

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2025  
Hazen City Hall**

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

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

Vice-President Haack called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Vice-President Haack led the pledge of allegiance and said the prayer.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> Equalization meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

**Agenda:** Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**

**Engineer's Report:** The commission reviewed the written engineer's report which contained no action items. The commission was advised that a punch list of corrective items is being developed for Expedition Estates; the remaining alley improvement work will be started in May and that the sanitary sewer project will also begin in May.

**Expedition Estates – Building Permit Moratorium:** The commission was advised that this was placed on the agenda as a resident was considering purchasing a lot within the development and wondered if a building permit would be acted upon. Attorney Kaffar suggested waiting to take any action on building permits until the punch list of corrective items was received and the developer can confirm dates of completion for the items on the list. Commissioner Wiedrich referred to the letter requesting a construction schedule in January or February, with no clear response received as of this meeting. President Obenauer asked if the lot in question was within the repaired paved portion of the loop and was advised that it was not. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to postpone any action on the building permit moratorium of Expedition Estates until the next regular meeting, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Myra Savelkoul (HCD) indicated that there is some interest in purchasing properties in the development but, the city must do what is best for the city. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Street Closure – Wheelchairs and Walleyes Event 5/31:** The commission reviewed a request to close a portion of Main Street for a Wheelchairs and Walleyes civic event on May 31, 2025. There was a question as to the times indicated on the application. Commissioner Stern moved to approve the street closure, assuming 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or as presented from 8:00 am to 4:00 am, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Attorney Kaffar will visit with Jennifer Goos to clarify the times. Motion unanimously approved.

**Local Permit-Raffle – North Stars Baseball:** The commission reviewed an application for a local

permit to conduct a raffle, as presented by North Star Baseball. The auditor had attempted to contact the applicant to verify information not contained on the application and has not received a response as of meeting time. No action taken on the application and it will be addressed at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## REPORTS

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

**Street/Cemetery:** PW Director Brousseau advised the commission that crack sealing has been completed, tree and grass piles are being pushed up, and banners will begin to be installed this week. Commissioner Folkerts had a question about cracks/damage on the shared use path and PW Director Brousseau will check on it and share information with the city engineer. Commissioner Haack spoke about the high school senior banners that will be displayed on posts along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Main Street, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW. When the display of banners is done, they will be given to the participants. The commission again reviewed bids for concrete repairs at the city shop with both now using similar specifications. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the bid of Meissner Contracting in the amount of \$3,625 for the work, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern asked about the small load fee and was advised that Mr. Meissner works to coordinate small jobs to avoid this fee, but it could be added to the cost of the project. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye" Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts informed the board that two (2) staff members of the transit department, Peg Rahn and Kandi McConnell, have submitted letters of resignation. The position(s) will be posted to begin the hiring process and staff needs will be reviewed to see if full-time or part-time positions are warranted.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the fire department is researching SCBA needs and replacement of equipment that cannot be recertified. At this time, the cost of the new equipment is unknown, and Attorney Kaffar suggested requesting gaming funds with Commissioner Wiedrich indicating that the department is researching all kinds of sources of funding and grants. Commissioner Wiedrich addressed concerns about debris where the fire department has extrication training vehicles stored and that nearly all the debris at the site is from trucks/truckdrivers making small repairs at the site. PW Director Brousseau said that he has found bags of garbage stuffed in vehicles and Commissioner Wiedrich said the department has agreed to limit the number of vehicles at the site to six (6) because that is what the crusher can manage when he picks them up. There was discussion about approaching the county landfill for space to store the vehicles, but this brought up questions of transporting them and other issues. Some of the vehicles used to be stored north of the fire hall but this was not a preferred location. Commissioner Wiedrich reported on fire department calls including a call to a grass fire, and recall, a motor vehicle accident near Zap, a chimney fire, another motor vehicle accident, a grass fire near Pick City and a house fire on Co Rd 9, and recall. Commissioner Wiedrich asked about the television re-broadcast tower north of town that was damaged several years ago and how to proceed with repairing it, if necessary and affordable. Attorney Kaffar suggested communications with the county emergency manager and the auditor was directed to request estimates from different contractors to make the repairs as they are beyond city staff capabilities.

**HCD:** Myra Savelkoul reported that one new board member, McKInzi Wiedrich, was elected at the annual meeting. HCD is considering funding to assist a CTE project in Hazen and that work on the SR71 Project continues. Ms. Savelkoul reported that the HCD Board will be addressing four (4) Flex Pace applications at their next meeting.

**President:** President Obenauer spoke about getting estimates to address repairs of the sidewalk at the SW corner of Central Ave and Main Street. President Obenauer would like to see the tree removed, concrete removed and replaced in a manner to provide for seating and shade at the area and is hoping this work can be completed prior to this year's all class reunion. The improvements would include a permanent stand for a community Christmas tree that could also support a table during summer months. The improvements would also include permanent pipe structures to support canvas shades during the summer months. Commissioner Wiedrich expressed concern about the pipe allowing water beneath the concrete and causing damage and President Obenauer said the pipes would be capped like other such structures in other cities.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Rath & Mehrer P.C. Representation Letter:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the representation letter to Rath & Mehrer P.C. relating to the financial audit of the city for calendar year 2024, second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**Pocket Park Maintenance – Hazen Chamber:** The commission considered a request from the Hazen Chamber of Commerce for financial assistance in maintaining the Paul Weiser Pocket Park and Commissioner Folkerts indicated these funds are used for utilities and Ms. Heier is continually working to improve the appearance of the park. Over the past several years the city has provided \$2000 in funding for maintenance. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve \$3000 for the pocket park maintenance for this year, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Nay", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**SMC Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsorship:** The commission reviewed information regarding sponsorship of the SMC Foundation golf tournament in June. President Obenauer stated the tournament is very popular and supports needs of the hospital and suggested sponsoring the tournament at the silver level at \$300. President Obenauer moved to sponsor the SMC Foundation Golf Tournament at the \$300 Silver level, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Commissioner Wiedrich expressed concern that this is a private business and the number of transfers of patients to other facilities. Attorney Kaffar serves on the foundation board and clarified that the foundation is a 501 C 3 charity and uses funds to purchase equipment for the hospital to allow for additional services in the future. On roll call vote: Obenauer, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Nay", Haack, "Aye", motion carried.

**NDIRF Annual Meeting:** The commission reviewed information about the Annual NDIRF meeting to be held in Bismarck on May 8, 2025. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to provide proxy for voting of city representatives at the meeting, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

**Approval of Bills & Financial Statements:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Chamber of Commerce, 3000.00; D&E Supply, 207.31; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1200.00; Fuelman Fleet Program, 1019.66; HCD, 40.00; Hazen Parks & Rec, 12019.00; Heiman Fire Equip, 1030.88; HR Collaborative, 50.00; Lucky's Towing, 350.00; Millennium Express, 12.00; NAPA, 243.29; Northern Safety Co, 199.00; OK Tire Store, 770.00; Power Plan, 105.47; SMC Foundation, 300.00; Share Corp, 988.90; Sletten Excavating, 3505.00; Stamps.com, 98.67; Stein's Inc, 27.52; The Hub,

1046.31; US Postal Service, 379.07. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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