

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 20, 2026  
Hazen City Hall**

**Present:** President Schiferl, Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Haack (telephonically), Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.

**Others Present:** PW Director Brousseau, Editor Arens, Chief Wolff, Tim Williams (virtual), Darrell Wurl, Jerod Klabunde & Aiden Kelly (Moore Eng), Myra Savelkoul, Antoniette Heier, Attorney Donovan, Robert Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Kyle Larson, Kent Vernon, Connie Langowski, Buster Langowski, Bob Fitzgerald, Pam Fitzgerald, Victor Entzel, Wayne Rahn, Debbie Rahn, Leatisze Grosz, Wayne Hoffner, Sue Wegner, Jordan Wegner, Christie Huber Obenauer, 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 April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

**Agenda:** Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the agenda, as presented with the addition of item 12A, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**

**Expedition Estates Discussion:** President Schiferl opened discussion regarding Expedition Estates by informing the board, and public, that commission minutes establish the last action by the commission, prior to the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, was a motion in October 2024 stating, "Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve issuance of occupancy certificates for homes within the paved access road area and that no additional building permits will be issued until full pavement of the loop is completed, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, President Obenauer asked when paving could start in the spring and Mr. Klabunde indicated that it would highly likely be in May. Commissioner Stern asked if this included repairs of the sewer prior to any building permits being issued and President Obenauer stated it was not part of the current motion. Mr. Klabunde indicated that the sewer issue could be resolved yet this year pending determination of the process necessary to make the repairs. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried." Buster Langowski presented written points of discussion to the commission relating to his work as the HCD director and as a resident on Otter Creek Loop. Mr. Langowski discussed the lack of suitable property for housing within the city and the grants offered by HCD to incentive new home construction, which supported the construction of five of the thirteen homes in the development, along with renaissance zone incentives. Mr. Langowski agreed that the issues in the development have been a long, drawn-out affair with repairs taking years and that the lack of communication may have been frustrating. Mr. Langowski spoke of the estimated costs for the repairs and who should be responsible for these costs. Mr. Langowski addressed the moratorium which, in his opinion, penalizes future growth at a time when the city should be looking for as much growth as possible to meet anticipated needs as industry expands. Mr. Langowski also spoke about the revenue from property tax and sales tax to assist the city and school. Finally, Mr. Langowski encouraged the board to look at some type of agreement that would lift the moratorium and plan accordingly for future growth. Commissioner Wiedrich, referring to a letter from Shawn Hoffner, indicated the road in the subdivision is not the issue and the sewer is, and this is a concern as new homes are added to the development. Mr. Langowski spoke of the engineer seeking a solution to the issue and Commissioner Wiedrich indicated this resolutions to the issue have been

addressed with the developer and were, or should have been, part of the settlement of the lawsuit. Mr. Langowski believed the lawsuit settlement only addressed water/sewer issues of the loop. President Schiferl commented that the lack of communication for more than a year was a concern with Commissioner Folkerts commenting that the development would benefit the city but that the communication must be two-sided. Kent Vernon, resident, asked about the original design and Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, stated the design was acceptable and the issue is not one of capacity but a matter of compaction when the infrastructure was installed and its effect on pipe on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. Bob Fitzgerald, resident, asked about the ability to excavate one area to make the repairs and Mr. Klabunde stated it involves a total of five hundred (500) feet of pipe and that the engineers are still researching options for the repairs either by excavation or trenchless by contacting specialty contractors. Wayne Hoffner addressed the commission, as a resident of Hazen for twenty-three (23) years, and on behalf of his wife who is a realtor. Mr. Hoffner asked the commission to seek a reasonable agreement to benefit the community and the school through property and sales tax. Mr. Hoffner's family gives back to the community and understands frustration with communication with the developer but there should be a way to find a solution that doesn't snowball the lost income and opportunities to the city. Commissioner Folkerts spoke about the back and forth with the developer and how, at the last meeting, there was talk about allowing permits but the developer seemed unwilling to commit to making the repairs and that it wouldn't be fair for the city to assess repair costs to the city or even to the current residents of the development. Myra Savelkoul said that HCD is considering setting aside funds for the repairs and Mr. Hoffner stated a final realistic estimated cost is needed to proceed. Commissioner Wiedrich indicated it is the responsibility of the developer to determine the costs and find the answers to resolve the issue in compliance with recognized standards. President Schiferl agreed, a good step forward, is to refine the final estimated cost for a suitable repair. Tim Williams, Williams Building Company, addressed correspondence to the commission stating he cannot fund repairs without the ability to construct and sell property and agreed that more detailed costs are needed to move forward. Mr. Vernon commented that the goal here should be to have the city and developer in the best light and to get off dead center, quit finger pointing and come to an agreement. Commissioner Haack stated he is not comfortable in special assessing costs of repairs to the city and this would have to be assessed to all the lots in the subdivision. Mr. Klabunde stated there are 2500 feet of lines in the subdivision with 80% completed and that most were repaired by open trench work and the last section to be repaired is very deep. Moore Engineering is still seeking options for open trench or pipe bursting (trenchless) options to make the repairs with Mr. Williams indicating he is also reaching out to contractors in his area for options. Consensus of the commission is to get better cost information and to look at some kind of agreement to proceed in this matter. Commissioner Stern suggested the developer could get a bond to ensure payment would be made to move forward and stated he is not aware of other factors that may be affecting the developer. No further action taken.

