

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2024
Hazen City Hall**

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

Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Editor Arens, Police Chief Wolff, Attorney Donovan, Auditor Erhardt, Nancy Wolf, Buster Langowski Jonny Bucchholz.

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 March 4th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

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

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: The commission reviewed the written engineer's report with no action items. They commission was advised that engineering survey crews are available to begin "dipping" manholes in anticipation of the sewer spot repairs and lining project. There was discussion on the need for this work pending further action to approve the project and what is to be gained by proceeding at this time or waiting for further details on the process. A meeting with staff and the engineers to discuss details of the proposed project is scheduled for the afternoon of March 26th and the board agreed to wait for further details before authorizing the work on manhole dipping to begin. No further action taken.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Streetlight – C. Dunn: Nancy Wolf appeared on behalf of Chris Dunn for information on the requested lighting addition on the 3rd Ave NE, enroute to the school. Ms. Wolf was advised that MDU was contacted about installing a light and that there would be no installation cost to the city if a pole were available for the light, where intended. There is a pole available along the west side of the street at the alley halfway between 5th and 6th Street. As information becomes available on the installation of the light the commission and Mr. Dunn will be updated. No further action taken.

Local Permit-Raffle – Hazen Bison Trap Team: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2024-07 as requested by the Hazen Bison Trap Team for a raffle on June 11th, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Discussion: The commission reviewed a draft amendment of the Nuisance Ordinance to include definition, adoption clause and penalty clause for an ordinance relating to

engine brakes. The commission was provided additional data provided by Cris Miller (Hazen) relating to muffler equipment required on motor vehicles in accordance with ND Century Code, Federal Highway Regulations, and the current city ordinance. There was discussion about the number of residents affected by the engine brake noise and how this compares to train, or even helicopter, noise within the city. Commissioner Pillar indicated that he has been contacted by numerous people about the noise who are interested in the direction the city would like to go in this matter. Chief Wolff said he sees many instances where motor vehicles are pulling out to get ahead of semi-trucks which causes the truck to have to slow down quickly and Commissioner Haack said he has observed similar instances. President Obenauer indicated he has been contacted by a couple of residents about the noise over a several year span and Mr. Langowski said that truck traffic is not likely to decrease and is more likely to increase in the future. Commissioner Wiedrich commented that not all trucks are loud and that there are many other vehicles that are also loud when driving in the city. No motion to proceed with the matter and no further action was taken.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Pillar informed the board that water/wastewater staff has alerted him to maintenance issues on lift station #1 and lift station #5. Issues relating to lift station #5 are for pump failures and the need for spare equipment to provide redundancy of systems in case of failure. Dakota pump and control provided an estimate, with estimated travel and labor costs, in the amount of \$13,270 for the pump(s) and installation. Commissioner Pillar moved to accept the estimate, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, the commission was informed that this would provide a spare pump for this, and other, lift stations. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried. Commissioner Pillar informed the board that the rail system of lift station #1 has failed and Dakota Pump and Control provided an estimate of \$13,105 to replace the rail system. Commissioner Pillar moved to accept the estimate, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern was informed that the rail system is required to secure the pump to the fittings of the lift station. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

Commissioner Pillar stated there was a plan to rehabilitate several manholes in 2024 and that staff has been provided a quote for this work from Key Contracting. The commission decided to take a closer look at the 2024 budget before moving forward on this matter due to the other work that has been approved for sanitary system maintenance.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that street department staff has completed some crack sealing and is now waiting for the county highway department to get another shipment of oil to continue the process. The commission discussed needed repair parts for the Tymco Sweeper, as previously presented, and a need for additional parts for repairs of wear parts on the Johnston sweeper. Commissioner Haack moved to approve expending \$7354 for the Tymco sweeper parts and an additional \$2000 for Johnston sweeper parts, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that Hazen Welding looked at the current snow gate to get final dimensions to complete fabrication of the second gate. PW Direct Brousseau said the city will still have two plows available to address the predicted snow and that it is likely only Main Street and a couple emergency

routes will be piled and hauled away depending on the amount of snow received.

President Obenauer asked about the water break on 4th Ave SW and was advised that the contractor has not reached the suspected break and will continue digging.

Finance/Busing/Library: Commissioner Stern informed the board that the library will be replacing the final four (4) windows soon.

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that February calls for service for the fire department include (1) motor vehicle accident, a grass fire, and a reported possible fire at the elementary school.

Regarding the police department, Hazen Mercantile has provided a quote for the purchase of Remington shotguns at a cost of \$1,179 each. It is possible these shotguns may be on backorder for a little time but, they are not needed by the department immediately. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the purchase of two (2) shotguns at the quoted price, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

HCD: Buster Langowski informed the commission that the annual HCD meeting will be held at the Hazen Golf Club on March 20th with nearly fifty (50) RSVPs for the meal. The meeting will highlight three (3) local businesses and include the business meeting. There were questions about the transition of Pour Me and Mr. Langowski did not have any details to share.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Audit Terms/Scope – Rath & Mehrer P.C.: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the terms and scope of the city's annual audit, as presented by Rath & Mehrer P.C., second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern was advised that the cost of the audit is \$11,000. Motion unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Equalization Meeting: The commission was advised that the meeting of the Board of Equalization has been set for April 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the commission room of city hall. The board was also advised that one hundred forty-six (146) notices of increase will be sent to residents based on local sales, expiring exemptions, new construction, and reclassification of condition of detached structures.

Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy Update: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve an amendment to the city's drug and alcohol second-chance policy to maintain compliance with ND DOT requirements, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

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: MDU, 4445.28; Roughrider Electric, 4542.44; Verizon Wireless, 326.61; West River Telecommunications, 1010.90; Aramark, 408.71; Cenex, 1600.55; Christy Metz, 42.00; Dakota Pump & Control Inc, 827.00; Ecolab Pest Elimination, 130.79; Fastenal, 52.63; Fireside Office Solutions, 138.00; Fitterer Oil Hazen LLC,

520.38; Fitterer Oil LLC, 2273.25; HCD, 20726.47; Hazen Motor Co, 553.07; Hazen Parks & Rec, 15000.00; Hazen Welding, 1030.00; ITD, 28.30; Jim Block, 65.00; Mandate Automotive, 280.00; Matt LeMasters, 300.00; Matthew Bender & Co Inc, 74.73; ND Dept of Health, 50.00 NAPA, 332.51; ND One Call Inc, 1.30; RDO Truck Centers, 305.11; Service Plus, 649.24; Stamps.com, 183.13; Starion Bond Service, 279831125. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor