

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
October 27, 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 10/13/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Presentation: Chris Hass Volunteer of the Year Award
8. County Commissioners Report: Commissioner Gale Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
Drain Commission Chris Machiela introduced himself to Council.
9. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the October 27, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
10. Mayor's Report: None.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed an On-Premise Tasting Permit for Doster Brewing Co. LLC.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, approving Resolution 2025-19 which recommends the consideration and approval of an On-Premises Tasting Permit for Doster Brewing Co. LLC by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. City Manager Lakamper discussed a Class C Liquor License Permit for Mill 17 LLC.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, approving Resolution 2025-20 which recommends the consideration and approval of a Class C Liquor License Permit for Mill 17 LLC by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. City Manager Lakamper discussed a proposed parking lot plan from BizEx Ventures.
12. Communications:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the September 2025 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports and the 09/09/2025 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
13. Accounts Payable:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$209,146.22 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
14. Public Comments: Dale Burnham of 210 Prairie St thanked Director Callahan for addressing the car, and he hopes to have updates on the burned house and empty lot soon. He asked when Mill 17 planned to close on the building purchase, and for an update on Classic Auto Factory.
15. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox introduced herself to Council, and was welcomed by all.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis congratulated the flower volunteers, and thanked them for their hard work year after year. He shared that loose-leaf pick goes daily until 11/23, and reminded everyone that loose leaf piles need to be trash and brush free. Brush pick up is separate, and occurs on the first Monday of each month. Any home with brush, trash, or other yard waste in their leaf pile will not be picked up.

Superintendent Keyzer congratulated and thanked the flower volunteers. He noted that Waste Water is having sludge hauled out this week, so there will be trucks in and out.

Clerk Leonard thanked the volunteer flower team.

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City Manager Lakamper shared that a lease agreement had been drafted and provided to Classic Auto Factory. The current offer is a 50-year lease, with a 5-year renovation timeline, with a 5-year option to buy the building and a built in ownership transfer if/when the building becomes insurable. Classic Auto Factory will own the entire complex, allowing them to shift noise and smell producing operations further from Mill 17. Responding to public comments, he shared that the land being used for trash and storage has been addressed by the DPS. Professional Code Inspectors (PCI) is working toward labeling the burned house as dangerous. He thanked the flower volunteers. He stated that MEDC is working with NAPA on the site plan for the new building, and it is his hope to use the same company to design the rest of the front of the Mill complex if possible.

16. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked the flower volunteers, and shared her vacation to Oklahoma to see family was a great time.

Councilmembers Keeney and Wisnaski thanked the flower volunteers for their hard work.

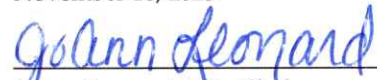
Councilmember Green thanked the flowers volunteers as well, and offered the idea of splitting building 3 of the Mill complex to allow a central portion of the building to remain available to the City, as discussed years ago, with the potential for a future public park.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
November 10, 2025


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk