

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
December 4, 2023  
Hazen City Hall**

**Present:** President Obenauer, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Pillar, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.

**Others Present:** Editor Arens, Auditor Erhardt, Marla & Travis Hagemeister, and Buster Langowski.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Obenauer.

President Obenauer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Pillar said the prayer.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Haack moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.

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

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY & ENGINEER**

**Engineer's Report:** The commission reviewed the engineer's report which included no action items. President Obenauer was informed that the engineer will appear at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS**

**Liquor License – 2024-TC's Dugout LLC (Bison Sports Bar) & Longshots LLC:** The commission reviewed applications for the 2024 calendar year as submitted by TC's Dugout LLD (dba Bison Sports Bar) and Longshots LLC. The commission was informed that Timothy Scheid purchased the Bison Sports Bar and was in the process of obtaining his state liquor license. The application of Longshots Bar LLC is a renewal like previous years. Other license applications will be presented at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the 2024 liquor licenses of TC's Dugout LLC and Longshots Bar LLC, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Pillar informed the board that he had a conversation with the city engineer about developing specifications to bid purchase of new water meters and the current water meters are nearing end of useful life. Commissioner Pillar said there are additional items on the capital improvement plan that will also be addressed in future meetings. Commissioner Pillar is reviewing a water/sewer rate study recently completed by Midwest Assistance Program and will bring recommendations for rate changes, along with other ordinance revisions regarding city utilities. Public input on these changes will be part of the process.

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack informed the board that the new radiator has been installed in the freightliner truck and the cost was more than \$1500 less than originally quoted. Work on the second snow gate continues and will hopefully be completed soon. The commission was informed that an

estimate to repair a single path light on west Main Street was provided. The cost of boring a new line conduit and then installing new line and an LED light at the fixture would be approximately \$4900. There was discussion about installing solar lights. The auditor was directed to get pricing for a single solar fixture and no further action was taken.

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

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the police department handled more than one hundred (100) calls for service in November. Officer Beyer responded to 28 calls, Officer A Melberg responded to 31 calls, Officer S Melberg responded to 28 calls, and Chief Wolff responded to 28 calls for service. Commissioner Wiedrich advised that the Expedition vehicle was in to have a heat shield fixed and for catalytic converter issues, which have been addressed.

**HCD:** Buster Langowski informed the commission that there are many business properties changing hands within the city and this has led to inquiries about assistance, such as Flex Pace, to assist in purchases. Mr. Langowski said Hazen Community Development's goal is to help new, and expanding, businesses. The HCD board has approved two (2) Flex Pace agreements, and another will be reviewed soon. Mr. Langowski spoke about the current Bank of ND interest rates being 8.5% with different programs to "buy-down" the interest 5%.

Mr. Langowski informed the commission that a virtual meeting with Talon Metals representatives will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>. This is likely to be a full day of information about industry opportunities in the area.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Travis & Marla Hagemester appeared for the meeting hoping to ask question of the city engineer regarding work yet to be completed in Expedition Estates. There are still questions relating to the road and its condition in the spring and if the sewer system will be re-televised prior to work being completed. The questions will be presented to the city engineer for a response to Hagemester's.

**Approval of Bills:** Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the bills and funds transfers, as presented and to include payment to Union State Bank in the amount of \$4700.00, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: 7 Arrows Tree Service, 2500.00; Axon Enterprises, 2281.60; Bryan Tomchuk, 140.00; Colliers Securities LLC, 300.00; D&E Supply Co, 322.62; Dakota Pump & Control Inc, 726.00; Elan Financial Svcs, 836.02; Fitterer Oil Hazen LLC, 769.29; Hazen Mercantile, 840.32; Hazen Motor Co, 91.90; Krause's, 97.11; Marco Technologies LLC, 343.38; Matt LeMasters, 300.00; Matthew Bender & Co Inc, 81.60; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6559.65; Myron Stern, 24.57; ND Chiefs Assoc, 200.00; NAPA, 473.93; Pam Borlaug, 73.36; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; SW Water Authority, 25974.75; Uniform Center, 42.98; Union State Bank, 4700.00; Universal Premium Fleetcard, 961.42; Verizon Wireless, 326.55; West River Telecommunications, 1074.34. Fund transfers approved are as follows: 6000.00 from General Fund to Police Vehicle Reserves, 5000.00 from General Fund to Fire Vehicle Reserves; 3000.00 from Street Fund to Large Equipment Reserves; 3000.00 from Street Fund to New Equipment Reserves; 5000.00 from Transit Fund to New Equipment Reserves; 5000.00 from Water Fund to Equipment Reserves; 5000.00 from Sewer Fund to Equipment Reserves; 19000.00 from Garbage Fund to Equipment Reserves; 16037.00 from Tech Equipment

Reserves to General Fund; 30656 from Tech Equipment Reserve to General Fund; 289220.00 from Sales Tax Fund to 2016 Project Fund; 114650.00 from Sales Tax Fund to 2018 Project Fund. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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