

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**Budget Workshop**  
**May 25, 2011**  
**6:00PM**

Meeting was called to order at 6:14pm by Mayor Brooks

Present: Mayor Brooks, Councilman Overhuel, Councilman Burnham, Councilwoman Steele and Councilman Keeler. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Wilson, Treasurer Koehn & Clerk Farmer.

Wilson started the meeting stating that this is a rough draft of the budget and he is requesting Councils direction. Discussion ensued.

Manager Wilson went over the draft budget notes (see attached).  
Items of note were:

In order to win back revenue sharing it is law that employees must pay 20% of their healthcare and employee retirement contributions be capped at 10%.

The third portion is new collaboration between units. In the past there has not been much interest, but now all units are being affected with the cuts and are looking to cut costs.

Wilson reviewed the 2011/2012 Budget balance sheet and the proposed capital improvements from Department Heads.

Mayor Pro-tem Steele stated that she felt that we need to do what we can to get Public Safety a new building. She expresses her concerns about the use of the Water Treatment building on the Mill property. It could be too close to the river front and may not leave enough space for planned residential development.

It was suggested that at the next budget meeting council walk the treatment building to see for themselves the condition of the building and placement relative to future development plans.

Steele stated that the jet at the airport needs to be washed and the landscaping pruned.

Council asked Wilson to see if the kayak company plans to be back this year. He was also asked to look into the cemetery board.

June 8<sup>th</sup> will be the next budget meeting with Council inspecting the treatment plant.

Council asked that the DPW rake up the leaves left behind after they pick up. It looks terrible after they pick up now.

Council asked E Wilson to get them the cost overruns for the Pell Park project.

L. Steele asked for a map of the truck routes during the M-89 project.

Council directed Wilson to present his capital project cut recommendations at the next budget meeting.

**A motion by Keeler, seconded by Burnham to adjourn at 7:59pm**

Draft Budget Notes

Employees will pay a 20% co-pay for health insurance

City contribution to retirement is capped at 10%

Budget includes a 1% pay raise for all employees (except Public Safety-still under contract)

Have not budgeted for potential "Statutory" revenue...could be \$70,000

Both water and sewer rates will be adjusted for CPI (around 5%)

Furlough is still in effect

Vacation buy-back is still suspended

Assessor contract is frozen (2nd year)

Recycle charges will go from \$14.16 to \$16.95

City Mechanic is retiring in exchange for 1-year health insurance

City Treasurer is retiring, will work part-time

City contracts with Siegfried for Financial services (net savings \$10,000)