

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 4, 2026  
Hazen City Hall**

**Present:** President Schiferl, Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich

**Others Present:** Jo Neuberg, Myra & Jerry Schinke, Wayne & Debbie Rahn, Robbin & Larry Foss, Transit Director Brennan, PW Director Brousseau, Jerod Klabunde (Moore Eng), Buster Langowski, Michelle Maas, Christy Mindt, Walton & Andrea VanDyke, Jordan & Sue Wegner, Bob & Liz Johnson, Attorney Donovan, and Auditor Erhardt.

President Schiferl called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.

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

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**

**Expedition Estates Discussion:** President Schiferl opened discussion clarifying that “technically” there is no moratorium on issuing building permits within the subdivision, however the motion of April 6<sup>th</sup> to permit three (3) building permits to be issued as a plan to resolve the sewer issues on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW are addressed which failed on a three to two vote, inferring that building will not be allowed. Mr. Schiferl asked about cost information for different repair options and Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, stated they have not received anything more than the previously submitted estimates of \$800,000 and \$400,00. President Schiferl then reviewed options for the board including, adoption of a moratorium on issuing building permits, allowing building permits but withholding certificates of occupancy until a repair plan is in place, or start the process to make the repairs and special assess the costs to property owners. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to establish a moratorium on the issuance of all building permits for properties located on Otter Creek Loop, 11<sup>th</sup> Ave W, and the commercial lot owned by Mr. Williams. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the first commission meeting of May 2027, unless terminated earlier upon verification that the sewer system on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW has been fully repaired, has passed all applicable federal and state testing requirements, and Moore Engineering has provided written confirmation of the adequacy of such repairs. Alternatively, the moratorium may be lifted upon submission and approval of a repair plan by Mr. Williams accompanied by the posting of a \$200,000 bond to guarantee completion of the sewer system repairs. Second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, President Schiferl commented that the bond requirement for Williams Building Company in making the repairs is a start. President Schiferl also stated that Mr. Williams was contacted regarding any additional information on making the repairs and the response was, “We can’t move forward without being able to build. No revenue, no process.” On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Haack, “Nay”, Schiferl, “Nay”, motion carried.

**Engineer’s Report:** Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, stated the engineers are still seeking options for the repairs in Expedition Estates. Bob Johnson asked how the proposed bond compares

to the bids and was advised that the bond is roughly half the cost of the lower bid. Regarding the sewer project, manhole rehab should be completed by month end, and asphalt patching is tentatively scheduled for June with anticipated close out of the project in June. Regarding the water service line inventory, the project is ongoing with less than 100 of 1800 services to be identified. Mr. Klabunde received cost proposals from two (2) companies for the nine (9) street locations requiring patching/repairs from Keller Paving (\$54,452) and Bechtold Paving (\$67,510). Mr. Klabunde indicated both companies have work in the area. Commissioner Wiedrich stated that more areas in need of repair have appeared on Highway Drive and asked if these could be addressed under the project. Mr. Klabunde stated this should be possible and stated that once the size of the areas is determined he can calculate the costs based on the unit prices provided. President Schiferl asked if repairs had been budgeted and was informed that this amount was not budgeted but that ND DOT Flex Funds could be used to offset the unbudgeted costs. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to proceed with the patching of the nine (9) identified locations by Keller Paving at a cost of \$54,452, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, it was indicated that this work will be done at the time the sewer patching work is done and Mr. Klabunde will measure the additional areas and bring that to the next meeting. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. Mr. Klabunde would like to review the capital improvement plan with the board sometime in July.

#### **REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Community Garden – M. Schinke:** Myra Schinke addressed the commission regarding a community garden grant received by the Hazen Chamber of Commerce requesting approval to place the garden beds in an area of the arboretum near Antelope Creek. Ms. Schinke indicated the idea started after a conversation with the TSC manager and this could serve to empower residents by growing their own food and, if successful, seek future grants to expand the educational aspects through school programs. The grant received is from Basin Electric Power Cooperative in the amount of \$1400. The plan is to install ten (10) beds, each measuring 6'x3' and it was also explained these are not raised beds but are approximately 12" high and volunteers will get them set up and could even address condition of the fruit trees in the arboretum. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve use of an area within the arboretum and to match the \$1400 grant with city funds, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, the volunteers will likely do seeding this year, but future years could provide opportunities for residents to request a bed for individual use. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

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

**Hazen Winter Sports – Site Authorizations:** Jo Neuberger, HWS Gaming Director, met with the commission regarding annual site authorization for area locations to conduct gaming. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the site authorizations as requested by Hazen Winter Sports for Box's Bar, Bison Sports Bar, Jimmy's Lounge, and Long Shots Bar, second by Commissioner Folkerts. President Schiferl, who serves on the HWS Board indicated he would abstain from voting. On roll call vote, Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", motion carried.

