

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 6, 2024  
Hazen City Hall**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Haack and Commissioner Wiedrich

**Others Present:** PW Director Brousseau, Editor Arens, Attorney Kaffar, Auditor Erhardt, and Buster Langowski.

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 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 April 15<sup>th</sup> 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:** The commission reviewed the written engineer's report which included no action items. No further action taken.

#### **REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Local Permit-Raffle – Mercer County Peace Officers Association:** Commissioner Pillar moved to approve local permit #2024-09 to conduct a raffle on August 1, 2024, at Hazen Police Department, as requested by the Mercer County Peace Officers Association for the Cops & Kids Fishing Derby, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS**

**Renaissance Zone Application – D. Mattheis:** The commission reviewed an application for renaissance zone exemption for the home of Dana Mattheis located at 1009 Otter Creek Loop. The commission was advised that the RZ meeting minutes had been corrected to state that completion is expected by May 31, 2024, not occupancy. Buster Langowski advised the commission that the RZ committee met on April 26<sup>th</sup> and recommends approval of a pro-rated exemption for the eight (8) year period, like other exemptions. Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the pro-rated exemption (100% for years 1-5, 75% for year 6, 50% for year 7, and 25% for year 8), second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Pillar asked about additional funds available through Hazen Community Development's (HCD) housing incentive program and was advised that this home had been approved for the program and others may be eligible later in the year. Commissioner Stern asked about the incentive program and was advised that HCD established a fund of \$150,000 to assist someone building a new home in the city limits by providing \$25,000. President Obenauer asked if other cities provide such an incentive and Mr. Langowski said the local program was modeled after programs in Killdeer and Watford City with Attorney Kaffar adding that Dunn County and the City of Halliday also have programs. Commissioner Stern asked about certificates of occupancy for Expedition Estates and was advised that these are not being issued pending completion of

utility and street work of the subdivision. On roll call vote: Pillar, “Aye”, Stern, “Nay”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

## REPORTS

**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Pillar informed the board that a preconstruction meeting for the water meter replacement project was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dakota Supply Group will be providing the meters and has hired a contractor to perform the installations. The completion date is December 31, 2024, and work is likely to be completed prior to this date with hopes of starting the work on the project in late June or early July. Regarding the lead service line inventory, Commissioner Pillar stated that the city is doing a decent job, comparative to other cities, in getting the inventory completed and the meter replacement project will be beneficial with this process as the service lines will be checked as new meters are installed.

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack was absent. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that the street sweepers have been repaired, the new mower has been received and is in service, and that clean-up week started today. The commission reviewed an estimate from Midwest Doors to replace an overhead door opener at the city shop. Commissioner Stern moved to approve the replacement of the door opener at a proposed cost of \$1,703.00, second by Commissioner Pillar. On roll call vote: Stern, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

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

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich was absent. No report.

**HCD:** Buster Langowski informed the commission that the Convention and Visitors Bureau is moving forward on a plan to install a replica SR71 honoring Major General Eldon Joersz located west of the All-Seasons Arena. M&K Welding will fabricate the 12’x24’ replica and details are still pending with support of the local American Legion Post and the New England American Legion.

**President:** President Obenauer informed the board that the underpass project on Hwy 200 near Cenex is not likely to be constructed until 2026. There are three parts to the project, the pedestrian underpass, extension of the shared use path in west Hazen, and additional lighting east, and west along Hwy 200.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Drinking Water Proclamation:** Commissioner Stern moved to approve a proclamation designating May 5-11, 2024, as Drinking Water Week in the City of Hazen, second by Commissioner Pillar. Motion unanimously approved.

**Designation of Official Newspaper:** The commission was advised that the designation of the official newspaper is an annual requirement. Commissioner Pillar moved to designate the Hazen Star as the official newspaper for the City of Hazen, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Pillar, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

**Approval of Bills:** Commissioner Stern 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,

1980.00; Bank of ND, 141524.09; Butler Machinery Co, 7.55; Cenex, 1866.66; CVB, 2727.00; D&E Supply, 161.12; Dakota Pump & Control, 14712.14; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1200.00; Elan Financial Services, 475.85; Environmental Equip & Services, Inc, 310.65; Fastenal, 49.74; Fireside Office Solutions, 49.95; Fitterer Oil Hazen LLC, 113.85; Further, 6.50; Global Safety Network, 152.10; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 10.47; Hazen Motor Co, 162.94; Hazen Star, 669.58; Highland Suites, 1285.00; :ITD, 28.30; Jim Block, 86.00; Krause’s, 78.75; Kurts Small Engine, 39.00; Marco Technologies LLC, 333.53; Mercer Co Historical Society, 25.00; Mercer Co Treasure, 6164.10; Mike Krause, 5272.00; Monte Erhardt, 417.66; Moore Engineering Inc, 5445.75; ND Dept of Health, 50.00; ND Rural Water Systems Assoc, 150.00; New Pig Corp, 124.33; ND One Call Inc, 57.00; Northern Safety Co, 98.90; Pro-Vision Video Systems, 2129.62; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; SW Water Authority, 30383.12; Stamps.com, 107.14; Stein’s Inc, 597.60; Swanston Equipment Corp, 1094.18; The Hub, 775.54; Universal Premium Fleetcard, 845.60; USA Blue Book, 203.86; Verizon Wireless, 326.46; Vestis, 408.71; West River Telecommunications, 1051.86. On roll call vote: Stern, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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