# HAZEN CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

November 2, 2026
Hazen City Hall
Present: Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Haack, Commissioner Stern, and Commissioner Wiedrich.
Absent: President Schiferl
Others Present: Attorney Kaffar, Jerod Klabunde & Aiden Kelly (Moore Eng), PW Director Brousseau, Scott Duma, Tammy Rahn, Jarid Dauenhauer, Editor Arens, and Auditor Erhardt.
Vice President Wiedrich called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
Vice President Wiedrich led the pledge of allegiance and said the prayer.
Minutes: Commissioner Haack moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the October 19th and October 28th meetings, as presented, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.
Agenda: Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.
CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER
Engineer's Report: Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, updated the commission on ongoing projects. Regarding the 2026 Sewer Project (Expedition Estates), the plans and specifications have been approved by the commission and the bids for the project will be advertised for opening in December or January. Regarding the 2024 Sewer Project, the walk-through and punch list was completed in July, and the last items should be completed prior to month end. Regarding the ongoing water service line inventory which must be completed by 2030, the engineers will apply for state funding to determine the public side of the unknown water service lines with a plan to complete this work in 2027. Regarding miscellaneous items, precinct #1 streets were marked and flown with the drone to assist in determining approximate cost for repairs and chip seal to be completed in 2027 with information to be provided at the meeting in two weeks. Last December the commission had approved mud-jacking of the sidewalk near the box culverts on 3rd Ave NW/County Road 27 and Mr. Klabunde apologized for allowing this to go unresolved. The mud-jacker is no longer conducting this type of work anymore this year and Mr. Klabunde suggested the entire area, including the roadway, be assessed for repair work in 2027. Mr. Klabunde indicated pricing was received to mill and fill a portion of Antelope Drive that has been failing since the 2018-2019 project was completed. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the repairs at an estimated cost of $3500 to $4000, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, the commission was informed that this cost estimate was received earlier this year and with the contractor completing other paving items under the sewer project, if approved this work could be completed this fall. PW Director Brousseau brough up another area that has conditions like this on the street east of the patio homes. There was discussion about waiting until other work is scheduled, mobilization costs, and how a damaged area could be affected by the winter freeze/thaw cycles. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.
Mr. Klabunde informed the commission that he and W/WW Manager Dauenhauer have video of the condition of lift station #1 which has some failures of the coating, and they would like to get additional video to determine the best approach to repair/recondition the lift station.
REQUEST OF CITIZENS
Free/Reduced Hall Rent – SMC Annual Meeting: The commission reviewed a request for free/reduced hall rent submitted by SMC for their annual meeting and determined that they would like formal request annually for this action rather than approval in perpetuity. Commissioner Haack moved to approve the free/reduced hall rent, as requested by SMC, subject to the kitchen fee, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved.
Sign Relocation – Maj. Gen Eldon Joersz Sign, West Hazen: The commission reviewed correspondence of Harvey Huber relating to moving the Eldon Joersz sign in west Hazen to the area of the SR-71 display. The commission discussed determination of where it will be placed at the SR-71 site or if it may be more appropriate, if moved, to place it near the regional airport. The commission would like Mr. Huber and/or a representative of the SR-71 committee to be invited to the next meeting to collect additional information.
APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS
Building Permit w/Variance Request – M. Rathjen: the commission reviewed an application for building permit submitted by Mark Rathjen to remove a current yard shed from his property and replace it with a larger shed. To complete the project, Mr. Rathjen is requesting a variance of six fee (6') to bring the shed within four feet (4') of the south fence to his property. Commissioner Folkerts moved to approve the building permit, and variance request as submitted by Mr. Rathjen, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.
REPORTS
Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Stern had nothing to report at this time.
Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack informed the board that the city staff are sweeping streets when possible and PW Director Brousseau indicated they will be looking at installing holiday decorations while the weather is favorable.
Finance/Busing/Library: Commissioner Folkerts directed re-advertising/posting the notice for open, part-time public transit drivers.
Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that an estimate to replace the engine on the 2021 police Tahoe has been received and thanked Commissioner Stern for suggesting the motor replacement due to the vehicle being otherwise in sound condition. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the replacement of the engineer at the estimated cost of $10,928, second by Commissioner Haack. Upon discussion, there were questions about warranty of the replacement engine with no certainty but thoughts that it may be as long as 3 years/30,000 miles and that initial estimates indicate there is a two-week lead time to get the engine. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", motion carried.
HCD: Antoinette Heier absent. Commis-

sioner Wiedrich informed the commission that Ms. Heier would like the purchased Christmas tree set up, while weather is good, and to address any electrical issues at the created area or if it will have to be placed at another location for the tree lighting ceremony during the annual walk-around.

President: President Schiferl absent. No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Rural Garbage Route Discussion: Commissioner Stern began discussion on the subject by reviewing some basic cost information which would require a substantial increase to rural garbage fees with Commissioner Wiedrich indicating he had discussed the matter with affected customers who would be willing to absorb "some" additional costs to continue receiving the services. There was further discussion of the current fees and theories as to why the city began picking up rural garbage as well as wear and tear on city equipment for this service. PW Director Brousseau spoke of staffing issues and work that takes a lower priority to the rural routes. Commissioner Stern moved to cease rural garbage routes outside of the city limits effective January 1, 2027, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that he will abstain from the vote due to his benefiting from rural garbage service. Upon discussion, Commissioner Haack asked about any changes in fees and Commissioner Stern suggested operating for one year prior to reviewing the fee structure since this is an enterprise of the city which is not funded by property tax. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Haack, "Aye", motion carried. Rura customers will be provided with written notification of the board's decision and contact information for providers that offer services in the area.

NEWS BUSINESS

BMS Pay – Online Utility/Invoice Payment Portal: The commission reviewed a proposal to incorporate payment systems through Black Mountain Software for e-billing and online payment options for city utility bills and invoices. The system would cost an additional $1,260/year before any savings from current processing/admin fees charged by GovPay. Since this was not part of the 2027 budget the commission would like this matter reviewed again in 2027 prior to any decision. No further action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

Approval of Bills: Commissioner Hack moved to approve the bills, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: US Postal Service, 462.43; Anthony Melberg, 66.95; CVB, 3742.01, Hazen Ace Hardware, 211.07; Jennifer Gabel, 34.00; Moore Engineering Inc, 16287.76; D Water Users Assoc, 500.00; Samantha Melberg, 99.32; SW Water Authority, 38089.28; Tools Plus LLC, 481.47; Tractor Supply Credit Plan, 23.99; Verizon Wireless, 561.98. On roll call vote: Haack, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: Jesse Schiferl, President
Attest: Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor

(11-19-2026)