**Building Permit-USB Remodel – MNC Contracting LLC:** The commission reviewed a building permit application to remodel a portion of the basement of Union State Bank to create a wellness suite for bank staff presented by MNC Contracting LLC. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the building permit, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

## REPORTS

**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Stern informed the board that clean-up week started and PW Director Brousseau indicated they have a good start on the process.

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack informed the board that crack sealing has been completed and the cart was refilled if needed for any patching.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts had nothing to report at this time. Transit Director Brennan reported that Midwest Doors has been contacted to make the approved repairs but have not provided a date this will be completed.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich had nothing to report at this time. Chief Wolff had nothing to report.

**HCD:** Antoinette Heier, HCD Director, absent. No report.

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

The commission reviewed cost information to replace a pole and light that was damaged along the shared use path in west Hazen. The pole was damaged when the city was removing snow and, now that replacement cost is determined, will be reported to the city insurance carrier. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the purchase of one (1) pole and light at a cost of \$4,297.65 (not including electrician labor), second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Pocket Park Donation Request – Hazen Chamber of Commerce:** The commission reviewed a request of the Hazen Chamber for funding to maintain and beautify Main Street and the Paul Weiser Pocket Park. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to provide \$3000 to support the project, second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

**SMC Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsorship Request:** The commission reviewed a request from the SMC Foundation to sponsor the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual SMC Foundation Golf Tournament. Commissioner Haack moved to provide a \$300 general sponsorship for the tournament, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Propane Bid Notice and Board Appointment Notice:** Auditor Erhardt informed the commission that notices for bidding of propane fuel and board appointments will be published in the official paper. No further action taken.

**Designate Official Newspaper – Hazen Star (NDCC 40-01-09):** Commissioner Folkerts moved to designate the Hazen Star as the official newspaper for the City of Hazen pursuant to NDCC 40-01-09, second by Commission Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Christy Mindt addressed the commission concerned about the lack of notice to residents regarding the change in placement of the stop signs near the hospital at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave/7<sup>th</sup> St NE. There have been some near misses at the intersection and Chief Wolff said one of the biggest issues now is driver's that are stopping, out of habit, where there is no longer a stop sign and being struck from the back. There was discussion about Class A emergency vehicles following traffic laws and liability concerns of these vehicles. Michelle Maas was also concerned about near misses at the

intersection and asked that future changes be communicated more effectively through the newspaper, social media and the city app. Buster Langowski questioned the traffic laws and Commissioner Folkerts explained that emergency vehicles with flashing lights do not have to obey traffic laws but they are not relieved of liability should there be an incident for not obeying them. There was discussion about enforcement at this location and the changes proposed at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave/1<sup>st</sup> St SW when the four-way stop signs are installed and the need to make the public aware of the changes.

**Approval of Bills and Financial Statements:** Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the bills, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Brandon Grabau, 35.00; Chamber of Commerce, 3400.00; CVB, 2882.59; Cory Beery, 300.00; Elan Financial Services, 2061.33; Fastenal, 61.95; Frontier Floral, 95.00; HCD, 4164.09; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 77.78; Hazen Motor Co, 157.69; Industrial Chem Labs, 456.74; KDKT Sports Radio, 125.00; Matthew Bender & Co Inc, 96.81; Menards, 43.13; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6923.00; Moore Engineering Inc, 5729.00; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; NAPA, 187.31; Nicholas Eckroth, 148.8; ND One Call Inc, 48.90; Northern Safety Co, 221.94; Rough Rider Industries, 1751.42; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; SMC Foundation, 300.00; Stein’s Inc, 90.32; Tractor Supply Credit Plan, 6.79; Verizon Wireless, 522.54; Vestis, 465.17; West River Telecommunications, 924.58. On roll call vote: Folkerts, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Schiferl, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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