**Engineer's Report:** Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, stated again that the engineers are still seeking options for the repairs in Expedition Estates. Regarding the sewer project, manhole rehab should be completed within the next week, and asphalt patching is tentatively scheduled for late May or early June. Mr. Klabunde will have quotes for additional asphalt repairs of areas reviewed recently and will present them at the May meeting. Mr. Klabunde referred to photos of the shared use trail, taken by Commissioner Wiedrich, relating to lengthwise cracks in the concrete and asked if these may be caused by the skid-steer operating on the path in fall or spring when the ground is not completely frozen. Mr. Klabunde said this could be a contributing factor, but the main issue is the fact that, when constructed, these paths very rarely use rebar to reinforce the concrete which allows movement as weather conditions change. Commissioner Wiedrich encouraged public works to use the JD broom/blower when the ground is not frozen, and Mr. Klabunde said the soil in the city is very expansive and everything tends to move. The commission would like estimates from local contractors to repair the raised portions at the next meeting. Mr. Klabunde would like to review the Capital Improvement Plan in July and stated that grants are not available for street repairs unless it involves underground infrastructure.

## **APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS**

**Fireworks Sales Application – Memory Fireworks:** The commission reviewed an application to sell fireworks presented by Mr. Knutson, Memory Fireworks. No action will be taken on the application until the fire chief has been consulted.

## **REPORTS**

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

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack had nothing to report at this time.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts informed the board that one of the doors on the transit building had been damaged and the director received an estimate to repair from Midwest Doors. Commissioner Folkerts moved to authorize the repairs by Midwest Doors at a cost not to exceed \$3374.00, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern was advised that there was no damage to the vehicle striking the door. On roll call vote: Folkerts, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Schiferl, “Aye”, motion carried.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Chief Wolff informed the commission that the cameras have been installed in the vehicles and that the department is looking at contracting IT support and will bring information to the commission at a future meeting. Commissioner Wiedrich reported continuing issues near 701 Therapy and a “near miss” with a pedestrian crossing the street. The commission discussed the process to install the signs and Commissioner Folkerts spoke about the change of use and the need for signs. Commissioner Folkerts moved to install four-way stop signs at the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern commented on the frustration of stopping at each intersection in town and suggested reviewing areas for signs that could safely be removed. Commissioner Haack said a heavier police presence will be required when the new signs are installed until residents/travelers are familiar with the change. On roll call vote: Folkerts, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Schiferl, “Aye”, motion carried. Commissioner Wiedrich asked about relocating the stop signs near the hospital and was informed this will be completed when frost is out of the ground.

**HCD:** Antoinette Heier, HCD Director, informed the commission that the Nail Salon hopes to be open by the end of April or early part of May and family members are enrolled in school in Hazen. Ms. Heier, and others, attended the Tourism Conference & Economic Development and said that at next week’s HCD meeting they will be looking at creating/awarding 50/50 business grants to local businesses for startup, improvement, daycare provider, and storefront improvement.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NDIRF Public Sewer Backup/Water Main Break Coverage:** The commission again discussed purchasing sewer backup/water main break endorsement from ND Insurance Reserve Fund and was advised that, of those responding, 50% of municipalities have opted for the endorsement. Commissioner Haack moved to purchase the endorsement with a \$10,000/occurrence level, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Upon discussion, Commissioner Wiedrich commented that he doesn’t think the endorsement is necessary based on the minimal potential for use and President Schiferl supports the purchase whole heartedly considering conditions of 11<sup>th</sup> Ave with the option to discontinue the endorsement if it seems unwarranted. Commissioner Stern commented that he would prefer the city create a reserve fund in the 2027 budget based on the annual coverage cost. On roll call vote: Haack, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Nay”, Folkerts, “Nay”, Stern, “Nay”, Schiferl, “Aye”, motion

defeated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Special Assessment Committee Appointment:** The commission was informed that Alice Grinsteinner has expressed an interest in filling the vacant seat on the special assessment committee. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Grinsteinner to the SAC, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Commissioner Wiedrich expressed disappointment in the process of advertising for board positions, commenting that he was not aware there was still a vacancy on the board, and suggested the city utilize social media more in the future. Motion unanimously approved.

**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 Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: CVB, 7060.66; Marco Technologies LLC, 352.36; MDU, 4692.47; Roughrider Electric Coop, 5176.34; USA Blue Book, 170.41; API Garage Door Inc, 557.00; D&E Supply, 249.18; DTA, 240.00; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1650.00; Environmental Equip, 76.78; Evolv Inc, 39.95; Fitterer Oil LLC, 629.55; Fuelman Fleet, 703.29; Health Equity, 6.50; J.P. Cooke Co, 88.95; Mandate Automotive, 2849.24; Mercer Co Historical Society, 25.00; Millennium Express, 12.00; NAPA, 336.34; Peter Grossman, 16.50; Railroad Mgt Co III LLC, 458.76; Stamps.com, 22.49; The Hub, 1024.41; US Postal Service, 425.75; USA Blue Book, 358.32. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Schiferl, President

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