

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
May 20, 2024
Hazen City Hall**

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

Absent: Commissioner Haack.

Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Editor Arens, Attorney Donovan, Jerod Klabunde (Moore Engineering), Chief Wolff, Auditor Erhardt, James Sayler, and Buster Langowski.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by President Obenauer.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Pillar moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the May 6th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

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

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering Inc, appeared to review the engineer's report. Regarding Expedition Estates, underground work was expected to start today, and repaving of the loop is expected in June.

Regarding the alley improvement project, the contracts have been awarded and work is expected to begin in July. A pre-construction meeting will be held prior to work commencing.

Regarding the meter replacement project, contracts have been signed, a pre-construction meeting was held, and work is expected to begin in late June or early July, depending on delivery of the new meters.

Regarding the lift station controls update, the contract was awarded to Skeel's Electric, and they will coordinate with In-Control Systems to get the systems connected to the city's SCADA program. No schedule has been provided yet.

Regarding the sanitary sewer improvements, Mr. Klabunde reminded the commission that televising of the majority of the city system was completed in the fall of 2023 and the review indicated areas of the system that needed spot repairs and it is recommended to line areas of clay tile pipe to maintain their continued service for years to come. The engineers prepared a report and estimate to rehabilitate eighty-five (85) manholes and reline approximately 27,000 feet of sewer lines. After the initial report, the engineers scoped the manholes resulting in a lower number to be repaired and worked to better define a boundary for the proposed improvement district boundaries. This resulted in an estimated \$325,000. The commission reviewed information as to an estimated cost/lot for the repairs considering equivalent dwelling units for high consumption users and a reduced cost for properties that were previously assessed for sewer repairs as part of a 2010 project. Mr. Klabunde suggested the commission work with the city attorney to create the district for special assessment and follow the steps to proceed, in accordance with NDCC, with the project. Commissioner Stern asked if

the area of west Hazen should be considered part of the district as the downtown system is considered a backup for issues that could occur. Mr. Klabunde again said the next step would be to create an improvement district and Attorney Donovan indicated that this would differ from a street project as there is no protest opportunity. The auditor was directed to draft resolutions to create the district and proceed with engineering reports for the next meeting.

Regarding miscellaneous items, Mr. Klabunde reviewed asphalt areas pointed out by PW Director Brousseau that need to be addressed. A map of nine (9) areas was presented to the commission and Quality Asphalt provided a cost estimate of \$50,842.50 for this work as they will be in the city for the Expedition Estates asphalt work. There was discussion about patching an area of 7th Street NE, near the police department and if this should be concreted rather than just repairing the asphalt. It was discussed that repairing this area now, at a lesser cost, would allow time for a more robust repair, along with other streets in the future. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to proceed with the patches, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Obenauer, "Nay", motion carried.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Local Permit-Raffle – NorthStar Baseball:

Local Permit-Raffle – Common Thread Quilters Guild: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2024-10 to conduct a raffle every day in July, at NorthStar Baseball Field, as requested by the NorthStar Baseball Group, and local permit #2024-11 to conduct a raffle on September 7, as requested by the Common Thread Quilters Guild, second by Commissioner Pillar. Motion unanimously approved.

REPORTS

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

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack was absent. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that staff is mowing and trimming trees (when possible), and that the new mower has had a few warranty issues that RDO has been efficient in repairing.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the tree near Jensen Jewelry at Main Street and Central Avenue needs to be removed and the sidewalk needs to be repaired.

Commissioner Wiedrich also said the fruit tree at IBEW, Main Street and 1st Ave NW, is also lifting the sidewalk and the falling fruit creates an unfavorable condition so, this tree will also be removed as staff has time. It was discussed that the Chamber/CVB and HCD have discussed some type of seating area for this location in the past. There was discussion about replacing the trees and that some businesses are concerned that the trees cover up their store fronts and that as the trees are looking for moisture, they have a tendency for the roots to be close to the surface which damages the sidewalks. Commissioner Wiedrich informed the commission that the fire department was quite busy in the previous month responding to fourteen (14) calls for service. Commissioner Wiedrich informed the commission that he is waiting for an update on the new police vehicle and Officer A. Melberg has been trying to contact the vendor for this information with little success.

HCD: Buster Langowski had nothing to report at this time.

President: President Obenauer informed the board that he was part of a meeting of public works staff at the shop, for about an hour, where staff was given time to express concerns of communication issues and other matters affecting their daily work. Much discussion was made on the sanitation routes and duties of staff in driving or walking behind the truck on the routes and if there is a benefit to the city in continuing the rural garbage routes due to manpower and equipment costs. There was discussion about, when a new truck is purchased, that the city may want to consider a truck with the arm to pick up cans that only requires one person to pick up residential garbage. The regular truck would still be used to pick up commercial dumpsters less days of the week. President Obenauer said the board will need to consider what, if any, changes need to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Saylor appeared before the commission to express concern of lost revenues and lost opportunities of local contractors and businesses when Williams Builders is getting this work out of area. Mr. Saylor was also concerned that the company is more interesting in quantity of work rather than quality with little support of any community activities or programs. Mr. Saylor stated the new homes are great for the community but that the lack of support for local businesses is a loss of tax revenue. President Obenauer said that potential harm to local businesses does bother him, and Commissioner Wiedrich said he is also worried about keeping businesses open. Commissioner Stern commented that if materials are delivered to the city that local sales tax is still being collected.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills, as presented, second by Commissioner Pillar. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: API Garage Door Inc, 1743.00; CHI St. Alexius Health, 250.00; D&E Supply, 127.02; Fastenal, 112.81; Fireside Office Solutions, 45.97; Further, 6.50; Lucky’s Towing, 350.00; Mandate Automotive, 420.00; Matthew Bender & Co Inc, 77.81; ND Rural Water Systems Assoc, 315.00; NAPA, 363.41; Power Plan, 129.34; Stein’s Inc, 50.47; US Postal Service, 361.48. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2024, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor