

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
July 17, 2023  
Hazen City Hall**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Haack

**Others Present:** Attorney Kaffar, PW Brousseau, Auditor Erhardt, Ken Link, Mike Lemer, Lauren Donovan, Mike Krause, Jerod Klabunde, Grant Dockter & Tom Weigel (Moore Engineering).

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 July 3rd meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Pillar. Motion unanimously approved.

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

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY & ENGINEER**

**Engineer's Report:** Water Storage Project: Jerod Klabunde provided documents to close out the DN Tanks contract for the water storage project. Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that Tand Construction is completing punch list items and hopes to close out all the contracts within the next couple of months. The commission reviewed Change Order #1 of DN Tanks to reduce costs in the amount of \$688.70 and reviewed Pay Estimate #8 to DN Tanks for a final payment of \$33,905. Commissioner Pillar moved to approve Change Order #1 and Pay Estimate #8 to DN Tanks, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich.

Expedition Estates: Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that the city is not party to the work, but the contractor is doing good work in repairing/replacing the sewer lines of Expedition Estates. Braun Intertec is completing testing for the project. It was decided that paving of the Otter Creed Loop will not be completed until 2024 to allow a freeze/thaw cycle to be completed.

Capital Improvement Plan Software: No action on this item.

Alley North of Main Street: Mr. Klabunde reported an estimated opinion of cost to repair the alley north of Main Street from Central Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW would be \$110,000 for a concrete finish. Mr. Klabunde suggests creating a special assessment for this project, like the alley near the post office. President Obenauer said the city would be responsible for some of the cost because of the sanitary sewer manhole and parking lot adjacent to the alley.

Sanitary Sewer Presentation: Mr. Klabunde conducted a presentation relating to the sanitary sewer televising and facility plan. There was discussion about the city commission being pro-active or re-active in addressing the needs presented by the information. There was discussion about grant or loan funds that could be used to address costs for the plan, which are estimated to be \$6M to replace all the clay pipe within the city sewer system. Another option, where possible, is to "line" the clay pipes at an estimated cost of \$1.45M. Commissioner Pillar discussed options for an annual

maintenance plan, as recommended by a previous contractor, and Mr. Klabunde asked for a copy of the proposal to determine the best alternative for the city. In response to a question of Commissioner Stern, Mr. Klabunde said there has been minor change in the condition of the clay pipe that was televised in 2017. No further action taken.

## **REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Heritage Park – M. Krause & Lauren Donovan:** Mike Krause appeared before the commission to thank them for their support in allowing the committee to make updates to Heritage Park. Mr. Krause said the committee is looking to replace the wooden benches that were donated to the park with metal coated benches, like those placed by the Chamber/CVB. The committee will be raising funds and may be seeking to have public sponsorship of benches and will discuss this further with the city and park district. The committee is looking to purchase nine to twelve free-standing benches at a cost of about \$820 each. President Obenauer saw no issue with removing the wooden benches or utilizing them in a different area.

Lauren Donovan spoke to the commission about Chalk Fest III to be held on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners are invited to attend the breakfast prior to the beginning of the event and further information will be provided. Ms. Donovan said a special event permit, street closure and barricades will be sought at the next meeting.

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

**Commercial Building Permit – Remodel/Update – The Hub:** The commission reviewed information for the building permit requested by The Hub. The permit is for the construction/remodeling of the diesel island, to include additional pumps and for the associated piping from the current storage tank location. The estimated cost of the project is \$440,000. Motion by Commissioner Wiedrich to approve the building permit as requested by The Hub, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

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

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack absent. No report. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that the riding mower is still at RDO to diagnose the engine issue and the staff will be painting crosswalks and other faded striping around the city.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Stern informed the board that the library is raising funds to replace windows this year.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that Red Rock can no longer acquire Expedition police vehicles, so he is seeking a quote for a new Dodge police vehicle. The 2023 price was \$47,000 so the 2024 price is expected to be near \$49,000. Commissioner Wiedrich did contact Hazen Motor Company, but Mr. Huber was gone so there is no update. President Obenauer reported that the police department would like to stay with the Tahoe as it is larger. Commissioner Wiedrich will check on the programs through the dealer the county works with.

**HCD:** Buster Langowski absent. No report.

**President:** President Obenauer informed the board that he would like to get quotes for replacing the carpet in the auditor’s office as well as addressing the window issue in the office. Along with this, President Obenauer would like to see the exterior window frames scraped and re-painted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Police Department A/C Unit Quote:** The commission reviewed quotes to replace the A/C unit at the police department due to mechanical failure and the ability to obtain replacement parts. Legend Air LLC provided a quote of \$13,907 to replace the entire unit with an “air to air heat pump” or \$8,465 to do the minimum to replace the “air conditioner.” M&A Heating provided a quote of \$6,800 to replace the air conditioner, excluding any electrician costs. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the quote of M&A Heating to replace the air conditioner at a cost of \$6,800, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ken Link addressed the commission to apologize for not appearing at the previous meeting when he requested to be on the agenda regarding weeds in the railroad right-of-way. Mr. Link said the city ordinance refers to grass, and weeds, which are greater than six inches (6”) tall as a nuisance which, upon notice, is to be abated within twenty (20) days. Mr. Link understands that it will be hard to get the railroad to tend to it at that height, but he is concerned that the weeds are to the point of going to seed and spreading to more areas of the city. Mr. Link has contacted the county weed board and they are unable to address the issue. President Obenauer said the city has contacted BNSF and the matter is to be addressed within a week to ten (10) days and the city will continue to monitor the situation.

**Approval of Bills:** Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the bills presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Bryan Tomchuk, 233.00; Cenex, 2609.88; Christy Metz, 115.50; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 3512.50; Harlow’s Bus Sales, 1643.29; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 245.84; ITD, 25.25; J-S Sanitation, 166.00; Jim Block, 94.50; Krause’s, 42.22; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6951.25; MDU, 4176.16; Motorola Solutions Inc, 31536.26; ND DEQ, 100.00; ND One Call Inc, 54.05; OK Tire Store, 91.19; Power Plan, 1016.64; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 2919.61; Stamps.com; 145.49; Tammy Rahn, 8.13; West River Telecommunications, 1047.97; Winkler Construction, 15250.00. On roll call vote: Pillar, “Aye”, Wiedrich, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

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

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