Moore Engineering requested quotes for concrete repair work around various locations of the city and no quotes were received at that time. A second request was presented after the beginning of the year, and one quote was received from Winkler Construction. The engineer reviewed the quote and stated the pricing is in line with similar projects and recommends approval/acceptance of the quote for work to be completed this year.

Commissioner Haack asked about a curb near the school and was advised that this was not considered in this request and President Obenauer asked about the curb repair near the hospital and was advised that this has been approved and was included in a previous project for which the city has already received funding. Commissioner Stern had a question about a repair that was

illustrated south of the railroad tracks, and it was determined that this is for repair of two (2) catch basins on Main Street by city hall. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the proposal of Winkler Construction at a cost of \$18,350, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, Commissioner Haack was advised that the request for proposals was sent to several companies, and this was the only quote received. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

## **REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Free/Reduce Hall Rent & Local Permit-Raffle – SMC Hospice:** Commissioner Haack moved to approve free hall rent, subject to the kitchen fee and local permit #2025-06 as requested by Sakakawea Medical Center Hospice for the Grape Escape event on April 11<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the hospice program, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Stern reviewed a quote from DSG Supply for a check valve and other parts for lift station #2 in the amount of \$3291.80. Commissioner Stern moved to approve the purchase of the parts as quoted in the amount of \$3291.80, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye" Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack informed the board that city staff are continuing to seal cracks, when conditions permit. PW Director Brousseau advised that North Star I and II have been completed. Commissioner Haack said the interviews for the public works position were conducted and a conditional offer for employment is recommended. Commissioner Haack moved to make an offer of employment to EJ Gabel at the ninety percent (90%) wage rate, second by Commissioner Stern. Commissioner Haack advised President Obenauer that four (4) candidates had been interviewed and that one of the candidates may be considered for the part-time forestry position. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried. As a final comment, Commissioner Haack stated he would really like to see some rain.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts absent. No report.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich reported on fire department calls for service including a structure fire in Stanton, a lift assistance for Mercer County Ambulance, a motor vehicle accident on Co Rd 21, and a carbon monoxide alarm that was serious for the victim. Commissioner Wiedrich reported that three (3) interviews for the police officer position were conducted on March 10<sup>th</sup> with one candidate being POST Board certified. The recommendation is to offer the position to Ronnie Blekestad Jr, who is not currently POST board certified and options for training are still being reviewed. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to offer employment to Mr. Blekestad Jr pending final determination of training details, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, it was determined that the applicant can start employment under a limited peace officer license but would not be able to work without direct supervision. The next academy class in Bismarck begins in early June and is completed in August. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye",

motion carried. Commissioner Wiedrich discussed applicants for the public works position and that one candidate expressed interest in the part-time forestry position. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to share the job description and offer the part-time forestry position to Zachary Ellzey, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, it was said that Mr. Ellzey does not have any experience related directly to forestry or trees. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**HCD:** Myra Savelkoul absent. No report.

**President:** President Obenauer reported that Chamber Director Heier will be appearing on KX News Good Day Dakota to talk about the upcoming Taste of Hazen.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Funds Transfer:** Commissioner Stern moved to approve transfer of funds from the water reserve funds to the general water fund, as previously discussed, to cover costs of the meter replacement project in the amount of \$250,907, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried. Auditor Erhardt shared information as to transfer from the sales tax fund to various project funds to cover pledges previously approved by the commission. No further action taken.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

**Approval of Bills & Financial Statements:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills and financial reports as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: D&E Supply, 250.18; Dale Mulske, 100.00; Moore Engineering Inc, 3264.50; ND Surplus Property, 300.00; Power Plan, 2648.36; Sletten Excavating, 7555.00; Stamps.com, 194.99; Starion Bond Service, 278496.25; Stein's Inc, 120.00; Stroup Insurance, 55802.00; Studio 6, 1330.00; Vision West ND, 600.00. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor