

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**August 25, 2025**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Jared Bowen of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Lori Steele, and Councilmembers Roger Keeney, Randy Wisnaski and Cathy Green.  
Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 08/11/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
8. Agenda approval:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the August 25, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
9. Mayor's Report: Stated he was happy for the break in the hot weather.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed Ordinance 402, which amends Chapter 56: Taxes of the City of Plainwell Code of Ordinances to allow for up to two alternate members for the Board of Review.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, adopting Ordinance 402 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the purchase of annual road salt. The City utilizes the MiDEAL program through the State of Michigan for pricing and delivery. This year the vendor is Detroit Salt Company.  
**A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, approving the purchase of an early salt delivery from Detroit Salt Company for \$6,344.00 and a regular salt delivery from Detroit Salt Company for \$6,667.00, at a total cost of \$13,011.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. City Manager Lakamper discussed the 2025/2026 budget encumbrance rollover.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the 2024/2025 budget amendment, as presented, in order to appropriate prior year encumbrances into the current fiscal year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) with Dixon Engineering, Inc. The agreement covers Phase 4 (Construction) and 5 (Post Construction) of the Water Tower renovation project.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, approving the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Dixon Engineering, Inc. for Phases 4 and 5 of the water tower renovation project for \$23,100.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
11. Communications:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the July 2025 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, and the 07/08/2025 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
12. Accounts Payable:  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$1,162,523.12 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
13. Public Comments: Dale and Kathe Burnham shared their experience touring the Classic Auto Factory located in DeKalb, Illinois. Dale stated it is a nice facility, and feels Classic Auto Factory would be a good fit for the Mill property.
14. Staff Comments:  
Personnel Coordinator/Interim Treasurer Kersten was excused.  
  
Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed removing flower baskets as the flowers die down. Hydrant flushing will happen toward the end of September, after the completion of the Water Tower repainting and maintenance project. He noted there are two

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pressure release valves (located at the DPW building and at the dog park) which may discharge water if needed to maintain the correct pressure in the lines while the tower is down for maintenance.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer stated that he is getting quotes from contractors to install screens in the grit removal system.

Director Callahan discussed the S. Main paving project challenges, advising everyone maintain a safe speed and watch for students as the school year begins.

The Department of Public Safety is hosting an Open House on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 2:30pm. There will be a food truck, Smokey the Bear and other friends, and kids' activities.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

City Manager Lakamper discussed the August 20<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting. The Commission discussed and ultimately approved the drafting of an ordinance to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in areas zoned R1A/R1B single family residential for further consideration. He stated that the Old Orchard project is complete.

He has been working with Darius, the owner of Classic Auto Factory, on a plan for the building, focusing on the façade. Darius had planned to clean up the site himself, but due to the site's superfund status, clean up needs to be handled by licensed contractors working with an environmental consultant. This will slow the process.

He has talked with AT&T concerning their cell tower located on the decommissioned water tower. He hopes AT&T will consider purchasing the site, removing the old tower, and building a new cell tower. Building #2 continues to be evaluated by the insurance company, but demolition is likely.

MEDC and Bosch Architects are working with David Steffen, owner of NAPA Auto, to design a building that aligns with the aesthetics of the rest of Mill Property.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele wished everyone a safe and happy Labor Day weekend.

Councilmember Green was thankful for the cooler weather.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
submitted by,  
JoAnn Leonard  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
September 08, 2025

  
JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk