

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 7, 2025  
Hazen City Hall**

**Present:** Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern, and Commissioner Wiedrich.

**Absent:** President Obenauer.

**Others Present:** Jerod Klabunde (Moore Eng), Editor Arens, Tim Williams, Darrell Wurl, Myra Savelkoul, Buster Langowski, PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Kaffar, Police Chief Wolff, Auditor Erhardt, Laura and Dillon Dronen.

Vice-President Haack called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

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

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**

**Expedition Estates – T. Williams:** Tim Williams, Williams Building Company Inc, met with the commission and advised that the remaining part of Otter Creek loop should be paved by June of this year and further stated that, as developer, they have completed all the work they said they would do. Mr. Williams would like the city to reconsider the moratorium on the issuance of building permits. Mr. Williams would like to transfer the property back to the city when the road, and current construction projects, are completed by transferring the finance costs of roughly \$1.3 million to the city. There are thirty (30) residential lots and one (1) commercial lot ready for sale and construction. Attorney Kaffar recommended the city study this option further as this is a complicated issue, since the city is not typically involved in developing properties. Mr. Kaffar also said the city would want to see the road completed and should consider all options. Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, said they have been working with the developer and agreed that most work has been completed but, there are still questions about some water levels heights and the condition of the sewer main on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Williams indicated the pipe is functional and has been working and Mr. Klabunde would like to see it televised and a mandrel pulled through it. When asked by Commissioner Folkerts, Mr. Williams indicated the moratorium on building permits is an impediment to funding for the completion of the development. Vice-President Haack would like to follow-up on these discussion after further conversations with the city attorney. No further action taken.

**Engineer's Report:** Regarding Expedition Estates, Mr. Klabunde had nothing 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. This project is approximately 95% complete and should be closed this spring. 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 is scheduled to begin in May and a preconstruction conference was held on April 1, 2025. Regarding concrete repairs, Mr. Klabunde said the quote for this work was accepted at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and work should commence soon. Mr. Klabunde reviewed the city capital improvement plan and spoke about the plan being developed as part of the comprehensive plan revision done in 2022. Moore Engineering met with a committee to review and update the capital improvement plan and presented four (4) draft project updates. 1) Roadway improvements along 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and 7<sup>th</sup> Street NE (near Cenex) to address increased truck traffic and sustainability of the street; 2) Water main looping and valves to properly provide means to control supply and flows in case of a water break; 3) Water main replacement in east Hazen near the hospital to replace asbestos cement pipe; 4) Water main replacement in areas of the city south of Main Street. Mr. Klabunde said he is not seeking approval of any changes at this time but wanted to bring them to the commission's attention as they will need to be approved, or changed, in the future. As a final item, Mr. Klabunde indicated Moore Engineering is always looking at funding opportunities for various projects and said there is a chance that a sanitary sewer funding bill for \$25 million may be approved this legislative session.

## REQUEST OF CITIZENS

**Street Closure – Hazen Mercantile Grand Re-opening 5/17:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve a street closure request of Hazen Mercantile to block a portion of Main Street on May 17<sup>th</sup> for their Grand Re-opening/Anniversary celebration, second by Commissioner Folkert. Motion unanimously approved.

**Street Closure – Mommy and Me Mercantile 4/26:** Commissioner Folkerts abstained from action on motion by Commissioner Stern to approve a street closure request of Mommy and Me Mercantile to allow food vendors on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Main Street for a vendor show on April 26<sup>th</sup>, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. When asked by Commissioner Wiedrich, it was determined that the street will not be closed so approval is not necessarily required but serves as good notice to the public. Motion unanimously approved.

## REPORTS

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

**Street/Cemetery:** PW Director Brousseau advised the commission that staff continue to crack seal city streets and are also working to replace lost/damaged/faded signs around the city. Commissioner Haack spoke of the bid for concrete repairs within the city shop. As of this meeting two (2) proposals were received from Meissner Contracting and Winkler Construction. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the proposal of Winkler Construction, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion it was discovered that one proposal was for four-inches of concrete, and one was for six-inches of concrete as there was not a specification provided to the contractors when quotes were requested.

On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Nay”, Folkerts, “Nay”, Stern, “Nay”, Haack, “Nay”, motion defeated. Meissner Contracting will be requested to update its proposal based on six inches of concrete.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts had nothing to report at this time.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich reported on police department calls for service which show Officer Beyer responded to eight (8) calls for service, Officer Anthony Melberg responded to twenty-five (25) calls for service, Officer Samantha Melberg responded to thirty-eight (38) calls for service and Chief Wolff responded to forty-eight (48) calls for service.

**HCD:** Myra Savelkoul reported to the commission that the HCD annual meeting was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and was attended by thirty-eight (38) people. Ms. 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 Heart River CTE will be applying for grants for projects in Hazen and Beulah. Ms. Savelkoul is also working with the ND Department of Commerce Find Good Life Program to attract people to North Dakota.

**President:** President Obenauer absent. No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Funds Transfer:** The commission reviewed information as to transfer from the sales tax fund to various project funds to cover pledges previously approved by the commission. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the transfer of \$667,289 from the sales tax fund to various projects to reduce burden on city residents, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, the amount to be transferred to the 2024 Sewer Project is to establish funding prior to any loan fund requests. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received. Vice-President Haack acknowledged Dillon Dronen who attended the meeting in pursuit of a Boy Scout Badge.

**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: Fuelman Fleet, 1461.09, US Postal Service, 378.61; Cenex, 2701.64; Chamber of Commerce, 24.00; Christy Metz, 16.00; CVB, 4284.73; Cory Beery, 300.00; Dakota Pump & Control, 9191.41; Dakota Supply Group, 189.56; Dale Mulske, 178.00; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1200.00; Ecolab, 139.95; Elan Financial, 937.61; Everspring Suites, 99.00; Evolv Inc, 19.95; HCD, 12881.77; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 2085.00; Hazen Motor Co, 814.54; Hazen Rural Fire Dept, 2508.50; Hazen Star, 547.02; Hazen Welding, 304.00; Health Equity, 3.25; ITD, 33.30; Jim Block, 57.00; Krause’s, 75,81; Loren Wiest, 300.00; Lucky’s Towing, 350.00; Marco Technologies LLC, 402.18; Mercer Co Treasurer, 5498.55; Millennium Express, 12.00; MDU, 4175.27; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; ND League of Cities, 75.00; NAPA, 27770; NDPOAWC, 50.00; ND One Call Inc, 11.35; Northern Safety Co, 456.41; OK Tire Store, 466.84; Railroad Management CO III LLC, 417.05; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 4123.77; SW Water Authority, 26139.11; Stamps.com; 22.49; Stein’s Inc, 560.89; Stroup Insurance, 2981.00; Uniform Center, 170.00; Verizon Wireless, 423.37; Vestis, 429.09; West River Telecommunications, 926.56. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Haack, motion carried. Commissioner Haack asked the board, and public, to keep President Obenauer in their thoughts and

prayers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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