

CITY OF PICK CITY MEETING MINUTES

City of Pick City January 7, 2026 meeting minutes
Present: Arvid Anderson, Brandon Reiser, Lori Davis, Scott Bather. Absent: Westman.
Also present: PWD J. Sailer, Accountant A. Ones, Auditor D. Johnson, Ryan Gullicks, Mike, Richard, Nate McCleery, Flloyd & Shelly Hanson, Annie Cocran, Russ Garrett.
Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Davis motioned, second Reiser to approve consent items, all in favor, MC.
No public comment
Ryan Gullicks informed the council on his plans for his two lots, Mercer County combined the two lots into one parcel. He wants to eliminate the second water & sewer connections on one lot. He also said he would do whatever the city is requesting to move forward. Council said he would be responsible for the removal with the PWD to supervise the removal. He updated his building permit for the shed he moved in. After some discussion, Bather motioned, second Reiser to approve his building permit providing Mr. Gullicks follows all City & Zoning ordinances. All in favor, MC.
Mike McCleery approached the council of the possibility of annexing a portion of his property just north of the Pick City Park. He would also like to hook up to city water & sewer. His plan is to plot out approximately 3 acres and sell the lots east & west of the house that is on the part he is requesting to annex. He wanted some advice & the process for this undertaking. After a lengthy discussion, council & PWD informed that Mr. McCleery needed to hire an engineer and that Mr. McCleery would be responsible for all infrastructure, surveys, water shed study, engineer fees, and any annexation would happen after all infrastructure is done. Council will revisit after he gets more plans done.
Reiser motioned, second Davis to approve McCleery's building permit for maintenance repairs at home on Huber Lane. All in favor, MC
Reiser motioned, second Davis to designate Union State Bank as the City of Pick City bank depository, all in favor, MC.
Reiser motion, second Davis to sign Joint Powers Election agreement with Mercer County. MC.
Statements of Interests & petition of nomination forms are available at city hall. Seats open for election: Mayor, Judge and two council members.
MC Mitigation meeting 1/14/26 in Center, mayor urged everyone to attend.
Reports:
Landfill: applied for Burn variance
. No other reports
There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm. Next city meeting 2/4/26
Approved: Mayor Arvid Anderso
Attested:,Auditor Diane Johnson

(01-29-2026)

HAZEN STAR

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MERCER COUNTY

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While the Hazen teams had their successes with robot tasks and problem-solving presentations, they really shined when it came to creativity, genuine student leadership and demonstrating positive values.

There are three parts to the Lego League competition. First, there is a theme and hypothetical problem for the year, and students must come up with a solution for that problem. This year's theme focused on archaeology and challenges archaeologists face while doing their work.

The second part of the competition is the robot challenge. Students programmed a robot with various attachments and had it attempt to complete different tasks on a board, earning points for successful completion and for robot design and performance.

The third part of the competition is core values. Judges, dressed in plain clothes and wandering around among the different teams like parents or coaches, watch for things like teamwork, professionalism, applauding others and other good character traits in the students.

These three parts produce four categories in judging: Core Values, Innovative Project, Robot Design and Robot Performance.

One of Hazen's teams advancing to state, the Brickbusters, took first place in Core Values. The other team, Bison Build Different, took first place in Robot Design.

"I think our core values showed through the whole day," Carlee Peterson said. "It was just the little signs of respect that made a difference."

When it comes to core values, this is an area where Hazen has shone for many years of its existence, and 2026 was no exception. While the Brickbusters won the category at regionals this year, Christian Santini, an eighth-grade member of that team, praised the other Hazen Lego League teams for their core values as well.

"Our presentation was a lot about core values," he said. "I think that's why we won. Because otherwise, I think another Hazen team could have won the category as much as we did. All of us were cheering a lot."

"A lot of it is showing how much you respect the other teams at the conference and how much you cheer your teammates," he added.

"I think, when we were in our judging session, that was when we really showed how well we worked together," Peterson said of her team.

Camden Barth, a fifth-grade member of the Bison Build Different team, said he thinks the genuine student-led aspect of their robot made the difference in their win.

"We won because some teams have big, fancy robots, and you can tell that the coaches helped them with those," Barth said. "We had one lift arm to do all of the



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALISON PETERSON
Jaxson Frank prepares Buster the Brick (the Bison Brickbusters team robot) for action as his teammates look on. Immediately behind him is Dillon Dronen; Frank, a fifth grader, said working with Dronen, an eighth grader, was his favorite part of Lego League this year.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALISON PETERSON
Fifth grade programmer Skyler Raad is excited to set a task for the Bison Build Different team robot during the regional competition on Saturday.

tasks."
"You could tell our robot was made by us," fifth-grade Bison Build Different member Skyler Raad said. "We did it all ourselves." He added their robot's name was Shack the Robot, while the Brickbusters called their robot Buster the Brick.

When it came to their presentations, teams had different archaeological challenges they chose to address.

"We chose as our topic: How can we help archaeologists reach artifacts buried underground when there is rough terrain or vegetation," Santini said.

"Ours was how to keep the artifacts safe from being broken by floods or from on-site robbery," Barth said.

For solutions, the Brickbuster team came up with a "rogger", a vehicle that brings together an auger, two rotary blades, a ground-penetrating radar (or GPR) system and a core sampler. Peterson said the blades cut through vegetation, the auger loosens the soil, the GPR detects artifacts and the core sampler identifies the geological layer in which the artifacts are located. Raad discussed how the Bison Build Different handled its challenge of weather and theft.

"We used things such as a 3D printer to construct a cement dome," he said. "It is built in three pieces that get hauled in by truck, and we have large bolts to keep them together. Helicopters keep the pieces in place while the bolts are put in."

"There are windows on top to let in natural light," Barth added.

Raad said there would be

a high-tech security system with the dome, including cameras and a keypad-sensitive passcode for admittance, that would keep possible thieves out.

As for the robot performance portion of the contest, both teams designed their robots to complete multiple simpler tasks, allowing the points to add up.

"For us, our main focus was, 'Let's keep it simple and just have the robot lift things up or drag things out,'" Santini said. An eighth grader, he added that there has been real progress in the robot side of the competition for Hazen teams in the last two years, as this has often been the part of the contest where Hazen teams have struggled when competing with other schools.

For the Bison Build Different team, Barth said the robot included one lift arm with four attachments that could be put on the arm, and Raad added that there were weights on the back of the robot to prevent it from flipping.

Frank, who primarily worked on robot programming with the Brickbusters team, said he used the SPIKE app for programming the robot to move around the table and perform its tasks at the right time and place. Raad said he found using the Chromebook or computers easier for doing programming with his team's robot.

"We used gyro sensors," Frank said. "They detect the exact distance for the robot and the turns it needs to take."

Both advancing teams said they think the positive

relationship between the different grade levels on each team made a difference as well. Older kids were able to mentor younger kids with navigating new skills like robot programming, and the positive interactions among all grades helped the team score well when it came to core values.

"Our oldest programmer on our team was an eighth grader, and the rest of us were fifth graders," Raad said. "And I don't think I would have liked this year as much if not for Brennen." Brennen Stern was the eighth grader on Raad's team, Raad being one of the fifth graders.

Likewise, Barth, another fifth grader, said his favorite part of Lego League this year was working alongside Dillon Dronen, an eighth grader on his team.

The eighth graders said they enjoyed the opportunity to help teach the younger students and build friendships with them.

"Working with the fifth graders and getting to see them grow and enjoy the experience was my favorite part of Lego League," Santini said. "In my opinion, I think there is at least as much bonding with Lego League as there is with a lot of sports. You are always interacting with a lot of people, whether they are on your team or not. And you get to make a lot of new friends."

"My favorite part was that, this year, the grades were mixed," Peterson said. "I was a little nervous to work with fifth graders, but I really liked to be able to teach them and to watch them when they understand something. And I saw the potential for them to succeed."

Both Barth and Raad said they liked meeting new people through Lego League and building friendships, as well as their roles with coding for the robots.

"At the beginning, nobody knew what was going on," Raad said. "And then, over the year, we have all seen growth."

"We were very pleased with all of the teams, including the team that is not advancing to state," Coach Amanda Frank said. "They really gave it their all. And so did these other teams, and we are super excited to see them going to state." The Hazen Pharaohs were the third Hazen team to compete at regionals on Saturday.

"Lego League is supposed to be student-led, and that is one thing that we can say that we are really proud of is that all of our teams were truly student-led," Coach Peterson added.

The state Lego League event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 at UND in Grand Forks. The advancing students are all very excited, and not just for the competition itself: Carlee Peterson is looking forward to Chick-fil-A and Starbucks, Skyler Raad getting to stay at a hotel with friends and Jaxson Frank for swimming in the pool.