

Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2024
Hazen City Hall

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

Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Jerod Klabunde (Moore Engineering), Editor Arens, Police Chief Wolff, Officer Anthony Melberg, Attorney Donovan, Auditor Erhardt, 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 Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the February 19th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

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

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

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

- 1) Regarding Expedition Estates, there are no updates on this matter and the engineer is still waiting for a work schedule.
- 2) Regarding the Alley Improvement Project District #2023-01, the construction contract was awarded to Winkler Construction. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled and discussion with businesses regarding private work will also be held. Winkler Construction has agreed to complete private work based on the bid cost and this work will be implemented via change orders to the project.
- 3) Regarding the city-wide meter replacement project, Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that the project was advertised for bids which were opened on February 6th. City staff and the engineers reviewed all the bid information and contacted the bidders, and received responses, about items such as data storage, annual costs, and other items. This information was reviewed and evaluated by the committee to support action on the project. Commissioner Pillar stated that the evaluation of the information was very productive and thorough. Commissioner Pillar moved to accept the bid of Dakota Supply Group, with a completion date of December 31, 2024, at a cost of \$576,895, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern asked about funding of the project and Mr. Klabunde advised that the city was approved for sixty percent (60%) funding from the state and Auditor Erhard advised that remaining costs will be paid for by reserves collected on the monthly utility bills and sales tax funds. President Obenauer asked if the engineer was comfortable with the award and Mr. Klabunde stated he would applaud the committee for their work. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.
- 4) Regarding the lift station controls, this project has been awarded to Skeel's Electric and no

schedule has been received as of this date.

- 5) Regarding recommended sanitary sewer repairs, Mr. Klabunde reminded the commission that he presented information on spot repairs that are necessary before the city considers lining clay tile pipe in the sanitary sewer system and that there was a request to determine cost for partial work on the project versus the full project. The cost of the full project, to include spot repairs and lining of approximately fifty (50) blocks of clay tile pipe is \$2.85 million dollars. Using simple calculations based on the number of parcels affected by the project this would be an estimated \$5000/parcel based on a thirty (30) year loan term. President Obenauer also spoke about the fact that this was discussed previously and liked the information for consideration by the commission and that the city would also look at reducing cost by using sales tax funds. Commissioner Stern commented that the estimated cost per parcel could be different based on usage or lot size and that some people could see higher, or lower, cost, for the project. Mr. Klabunde agreed that this could be considered by the special assessment committee and addressed by the city commission for final approval. Mr. Klabunde also said that a decision was not required this evening, but action should be taken soon. President Obenauer spoke about the bids that could be received and Mr. Klabunde indicated that spot repairs are most important and then street repairs could be completed with the lining being done from manhole-to-manhole later. President Obenauer suggested that when spot repairs and streets are completed, the city should also look at other areas of street that need repair. Commissioner Wiedrich asked if all the spot repairs should be completed prior to doing sewer lining and Mr. Klabunde indicated that there could be some “tweener” areas that need to be done. Commissioner Pillar said he didn’t want to “kick the can” down the road as delaying too long could require additional spot repairs which could have a higher cost and this work may head off future repairs. Mr. Klabunde reminded the commission that this work was included in the capital improvement plan, so it just didn’t come out of nowhere. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to proceed with the spot repair and lining project, second by Commissioner Pillar. Upon discussion, President Obenauer asked if the sales tax fund designation would be a lump sum or annual payment and was advised that would be determined by the commission with it being done both ways on previous projects. On roll call vote: Wiedrich “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Nay”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried. Mr. Klabunde will get a task order prepared for the next meeting.
- 6) Regarding other items in the engineer’s report, Mr. Klabunde will keep the commission updated as information becomes available.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Free/Reduced Hall Rent & Local Permit – Alive at 25 Event – J. Saylor:

Local Permit-Raffle – Hazen Public School – FBLA: Commissioner Haack moved to approve, free hall rent as requested by James Saylor for an “Alive at 25” event on March 20th, and to approve local permit #2024-06 as requested by Hazen Public School for a raffle on March 28th, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Second Reading – 19.0111 Dedication of Tax Proceeds: The commission reviewed a proposed resolution to amend, and re-enact, city ordinance #19.0111 regarding dedication of tax proceeds, based on previous actions. Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the second reading, and adopt the ordinance, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Pillar, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Nay”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Discussion: Regarding previous discussion on adopting an “engine brake” noise ordinance, President Obenauer said that he was contacted by a citizen about this matter and referred to actions taken by other cities. Regarding previous discussion about the safety aspect of the engine brakes, President Obenauer said that enforcement would still be at the discretion of law enforcement and asked for other thoughts of the board. Commissioner Haack said that most of the truck traffic appears to be at night and that if residents can deal with the train noise this is similar. Officer Anthony Melberg stated that he does not hear much noise in the early morning hours. Commissioner Haack asked that, if the commission does look to adopt and enforce such an ordinance, it not be done haphazardly. Commissioner Pillar spoke about differences in the train noise versus the engine brake noise and he also hears a lot of this engine brake noise of trucks entering the west side of the city where there is ample time to reduce speed. President Obenauer spoke about hearing engine brake noise, in the past, at the football field when it was not necessary, and Commissioner Wiedrich spoke about the fact that many towns making these kinds of ordinances have not driven a truck. The auditor was directed to work with counsel, and law enforcement, to draft a proposed ordinance for review at the next meeting.

REPORTS

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

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that the Tymco Sweeper is needing repairs of some wear parts and PW Director Brousseau has received pricing. The information was not available to all the commissioners, so no further action was taken at this time. The information will be sent to all commissioners, and it will be reviewed at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Haack drove around the city and reported that most of the roads are in good shape and requested Hazen Welding be contacted again about completing work on the second snow gate.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that February calls for service at the police department were: forty-one (41) calls for service by Officer Beyer, seventeen (17) calls for service by Officer A. Melberg, forty-nine (49) calls for service by Officer S. Melberg and fifty (50) calls for by Chief Wolff.

Commissioner Wiedrich advised that Officer A. Melberg has received the quote to upfit the new police vehicle in the amount of \$28,205. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the quote of CAP Fleet to provide “upfitting” of the new vehicle as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, President Obenauer asked if there was an estimate of when the work would be done, and vehicle would be available to the city. Officer Melberg advised that the company has other builds ahead of the city and estimate is for delivery in October or November of 2024. Officer Melberg added that Mercer County has been waiting for vehicles order for more than a year. Commissioner Stern asked if lower cost equipment was available and that the total price tag of more than \$90,000 was high for a vehicle with an average life of four to five years. Commissioner Wiedrich spoke about the cost of more than \$8000 for the last vehicle to only move equipment, not purchasing any new equipment. There was also discussion about assorted items in the quote and that the quote needed to be approved within thirty

(30) days. Commissioner Pillar asked if other departments had been contacted about vehicle purchases and Commissioner Wiedrich said that this is the company used by Mercer County, and that he had calls to a dealership in Minnesota who did not contact him back. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

HCD: Buster Langowski was absent. No report.

President: President Obenauer informed the board that he directed the auditor to purchase a solar streetlight for Expedition Estates and solar lights for the west city welcome sign.

CORRESPONDENCE

Post-Prom Committee Donation Request: Commissioner Haack moved to approve a \$300 donation to the Hazen High School Post-Prom committee, as done previously, second by Commissioner Pillar. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

Coal Country Community Health Center Foundation – Scholarship Fund Request: Commissioner Pillar moved to approve a \$500 donation, to be used for scholarships to students pursuing education in the medical field, as requested by the Coal Country Community Health Center Foundation, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern asked if this was a one-time donation and Commissioner Pillar indicated the motion was for a one-time donation. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "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: USPS, 361.82, Coal Country Community Health Center Foundation, 500.00; CVB, 3410.97; D&E Supply Co, 119.31; Deere & Co, 39497.04; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1700.00; Elan Financial Services, 867.00; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 120.48; Hazen Public School, 300.00; Hazen Star, 931.54; Krause's, 112.63; Marco Technologies LLC, 343.38; Mercer Co Treasurer, 4968.45; Moore Engineering Inc, 41285.00; Nordak Central Publishing, 83.00; Pam Borlaug, 66.81; Peggy Rahn, 28.68; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; Share Corp, 237.18; SW Water Authority, 32255.65; Stamps.com, 22.49; Team Lab Chemical LLC, 379.00; The Bismarck Tribune, 360.34; Thomson Reuters West, 481.00 US Postal Svc, 320.00; Universal Premium Fleetcard, 1026.30. 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 6:38 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor