

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
September 5, 2023
Hazen City Hall**

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

Absent: President Obenauer.

Others Present: Attorney Donovan, PW Brousseau, Auditor Erhardt, Michael Berg, Kaylene Berg, Weston Berg, Shawn Stromme, Travis & Marla Hagemeister, and Buster Langowski.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Vice-President Pillar.

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 August 21st 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 & ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: The engineer's written report was presented without action items and without appearance from Moore Engineering. It was reported that Tand Construction will be back later this week, or early the week of September 11th, to complete removal of the erosion controls, to mow areas and to re-seed areas of the project. No further action taken.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Pilot Group re: MCRAA: A group of pilots appeared before the board in connection with the advertised board appointments. Michael Berg referenced a letter submitted to the commission by Jordan Dyke. Vice-President Pillar paraphrased the letter in support of appointment of Shawn Stromme to the Airport Authority board and explained some requirements of the airport to maintain federal funding. Mr. Berg stated support for Mr. Stromme and stated he will represent the pilots and community very well.

Board Appointments: Commissioner Haack moved to approve appointment of Shawn Stromme to the Airport Authority Board, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried. The commission was informed that Kristi Pfliger-Keller will not be seeking re-appointment to the Housing Authority Board when her term expires on November 1st.

Free/Reduced Hall Rent – St. Paul Lutheran Church: Commissioner Stern moved to approve free hall rent, subject to a kitchen fee, for St. Paul's Lutheran Church breakfast on September 17th, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

Renaissance Zone App – Albrecht: The commission reviewed an application for Renaissance Zone exemption of Wayne & Valerie Albrecht. Mr. Langowski explained that the Renaissance Zone Committee

met on August 28th to review the application and make recommendations. Mr. Langowski informed the commission that the Renaissance Zone was recently expanded and renewed for an additional ten (10) years. Mr. Langowski also explained that recent legislative changes expanded the period of exemption from five (5) years to a maximum of eight (8) years. The RZ Committee recommends 100% exemption for the first five (5) years, 75% exemption for year six (6), 50% exemption for year seven (7), 25% exemption for year eight (8). Upon question of Commissioner Pillar, Mr. Langowski said that previously, for new residential construction, the commission had approved a 100% exemption for the full five years allowed.

Renaissance Zone App – Fitzgerald: The commission reviewed an application for Renaissance Zone exemption of Robert & Pamela Fitzgerald. Mr. Langowski explained that the Renaissance Zone Committee met on August 28th to review the application and make recommendations. The RZ Committee recommends 100% exemption for the first five (5) years, 75% exemption for year six (6), 50% exemption for year seven (7), 25% exemption for year eight (8). Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the Renaissance Zone application of Wayne & Valerie Albrecht, and Robert and Pamela Fitzgerald, with 100% exemption for five (5) years, 75% exemption for year six (6), 50% exemption for year seven (7) and 25% exemption for year eight (8), second by Commissioner Haack. Both applications are for properties to be constructed in Expedition Estates. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern stated, as previously noted, that he does not think this program is intended for new home construction. Commissioner Pillar feels this program is for rural communities to provide incentive opportunities. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Nay”, Pillar, “Aye”, motion carried.

Building/Moving Permit-Shed – T. Hagemeister: The commission reviewed an application to move a shed, as submitted by Travis & Marla Hagemeister, to place a 10’x16’ shed on their property at 1046 Otter Creek Loop. The building is acceptable under the Expedition Estates Covenants and will require no variances. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the application to move the shed to the property, as requested by Hagemeister’s, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Pillar, “Aye”, motion carried.

REPORTS

Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Pillar informed the board that, with the end of useful life of water meters approaching, staff will be meeting with another vendor for a presentation of alternate options for new meters. This presentation will occur prior to the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Pillar also informed the board that the berm height around lagoon cell one will need to be addressed as this cell is filling to capacity quickly. Commissioner Stern asked if this will include cleaning of the cell and was advised that the issue appears to be more a matter of the berm eroding and/or settling. Commissioner Wiedrich asked if part of the issue is spring runoff into the cell and if this may be part of the issue. Staff will work with the city engineer to address the plans for the repair of the berm and to determine what funding is available for this project.

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that the city is still working with Hazen Welding to get pricing to repair the snowplows and to fabricate another snow gate. PW Director Brousseau said he hopes to have a cost estimate soon. Commissioner Haack spoke to the board about repairing, or replacing, city mowers. Currently the 2016 mower needs repairs, and the city can take this mower to a repair shop at Hannover for further diagnosis and an estimate for repairs. Commissioner Haack would like to see this mower repaired and the city consider trading off the 2010 mower for a new replacement. The city has received pricing proposals for the purchase of a Kubota mower, Toro mower, and a John Deere mower. The issue with purchasing another brand of mower, from the current John Deere, is that attachments would also need to be considered for winter use. PW Director Brousseau said

worst case, the city replaces the engine on the 2016 mower and may then have to consider selling it outright or trading it for a new mower. Commissioner Haack would like to wait to consider bids for a new mower until they have received a trade-in offer for the 2010 mower and diagnosed the required repairs of the 2016 mower, prior to any further action.

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

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that the fire department, for portions of July and August, handled several motor vehicle accidents, some baler fires, a multi-unit structure fire and lift assist calls. The police department handles one-hundred ninety-three (193) calls for service in July. For August, the police department had 168 calls for service. Commissioner Wiedrich spoke about the number of calls for each officer and that Chief Wolff likely gets the larger number of calls working straight day shifts and he is not sure why the others are at the numbers they are at. Commissioner Wiedrich had nothing to report for the forestry department. PW Director Brousseau reported that the state forester met with staff, and toured the city, on August 31st.

HCD: Buster Langowski suggested the commission look at state infrastructure loans for the purchase of new water meters. Mr. Langowski reported that Mercer County Economic Development met on August 31st, with low participation. One topic of discussion at the MCED meeting was renewal of the lease for the site near Zap which is a three-way agreement. Mr. Langowski also reported that industrial companies are interested in working in Mercer County but the processes to get started take time.

President: President Obenauer absent. No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mower Repair/Purchase: This matter was discussed under Commissioner Haack's report and further action will be taken at future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Stop/Yield Sign – 5th St/3rd Ave NE Intersection: This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Officer Beyer. Based on Officer Beyer's observations there have been several "near misses" at this intersection and he asks the commission to consider placing a control device, stop sign or yield sign, to alert traffic and to aid in enforcement. The commission asked that the police department appear at the next meeting or provide written recommendations for the request and to provide historical information as to other incidents at the intersection. No further action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Aramark, 376.07; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 200.00; Elan Financial Services, 791.40; Harlow's Bus Sales Inc, 810.94; Hazen Health Pharmacy, 4.69; Hazen Mercantile Inc, 125.03; Hazen Motor Co, 150.00; Hazen Public Library, 58.17; Hazen Welding, 70.00; Internal Revenue Service, 487.56; Jim Block, 80.50; Key Contracting Inc, 15000.00; Krause's Super Valu, 77.92; Mercer Co Recorder, 9.00; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6947.10;

Moore Engineering, Inc, 7007.50; NAPA, 753.15; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, 1031.43; Northern Safety Co Inc, 42.56; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 55.00; Sletten Excavating, 1205.00; SW Water Authority, 51235.71; Spruce It Up Lawn & Tree, 2585.00; Stamps.com, 99.93; Team Laboratory Chemical LLC, 741.50; Union State Bank, 37452.81; Universal Premium Fleetcard, 1384.82; Verizon Wireless, 325.59; West River Telecommunications, 1087.15. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor