

**Hazen City Commission
Regular Meeting
July 27, 2020
Hazen City Hall**

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

Others Present: Auditor Erhardt, Ryan Tunge, & Dave Brousseau.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by President Obenauer.

Commissioner Haack, representing parents of the Babe Ruth Baseball team, asked the commission to consider a financial, or in-kind, donation to the team that advanced to the state tournament in Kindred. Commissioner Haack informed the board that transportation has been secured and there are various businesses donating to parks and rec to cover some lodging, meal, and tournament fees. President Obenauer said there is a good possibility of the "legion" team also advancing to the state tournament. Commissioner Haack agreed suggesting a similar amount, if any, for the team. Commissioner Wolf said that when children participate in such activities the parents understand that the financial responsibility falls on them. Commissioner Pillar suggested contacting the Bison Boosters to request funds as many of the players attend school here in Hazen. Commissioner Pillar also said he wants to support local youth but, the commission is looking at budget numbers tonight and ways to cut expenditures. Commission Pillar moved to donate \$150 to the Babe Ruth program, second by Commissioner Wolf. On roll call vote: Pillar, "Aye", Wolf, "Nay", Stern, "Aye", Obenauer, "Aye", motion carried.

Preliminary Budget Review: Revenue - The commission was informed that the taxable value of the city decreased slightly, pending centrally assessed property valuation. Some of the levies are at the maximum amount and will remain at the maximum amount. General fund property tax funds requested will remain the same as the previous year. The commission looked at other revenues and fees charged by the city. Some of the fees charged for water, garbage, permits and other items have not changed for many years and the commission requested a report of these items for review and possible changes for the next year.

Expenditures – The amount of funds designated as a donation to parks and rec was reduced \$5,000 and may be reduced in future years depending on sales tax revenues collected for park improvements and maintenance. There was discussion about park sales tax dollars being used for improvements at Hazen Bay and the commission was informed that Hazen Bay is a separate entity, treated as an enterprise that supports itself, without public funding. The commission pointed to other small changes that could be made to reduce the expenditure budget, which as presented is nearly 14% less than the previous year. When the discussion turned to possible savings by changing employee benefits, Commissioner Stern expressed opposition to any change in benefits as they are a major factor in

recruitment and retention of staff. The commission directed the auditor to make the minor changes, as discussed, and the preliminary budget ready for approval at the August 3rd regular meeting.

President Obenauer, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Pillar, PW Director Brousseau, Ryan Tunge and Auditor Erhardt will conduct interviews of , Mike Lemer, Eric Stolz, Leon Zuther & Kevin Weisz, for the Public Works Specialist II position, and present a recommendation at the August 3rd meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2020 at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: _____
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: _____
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor