

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

Commissioner Wiedrich presided over the meeting in the absence of President Obenauer and Vice-President Haack.

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

**Absent:** President Obenauer and Commissioner Haack

**Others Present:** PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Donovan, Grant Dockter (Moore Engineering), Officer A. Melberg, Chief Wolff, Rhonda Biffert, Harvey Huber, Lauren Donovan, Marti Raad, Myra Savelkoul, and Auditor Erhardt.

Commissioner Wiedrich called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

Commissioner Wiedrich led the pledge of allegiance and said prayer.

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

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

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**

**Engineer's Report:** Grant Dockter, Moore Engineering, appeared before the commission to review the engineer's report. Mr. Dockter had no updates relating to Expedition Estates. Regarding the alley project, north of Main Street, Mr. Dockter advised that final work will be done, and the project will be ready to close out at the August meeting. Regarding the sanitary sewer project, the spot repairs have been completed, and Municipal Pipe has been on location doing relining. It was reported that there can be some odor in homes because of the lining process and it is best if residents ensure their P-traps are wet. Relining is expected to be completed by mid-August and manhole rehabilitation will then be completed. Concrete work is being scheduled, and the asphalt repairs have been postponed to spring of 2026. Mr. Dockter presented pay application #2 of CC Steel and recommended approval of the same. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve pay estimate #2 in the amount of \$154,122.12 as presented by CC Steel, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried. Mr. Dockter then presented change order #2 to the commission relating to adjusting the completion date to accommodate the asphalt work and to add additional cost for transition liners for variations in pipe diameter between locations. Mr. Dockter explained that the pipe may be ten inches (10") at one manhole and the same line is then eight inches (8") at the next manhole indicating a change in size within the length of pipe. This can be lined without transition, but the lining may then wrinkle and if this wrinkle is on the bottom of the pipe, it will not allow proper flows or sewage backups. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve change order #2 to address completion dates and to add \$22,477.84 for transition linings to the cost of the project, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried. Mr. Dockter then presented some general engineering items including miscellaneous concrete repairs and the proposed ADA ramp at Heritage Park. Harvey Huber, Chalk Fest Committee member, indicated that the committee has not made a final decision on use of awarded funds but, they intend to use some of the funds to make improvements to Heritage Park such as repairing the bathroom and

improvements to the park shelter. The committee has arranged with the school to use a temporary ADA ramp for this year's event. Mr. Dockter indicated the plan was to have this work completed by event time but that this could be reconsidered in the future. Lauren Donovan, Chalk Fest Committee member, indicated that use of the temporary ramp may allow for feedback on the proper location and need for the ramp in the future. No further action taken. Mr. Dockter spoke about the alley between Antelope and Elbowoods Drive and it was agreed that this work would be best when incorporated into a larger project to reduce overall costs. Mr. Dockter then spoke about available DOT Flex funds from the state for road projects and that these may be helpful in addressing the condition of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE near Cenex. No further action taken.

## REQUEST OF CITIZENS

**Chalk Fest:** Lauren Donovan and Marti Raad appeared before the commission representing the Chalk Fest Committee. Ms. Donovan said the committee was awarded \$20,000 dollars through the Cenex Hometown Throwdown event and stated the funds will be used to make additional improvements to the park. Ms. Donovan said the committee began raising funds to make park improvements back in 2017. Ms. Donovan then asked the commission to consider allowing the street to remain closed for a longer period for this year's event to allow children and others the opportunity to take in all the art completed. Marti Raad then spoke of an application that tracks cell phone locations and can be used to determine how many visitors attend the event with information that approximately 1900 people attended the event in 2024. These visitors then spend time and money in the city. Ms. Donovan said the street was closed from Sunday to Sunday for the 2024 event. Commissioner Wiedrich stated he had received many complaints about "Main Street" being closed for an entire week. PW Director Brousseau said that detour signs could help in advising motorists of the upcoming street closure. It was reported that the initial street closure was approved, by the board, from Monday at 7:00 AM to Friday at 3:00 PM. Commissioner Folkerts moved to extend the street closure from Sunday to Sunday (8/10 – 8/17) with the committee authorized to remove the barricades as soon as possible, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.

## REPORTS

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

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack absent. No report. PW Director Brousseau reported that paint has been purchased, and striping work will begin soon. The commission was provided an estimate, by Meissner Contracting, to repair a portion of the shared use path near the city shop in the amount of \$2,225. Commissioner Stern asked if this buckled section of path may go back down over time and it was reported this is not likely and the section has already begun breaking apart. Commissioner Folkerts moved to accept the estimate of Meissner Contracting in the amount of \$2,225 for the repairs, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts informed the board that two (2) applicants had been interviewed for the transit director position. Commissioner Folkerts moved to offer the position to Tammy Rahn at a starting wage of \$22/hour with performance review and wage adjustment to \$22.45/hour on January 1, 2026, if warranted, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Wiedrich asked if this is a part-time position and Commissioner Folkerts indicated the duties of director would be in addition to the current duties of Ms. Rahn. It was also discussed that there is sufficient staff at city hall to cover if Ms. Rahn is called away from the office for transit duties. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the fire department responded to the following calls in the previous month: lift assist on 6/22, smoke alarm on 6/28, vehicle accident on 1806 on 6/29, a dumpster fire on 6/29, a motor vehicle accident on 7/3, a motor vehicle accident on 7/5 and a lift assist on 7/7. Commissioner Wiedrich reported the police department calls for service with Officer Blekestad responding to one (1) call, Officer Anthony Melberg responding to forty-six (46) calls for service, Officer Samantha Melberg responding to forty-four (44) calls for service and Chief Wolff responding to seventy-six (76) call for service. Chief Wolff reported a call regarding traffic speeds on Otter Creek Loop so department staff will conduct targeted patrol of the area. Officer Anthony Melberg reported a streetlight “strobing” on Antelope Drive, and he will get the address so it can be reported for repairs. Officer Anthony Melberg reported that having the new police vehicle at the Touch-a-Truck was incredibly good and Commissioner Wiedrich commented that the event is getting bigger each year. Regarding forestry, Commissioner Wiedrich would like staff to address removing the ash pile at the tree site.

**HCD:** Myra Savelkoul informed the commission, when asked by Commissioner Wiedrich, that when Talon Metals begins their work, it would be great if the county could pick up at least fifty (50) new residents. Ms. Savelkoul is also going to work with the Housing Authority about getting additional apartments constructed in the city.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rhonda Biffert appeared before the commission seeking clarification of the city’s ordinance as it relates to operation of golf carts on city streets and the shared use path to the golf course. Commissioner Folkerts commented on the increased number of vehicles on the path and Ms. Biffert commented that it is great for the kids to be able to drive this path to the golf course. Commissioner Wiedrich also commented that he has noticed a lot of people driving them and it is hard for police to enforce. Ms. Biffert suggested law enforcement communicate the rules more effectively and Chief Wolff commented that the department is researching ordinances for other jurisdictions to establish an enforceable ordinance. There was discussion about registration and certifying golf carts for public use, but this does not make them operable on public roads. Attorney Donovan spoke of legislation relating to off highway vehicles that takes effect August 1<sup>st</sup> and he will share this with the commission and law enforcement. No further action taken.

**Approval of Bills and Financial Statements:** Commissioner Stern moved to approve the bills and financial statement as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Elan Financial Services, 1205.16; MDU, 4459.01, Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 3308.72; Benjamin Bohrer, 100.00; CC Steel LLC, 154122.12; Coal Country CHC, 220.00; CVB, 3853.36; Cory Beery, 300.00; D&E Supply, 66.09; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1700.00; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Farmers Union Oil Co, 182.50; Fireside Office Solutions, 19.15; Fuelman Fleet, 1567.13; Hirshfield’s, 1889.89; ITD, 33.30; Marmon Custom Leather, 50.00; Millennium Express, 12.00; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; ND One Call Inc, 55.50; Power Plan, 889.02; Rath & Mehrer PC, 11000.00; Ronnie Blekestad Jr, 207.20; Rough Rider Industries, 1000.00; Samantha Melberg, 195.46; Stamps.com, 22.49; Stamps.com, 88.29; Stroup Insurance, 50.00; Ternes Tree Service, 900.00; The Hub, 1229.28; US Postal Service, 428.61. On roll call vote: Stern, “Aye”, Folkerts, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM CT. The next regular meeting

of the commission is scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2025, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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