

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2024
Hazen City Hall**

Present: Commissioner Pillar, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.

Absent: President Obenauer and Commissioner Haack

Others Present: Jerod Klabunde & Aidan Kelly (Moore Engineering), Editor Arens, Police Chief Wolff, Attorney Kaffar, Auditor Erhardt, Melissa Rakes, Chris Dunn, and Jonny Bucchholz.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Vice-President Pillar.

Vice-President Pillar led the Pledge of Allegiance and said the prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the February 5th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. 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

Engineer's Report: Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, presented the engineers report.

- 1) Regarding Expedition Estates, the engineer has reached out to the contractor to get an updated schedule of work.
- 2) Regarding the Alley Improvement Project District #2023-01, bids for the project were opened on February 13th, and four (4) companies bid on the construction of the project. The engineer's estimate of probable cost for the project is \$385,000 excluding any private work. Mr. Klabunde recommends awarding the project to Winkler Construction, the apparent low bidder, at a cost of \$264,800. Commissioner Pillar moved to award the project to Winkler Construction at a bid cost of \$264,800, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried. Mr. Klabunde then presented task order #20 for engineering services for the project and requested approval of the commission. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve task order #20, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern was advised that the engineering services on the task order are \$30,000. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.
- 3) Regarding the city-wide meter replacement project, the city received three (3) quotes for the project on February 6, 2024. A committee of staff and commission reviewed the proposals and was prepared to make a recommendation. However, the engineer this date discovered an error on the bid calculations. It was recommended that the committee review the updated information, meet again, and make a recommendation at the March 4th meeting. Commissioner Stern asked about the lifetime of the meters and was advised that all are rated for twenty (20) years with some of them pro-rating the warranty at different intervals of the lifetime. Commissioner Stern also had questions about the difference between the magnetic and ultrasonic reading methods which are difficult to quantify. Mr. Klabunde reminded the commission that the city has been

approved to receive cost-share on the capital cost but not the continuing costs.

- 4) Regarding the lift station controls, Mr. Klabunde informed the board that two companies submitted cost proposals to upgrade the communications systems of two (2) lift stations to connect to the new SCADA system of the water tower. Proposal of Skeel's Electric in the amount of \$45,990; and Edling Electric in the amount of \$54,000. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to award the project to Skeel's Electric at a cost of \$45,990, second by Commissioner Pillar. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", motion carried.
- 5) Regarding recommended sanitary sewer repairs, Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that the engineer's originally presented cost information for spot repairs of twelve (12) sanitary sewer locations and were then asked to prepare a cost estimate to make the spot repairs and then line all the clay tile pipe of the sanitary sewer system for determination of special assessment processes. The engineer's cost estimate for the repairs and lining, including engineering, legal and bonding costs is \$2,850,000 which, when spread across the benefitted parcels would be approximately \$5000/parcel or \$235/year over a thirty (30) year period. Commissioner Stern asked if lining a good pipe was necessary and was advised that it would be most beneficial to line the pipes prior to any further deterioration. Commissioner Pillar was advised that the city does not qualify for state funding on sewer projects. Mr. Klabunde said the board could also consider breaking the project up into phases, but all the work could be completed in one season in response to a question from Commissioner Pillar. Commissioner Stern was advised that the lifespan of the lining is like that of PVC pipe. Commissioner Pillar said he would like to continue this discussion when the full board is present, and Mr. Klabunde stated he would keep this item in the engineer's report.
- 6) Regarding the water service line inventory, Mr. Klabunde advised the commission that slightly more than forty (40) residents have responded to the requests sent to each boxholder and that the city has collected more than most other municipalities. The city will continue to work with the residents and media to get information out to complete the surveys as required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before concluding the engineer's report, Attorney Kaffar asked about projects to be included on the state water plan and if the city has considered requesting funds to complete snagging and clearing of Antelope Creek and the Knife River within the city territory. Mr. Klabunde said this has not been included in the other three (3) projects the city has submitted but he would get this included prior to the deadline.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Free/Reduced Hall Rent & Local Permit – SMC Hospice: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve free/reduced hall rent, subject to the kitchen fee, and local permit requested by SMC Hospice for the Grape Escape Event on March 22nd, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

Street Closure Request – Neumiller Auctioneers: The commission reviewed a request to close a portion of 2nd Avenue NW during an auction to be held on May 4th. Commissioner Stern asked why the closure was necessary and was advised that it is because of the volume of people and the items to

be auctioned. Commissioner Stern would like the auctioneer to ensure residents of the affected area have access to their property. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the request to close 2nd Ave NW from 4th Street to 5th Street on May 4, 2024, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

Street Light Installation: Chris Dunn appeared before the commission with concerns of pedestrian visibility along 3rd Ave NE when walking to school. There are only a couple of lights along the route Mr. Dunn takes to school. The auditor was directed to map the locations of the current streetlights and present information to the engineers for review and recommendations. Commissioner Stern believed that most of the lights have been converted to LED which don't light as large of an area. No further action was taken.

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Discussion: The commission was advised that President Obenauer had been contact about enforcing an ordinance relating to "engine brakes" and the noise created by them. For the ND DOT to place appropriate signs along the state highway, the city must have an ordinance referring directly to engine brakes, which the city does not currently have. The current ordinance refers only to loud vehicle noise. Commissioner Pillar stated that he remembers some preliminary discussion about this type of ordinance some time ago. There was discussion about enforcing this activity under the current ordinance, at the officer's discretion, and that without proper measuring equipment how is "loud" determined. Commissioner Wiedrich spoke about not wanting to take the safety feature away from the truck operator. Commissioner Stern suggested the signs be placed at city limits only referring to use of engine brakes in town. No further action taken pending further information from President Obenauer.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Pillar had nothing further to report.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack was absent. Auditor Erhardt informed the commission that Hazen Welding is watching weather forecasts and will ensure the second snow gate is ready, when needed.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board of the fire department calls for service response to one motor vehicle accident and assist of the Beulah Fire Department for a structure fire and a lift assist call by the ambulance. Commissioner Wiedrich said he has had no further discussion with Officer A. Melberg on the upfitting of the new vehicle and Chief Wolff advised that the contact at the dealership may not be available at the present time.

HCD: Buster Langowski was absent. No report.

President: President Obenauer was absent. No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Aramark, 376.07;

Bobcat of Mandan Inc, 98.47; CB Accounting, 280.00; Core & Main LP, 9627.56; Dakota Pump & Control Inc, 3200.00; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1400.00; Fitterer Oil Hazen LLC, 35.75; Fitterer Oil LLC, 3299.46; Further, 6.50; Hazen Golf Club, 374.77; Hazen Motor Co, 594.81; Hazen Welding, 318.47; ITD, 28.30; Jim Block, 91.00; Krause's, 961.35; Lucky's Towing, 350.00; Marc Corp, 673.54; Mercer Co Treasurer, 5851.80; MDU, 4801.78; ND Dept of Health, 50.00; Nordak Central Publishing, 35.00; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 5087.19; Stamps.com, 93.06; Stroup Insurance, 58404.00; The Hub, 1111.57; Western Steel Builders, 12266.00. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2024, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor