

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2025
Hazen City Hall**

Present: President Obenauer, Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern, and Commissioner Wiedrich (5:44 PM).

Others Present: Editor Arens, PW Director Brousseau, Myra Savelkoul, Attorney Kaffar, Jerod Klabunde & Aiden Kelly (Moore Engineering), Austin Clarys, and Auditor Erhardt.

President Obenauer called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Haack moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the May 5th Regular Meeting and the May 8th & May 12th special meetings, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkert. Motion unanimously approved.

Agenda: Commissioner Stern moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. 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 stated there is still a lot of work to be completed and they are working with the developer regarding solutions for the issues on 11th Ave SW. President Obenauer asked about lifting the moratorium on building permits with no interest in such action taken. Regarding the alley project, Mr. Klabunde stated there is minor work to be completed prior to final payment early this summer. Regarding the sanitary sewer project, work was anticipated to start this week, but the schedule has been pushed back due to the heavy precipitation. Mr. Klabunde provided information on updates to the capital improvement plan (CIP) and other projects that were on the plan when it was developed in 2023. The projects on the plan are listed based on priority of high, low, or medium and Mr. Klabunde stated that with the online version of the CIP commissioners can make informed decisions on which projects to budget for and which projects can be pushed back with the program automatically updating costs based on inflation projections. Mr. Klabunde has four (4) specific projects he would like to add to the CIP. They are; repairs of 4th Ave & 7th St NE, near Cenex; watermain looping and valving to address southwest areas of the city; replacement of ACP water mains around the hospital; and replacement of ACP water mains south of Main Street in the main portion of the city. Attorney Kaffar asked if there are any projects that could be combined and Mr. Klabunde stated that there are dependent on funding sources (federal/state/local) available at the time. Commissioner Haack moved to add the projects, as outlined, to the CIP, second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried. Mr. Klabunde stated the CIP can be a tool used to develop budgets for 2026 and beyond.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Local Permit-Raffle – Common Threads Quilters Guild: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2025-09 as requested by the Common Threads Quilters Guild to conduct a quilt raffle on September 6, 2025, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

Local Permit-Raffle – Fire & Iron Station #162: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2025-10 as requested by Fire & Iron Station #162 to conduct a raffle on June 14, 2025, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Chapter 18 – Floodplain Ordinance Updates: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the second reading of the Model “D” Floodplain Ordinance, as presented, and it becomes effective upon publication in the official newspaper, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

Chapter 9 – Fireworks Ordinance Discussion: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the first reading of the proposed fireworks ordinance with the changes discussed at the May 5th meeting incorporated, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

Commercial Building Permit – A Clarys: The commission reviewed a commercial building permit presented by Austin Clarys for a mini-storage facility at 1009 Frontage Road W. The permit requires no variance, and this is located within the C2 zoning District. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the building permit, as requested by Mr. Clarys, second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

Variance Request – Puckett Accessory Use Building: The commission was informed that Mike Clarys or Eli Puckett were discussing the need of a variance for his accessory use building at 317 8th Avenue NW due to a water main within the property. Pending clarification of the easement in place for the water main, no request was presented, and no further action was taken.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Stern reported that the spare garbage truck was now having mechanical issues and PW Director Brousseau indicated there were emission systems not working properly and it will be taken to Mandate Automotive on May 20th. Commissioner Stern moved to approve funding of up to \$5000 for diagnosis of the issue, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Upon discussion, President Obenauer was informed that the city was now using Beulah’s spare truck to work on garbage collection. On roll call vote: Stern, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried. Regarding the other garbage truck, Commissioner Wiedrich had contacted Freedom Truck Center and was advised that there are issues regarding engaging both clutches and there is fine metal in the transmission. The commission reviewed bids to replace the transmission from Freedom Truck Center and Interstate Power Systems, and these are nearly the same except, Sletten Excavating had quoted \$800 to transport the truck to Bismarck with his low-boy. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve replacing the garbage truck transmission at Freedom Truck Center at a cost, up to, \$16,000, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, it was determined that Freedom Truck Center requires the cost of parts up front. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack had nothing to report at this time. President Obenauer asked about repairing potholes and PW Director Brousseau said that some have been done but there are still more to do.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich had nothing to report regarding the police department or forestry. The fire department received pricing to replace SCBA equipment from two (2) vendors and the fire department board will be pursuing the equipment with a thirty-year (30) warranty and bottle life at a total cost of \$171,612 with the city being asked to provide \$58,300. Once final purchase information is available the matter will be discussed further.

HCD: Myra Savelkoul informed the commission that another meeting regarding construction of a house to benefit cooperative work experience with the school has been scheduled for May 30th and that additional information regarding Talon Metals project continues to develop.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Dakota Walleye Classic Sponsorship Request: The commission reviewed a letter requesting sponsorship of the 30th Annual Dakota Walleye Classic. This is the first time the city has received a letter requesting sponsorship. Attorney Kaffar indicated that the tournament supports local charities such as the Wheelchairs & Walleyes. No further action was taken.

Sales Tax Administration Agreement – State Tax Department: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the agreement with the ND State Tax Department regarding collection and distribution of city sales tax funds at a cost of \$227/month until July 1, 2027, second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Heritage Park Wi-Fi Access Point: The commission was informed of a situation involving Wi-Fi access equipment on the library and the fact that it didn’t comply with the Child Internet Protection Act and thereby had to be removed. Wi-Fi access is important for events held at the park throughout the year. West River Telecommunications met with city staff and have produced a plan to access the city wi-fi via antennae and receiver. Since the structure in the park has electrical access, WRT will install equipment, without cost to the city. Commissioner Wiedrich suggested installing a NIB rather than point-to-point for better reliability. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the installation of Wi-Fi equipment for Heritage Park, second by Commissioner Haack. 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: MDU, 4042.84; Roughrider Electric, 3914.09; Bank of ND, 141524.09; Dale Mulske, 102.90; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1200.00; Electronic Communications, 261.34; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Fastenal, 5.32; Fitterer Oil LLC, 149.15; Freedom Truck Center, 12329.86; Fuelman Fleet, 997.72; Grondahl Recreation Inc, 9693.00; Hazen Welding, 1255.25; Health Equity, 3.25; Jim Block, 114.00; Kat & Company, 750.00; Lucky’s Towing, 350.00; Mercer Co Treasurer, 703.70; Millennium Express, 12.00; Modern Marketing, 675.92; ND POST Board, 150.00; New Pig Corp, 153.01; POST Board, 25.00; Power Plan, 87.94; Ronnie Blekestad Jr, 245.20; Stamps.com, 144.71; The Hub, 862.89; Uniform Center, 116.98. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor