

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
July 3, 2023
Hazen City Hall**

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

Others Present: Editor Arens, Attorney Donovan, PW Brousseau, and Auditor Erhardt.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Obenauer.

Vice-President Pillar led the Pledge of Allegiance and said the prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the June 19th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously approved.

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

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY & ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: The commission reviewed the engineer's report. No action items were included in the report. The commission discussed access to Expedition Estates during corrective work and the ability of property owners to access their homes. No further action.

ND Street Project Alternative(s): The commission reviewed information for the ND STREET project which included alternatives for construction of the underpass and dike. There was discussion of the process to install the stop logs and that the public works department would have to exercise them according to FEMA guidelines. It was estimated the height of the stop log closure would be anything from eight feet (8') to more than twelve feet (12') and would require equipment to safely move and install them and that additional cost for dike options would not be in the best interest of the city. The commission concurs with the project concepts proposed. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to proceed with Alternate B, stop log closure, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye" Obenauer, "Aye" motion carried.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Weed Control-Railroad Right-of-Way – K. Link: The commission discussed weed control, or lack thereof, along the railroad right-of-way, as requested by Ken Link. Mr. Link was not able to attend the meeting. City staff has been trying to contact railroad representatives, and will continue to do so, as the weed control is contracted by BNSF. Commissioner Haack suggested, if no contact is made soon, that the city proceed with written notification of a violation be sent to BNSF. No further action.

Truck Parking Ordinance/Enforcement: Commissioner Stern addressed the commission regarding concern about semi-tractor/trailers being parked on city streets. This has especially become a problem recently among frac sand trucks and can cause damage to the streets that residents pay taxes to maintain. Commissioner Wiedrich also said this is a problem near Dollar General and he has seen a trailer dollied down on Highway Drive. Auditor Erhardt will contact the local mines to inform them of

available truck parking, near the lagoon and law enforcement will work to enforce the city parking ordinances more effectively.

Commissioner Stern also asked about the agreement for the property south of Main Street across from the city shop and if this was to revert to the city if not developed within a certain period. Auditor Erhardt will research this and inform the commission of his findings.

Local Permit – Raffle-Fire & Iron Station#162: Commissioner Pillar moved to approve local permit #2023-10 as requested by Fire & Iron Station #162, for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on July 8, 2023, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Pillar informed the board that the garbage truck transmission has been repaired and the oil leaks have been addressed.

Regarding the water department and the 2024 budget, Commissioner Pillar informed the board that the current water meters are reaching the end of their battery life and will need to be replaced at a cost of nearly \$200/meter for approximately 1,200 meters, not including labor to install them.

Commissioner Pillar also advised the board that there has been an issue with the float of an unmonitored lift station and the city should proceed with the upgrades so that all the stations are monitored, and warnings are transmitted to staff electronically.

Commissioner Pillar was contacted by a resident about proper placement of garbage cans and if they can always be left on the boulevard. The ordinance is not specific on the matter and has no penalty if this is not acceptable. This will be reviewed further, and information will be shared on the city website and mobile app.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board of 2024 budget items including equipment replacement and the need for tires for the loader(s). Commissioner Haack also indicated that staff has been mowing and doing tree trimming as weather permits. PW Director Brousseau informed the board that the city has mowed one property, due to violation notice, this year. Commissioner Haack said the large mower was out of service for a few days for repairs so, small mowers were used in the road ditches during this time. Commissioner Haack also said the street department will continue to work with the welding shop for fabrication of a snow blade for the winter season.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the police department handled one hundred thirteen (113) calls for service in the previous month and that the fire department responded to two (2) runs in the past month. It was reported that the advertising for the public works/forestry position will close on July 14th.

HCD: Buster Langowski absent. No report.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Catalis Website Hosting Agreement: The commission was informed that Catalis has agreed to reduce the price of the website hosting and design agreement from \$4995 the first year and 6% increase each

year for four (4) years. The new proposed price will be \$3995 for the first year and a 6% increase each year for the four (4) years. The agreement includes a re-design of the site the first and fourth year. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the agreement, based on the new pricing with website re-design in year one (1) and year four (4), second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, Commissioner Pillar said a fresh look and enhanced features will be a benefit. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Helmet Purchase: Commissioner Wiedrich reported that the fire department helmets are beyond safe, useful lifespan of ten (10) years, and the estimated cost to replace all the helmets is \$14,000. The cost will be split among the three entities with the city providing \$6000, the rural providing \$6000, and the department providing \$2000. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the purchase of the helmets with the city providing \$6000, second by Commissioner Pillar. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Haack moved to approve the bills presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Aramark, 376.07; CVB, 3097.35; D&E Supply, 96.96; Dan Meyer, 47.42; Elan Financial, 205.53; Evan Reich, 65.00; Fitterer Oil, 81.11; Further, 6.50; Hazen Public Library, 3217.58; Kurt Milbradt, 210.00; Marc Corp, 476.51; Marco Technologies LLC, 343.38; Matthew Bender & Co Inc, 122.43; Menards, 60.60; Millennium Express, 16.23; ND League of Cities, 2182.00; NAPA, 225.84; NDAAO, 50.00; OK Tire Store, 874.72; PRO Forms, 227.94; Randolph Decoteau II, 48.87; Rough Rider Industries, 886.00; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; Sletten Excavating, 6432.60; SW Water Authority, 66414.35; Stamps.com, 22.49; Stamps.com, 78.96; Tractor Supply Credit Plan, 79.99; Universal Premium Fleetcard, 1557.77; Verizon Wireless, 325.53. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Nay", Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor