

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2019
Hazen City Hall**

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

Others Present: Attorney Donovan, Planner Senger, Editor Arens, Auditor Erhardt, PW Director Brousseau, and Kasey Lesmann.

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 PM by President Obenauer.

President Obenauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Obenauer asked that a commission prayer be added to the agenda. Attorney Donovan spoke of the legality of a prayer, stating that anyone who wants to give a prayer is to be given the opportunity. Attorney Donovan stated that other municipalities have alternated ministerial organizations given the opportunity to give a prayer. President Obenauer stated that a 2014 Supreme Court decision did not preclude a prayer. President Obenauer agreed that anyone, of any faith or group can lead the prayer and he understands that numerous cities in ND, large and small, include a prayer at their meetings. Commissioner Pillar led the commission in prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Wolf moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the January 7th meeting, second by Commissioner Haack. Motion unanimously carried.

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

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Free/Reduced Hall Rent – SMC Hospice: Commissioner Wolf moved to approve free/reduced hall rent on February 13-14, and March 29-30, as requested by SMC Hospice, subject to a kitchen fee, if applicable, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously carried.

REPORTS

President: President Obenauer informed the board that, he and the auditor, attended the legislative hearing on the "Prairie Dog Bill", which allocates continuing funding for counties, townships, cities, school districts and airports, based on formulas relating to oil & gas gross production tax revenue. President Obenauer reported that all testimony was in support of the bill.

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

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that the skid loader has been repaired and is back in service at minimal cost to the city. The new public works pickup has arrived and is also in service. Commissioner Haack has received questions from the public as to when snow is removed from the streets and he has been telling them that the general rule is based on conditions and that accumulation of four-inches (4") is a guideline. PW Director Brousseau said he had contacted

neighboring cities and they were handling this recent event in a similar manner, addressing accumulations on arterial roads.

Finance/Busing: Commissioner Wolf informed the commission that the bus advisory board is meeting at noon on January 24th.

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Pillar had nothing to report at this time. Fire Department information is on the agenda as item 12A.

HCD: Buster Langowski absent. No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

ND Safety Council – Legislation Support Request: President Obenauer reported that this item could have been removed from the agenda as the bill was defeated, in the Senate, this date. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Officer Elections: Commissioner Pillar reported that the volunteer fire department recently held election of officers and the results are as follows: Fire Chief – Kasey Lesmann, Asst Fire Chief, Cory Beery, 2nd Asst Fire Chief – Chris Knopik, Treasurer, Dave Lundstrom. There are also assigned captains, lieutenants and a member at large. With the change in command, Commissioner Pillar will work with the department as they develop new ideas and new approaches for the department. Commissioner Pillar moved to formally appoint Kasey Lesmann as the Hazen Fire Chief, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote; Pillar, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Wolf, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried. Mr. Lesmann informed the commission that there are currently thirty-six members in the department. President Obenauer expressed appreciation for the work of the volunteers and their commitment to training and community events.

City Budget Amendments: The commission reviewed the proposed budget amendments and there are no amendments to the budget for expenditures only revenue increases. Commissioner Pillar moved to approve the budget amendments, as presented, second by Commissioner Wolf. On roll call vote; Pillar, “Aye”, Wolf, “Aye”, Haack, “Aye”, Stern, “Aye”, Obenauer, “Aye”, motion carried. The amendments approved are: General Fund Revenue - \$4152.79; Highway Distribution Fund Revenue - \$27,096.70; Emergency Fund Revenue - \$4,802.66; Cemetery Fund Revenue - \$700.54; SID 2005 1&2 Revenue – 132.04; 2018 Street Project Revenue – \$5,617,699.92; Water Utility Fund Revenue - \$1,617.08; Garbage Utility Fund Revenue - \$1,609.22; Library Fund Revenue - \$3,639.69.

Commissioner Pillar reported that the dog kennel is in place at the police department.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Haack moved to approve the bills, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Bobcat of Mandan, 374.30; Chamber of Commerce, 850.00; Coal Country CHC, 262.00; David Brousseau, 10.50; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1313.40; HCD, 8100.48; Hazen Motor Co, 940.16; Hazen Welding, 2500.00; Krause’s Super Valu, 1342.91; Longshots Bar LLC, 232.50; Menard, 27.90; Mercer Co Treasurer, 3770.47; MDU,

5841.69; Monte Erhardt, 543.05; ND Safety Council Inc, 375.00; ND One Call Inc, 3.60; Purchase Power, 208.99; Rough Rider Industries, 707.00; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 6023.08; Sign Pro, 112.00; St. Alexius EAP, 250.00; The Hub, 170.40; Workforce Safety & Insurance, 11388.22. On roll call vote; Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", Wolf, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission will be Monday, February 4, 2019 at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor