

HAZEN CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2026

Hazen City Hall

Present: President Schiferl, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Haack, and Commissioner Stern.

Absent: Commissioner Wiedrich

Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Kaffar, Transit Director Brennan, Sgt. Anthony Melberg, Mike Krause, Samantha Melberg, Ronnie Blekestad, Scott Duma, Ben Bohrer, Tammy Rahn, Editor Arens, and Auditor Erhardt.

President Schiferl called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

President Schiferl led the pledge of allegiance and said the prayer.

Minutes: Commissioner Haack moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the September 8th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

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

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER

Engineer's Report: The commission reviewed the engineer's report which contained no action items. The commission was advised that the engineers will be completing the report for Sanitary Sewer Project 2026-01 for the next meeting and are also working to complete CWSRF and DWSRF questionnaires for priority on state funding opportunities. No further action taken.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS

Mike Krause – Concerns: Mike Krause appeared before the commission with concerns of the condition of the property on Central Avenue, the former Mason's Lodge. Mr. Krause indicated most of the roof sheeting (tin) was damaged and blown off the building in the June storm and that he, and others, piled the debris on the property which is still in the same spot. With a majority of the roof removed the building has been unprotected and Mr. Krause is concerned that the structural integrity of the building may be compromised and there is visible cracking along the bricks on the exterior. Mr. Krause is concerned that the building, if not addressed, may cause damage to neighboring properties. The commission asked that the

city planner contact the owner to have the debris removed within seven (7) days or the city will remove it at the owner's expense. The city planner will also work with the building inspector to assess the condition of the building and to request access to the interior for a full review and to have an inspection report by the October 5th meeting.

Local Permit-Raffle – Hazen Public School National Honor Society: Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve local permit #2026-21 as requested by the Hazen Public School National Honor Society to conduct a 50/50 raffle on September 25th, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

Grading Permit – HWS Arena Addition: The commission reviewed information of Grey-stone Construction and plans for grading work required to construct the addition to the All-Season Arena. Earthwork is scheduled to start before month-end with hopes of having the foundation for the addition in place prior to freeze up. There is no formal building construction permit requested at this time as the building plans are finalized by the architect, but the contractor is requesting permission to begin the earthwork pending the building permit application. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the grading work, based on information provided, second by Commissioner Haack. President Schiferl informed the board that he will abstain from voting based on his service on the Hazen Winter Sports Board. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", motion carried.

Building Permit w/Variance – D. Wettstein: The commission reviewed an application for building permit for Dakota Wettstein to construct an accessory use, storage building, on his property at 906 Nishu Place. The permit requires a variance based on the proposed metal wall covering to be used. Commissioner Schiferl moved to approve the building permit and variance, as presented, second by Commissioner Haack. On roll call vote: Schiferl, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", motion carried.

REPORTS

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

Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack spoke about locations for the military service monument from the previous meeting, suggesting construction east of the Pioneer Apartments in George Washington Park or on the location of the SR-71 monument. There were questions about the monument in George Washington Park and Mr. Krause indicated this was a monument to honor settlers originally designated in 1935 and Mr. Krause has continued to maintain the monument and make repairs as needed. There was additional discussion on how the monument will be designed to fit in with an area and that the city is not necessarily being asked to donate property as it may be something that would be purchased to ensure the project proceeds. Regarding discussion of the city staff wages, Commissioner Haack would like each commissioner to meet with the employees under their portfolio and bring recommendations back to the budget meeting. Commissioner Haack informed the commission that additional parts/repairs are needed on the Case loader but are within the contingency amount approved at the last meeting.

Finance/Busing/Library: Transit Director Brennan informed the commission that she recently attended a cost allocation plan training and is working to complete the plan for Hazen Public Transit. Commissioner Folkerts apologized to the employees for any confusion about the wage adjustments of the transit department as he was only looking at departments within his portfolio and it was not his intention to offend anyone. Commissioner Folkerts would like to find a way to make it right for all staff with President Schiferl agreeing that the meetings with each department are a good start.

Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich absent. President Schiferl informed the board that the Chief of Police position has been publicly posted.

HCD: Antoinette Heier absent. No report. President: President Schiferl had nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

HydroCorp Backflow/Cross Connection Proposal: The commission reviewed information from Water Manager Dauenhauer relating to pricing for another company, AquaBackflow, to complete the work like that proposed by

HydroCorp. Based on the services and costs provided, Mr. Dauenhauer recommends proceeding with HydroCorp for the work. President Schiferl commented that he liked the idea of addressing the issue, but he has concerns with the costs that would be charged back to the residents, with Commissioner Folkerts agreeing. Commissioner Stern also likes the project but would like to see if there is future federal or state funding to reduce the cost to residents. The auditor will check with the engineer to see if this is a project that could be placed on the priority questionnaires to the state.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Procedures/Transparency – S. Melberg: Samantha Melberg requested time on the agenda to address the commission regarding procedural actions and transparency of the commission. Ms. Melberg began by thanking the commissioners for agreeing to set up meetings with staff to address wage concerns. Ms. Melberg addressed the commission from a statement she had prepared. Regarding changes in the police department as of August 3rd, Ms. Melberg was concerned about apparent discussion outside of the public meeting in dealing with the appointment of the chief of police. Also, at the September 8th meeting Commissioner Wiedrich referred to the posting for the

chief of police position and that it could now be posted as the consideration of NDPERS had been included in the preliminary budget. Ms. Melberg referred to ND Century Code regarding open meetings and open records and requested public records. Ms. Melberg provided a written request for public records of all text messages, emails, and notes between commissioners regarding the Hazen Police Department for the last year. Attorney Kaffar asked the commission that the records requested be submitted to him for review and he would work with the auditor to respond to the request in a timely manner. Attorney Kaffar stated transparency is required and that he, and Attorney Donovan, advise the commission on matters as well as possible. President Schiferl commented that a quorum of the board would be three (3) commissioners and Attorney Kaffar stated that is true but that contact with individually with each commissioner can create a meeting situation and it is important that the public is aware of the rationale of the board in making decisions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

Approval of Bills and Financial Statements: Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the bills and financial statements, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern.

Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Coal Conversion Counties, 1843.00; Coal Country CHC, 220.00; D&E Supply, 150.72; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 3150.00; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Fireside Office Solutions, 87.28; Fitterer Oil LLC, 35.75; Fuelman Fleet, 1018.30; Jim Block, 151.00; Loren Wiest, 1000.00; ND Dept Environmental Quality, 183.55; Norther Safety Co Inc, 103.90; Power Plan, 1004.00; Richard Nordgren, 475.76; Samantha Melberg, 71.25; Sletten Excavating, 31375.00; Stamps.com, 109.07; Starion Bond Service, 4698.75; Sunny Brennan, 228.00; Tammy Rahn, 19.76; Ternes Tree Service, 2200.00; Uniform Center, 75.00; US Postal Service, 457.42; Vestis, 478.23. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: Jesse Schiferl, President

Attest: Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor

(10-15-2026)