

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
May 27, 2025

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Ken Fritz of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Keeney, and Councilmember Wisnaski
Councilmember Green. Absent: Councilmember Green
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to excuse Councilmember Green from tonight's proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 05/12/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Linda Teeter from Allegan County Legal Assistance Center introduced herself and discussed the services offered.
8. County Commissioners Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
9. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the May 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. Mayor Keeler presented Resolution 2025-10, renaming and dedicating the Plainwell Municipal Airport to the Virgil L. Williams Plainwell Municipal Airport. Mayor Keeler thanked Virgil for volunteering his time and skill managing the Airport for the City for the past 23 years. Mayor Keeler read aloud the following:

WHEREAS, Virgil L. Williams has dedicated his life to aviation, including retiring from the Upjohn Company as Chief Pilot and Aviation Director; and has been recognized with the FAA's Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award for over 50 years of safe flying, and named "Aviator of the Year" by the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Virgil L. Williams has generously volunteered his time, knowledge, and skills to oversee and manage the Plainwell Municipal Airport in service to the City of Plainwell since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Virgil has contributed to community enrichment through mentoring young pilots and co-founding the Plainwell Aviation STEM Academy, a non-profit flight school dedicated to introducing children to aviation; and

WHEREAS, Virgil has played a key role in developing and expanding the Plainwell Municipal Airport, creating new revenue streams, stewarding the Plainwell Pilots Association, and helping to establish Plainwell as a general aviation destination in West Michigan;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council, as an expression of gratitude on behalf of the citizens of the City of Plainwell, do hereby rename the Plainwell Municipal Airport to **Virgil L. Williams Plainwell Municipal Airport**, and dedicate it in honor of Virgil Williams for his extraordinary service to the City of Plainwell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be entered in full in the minutes of the May 27, 2025 meeting of the Plainwell City Council and that a copy be presented to Mr. Virgil L. Williams.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to approve Resolution 2025-10 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Keeler presented Virgil Williams with a ceremonial signed copy of Resolution 2025-10. Mr. Williams shared that he was honored and thanked City Council, staff and residents for their continued support of the airport. He shared stories from his past, and spoke about his love of aviation. He enjoys being involved in the STEM flight school, and instructing the next generation of aviation lovers.

- B. Mayor Keeler discussed setting a required Public Hearing concerning the 2025/2026 City Budget.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to set a Public Hearing for June 23, 2025 at 7pm to review and adopt the 2025.2026 City Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a 3-year contract with Renewed Earth for solid waste removal.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving a 3-year contract with Renewed Earth for solid waste removal at a cost of \$16,500 per year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a 3-year contract for street sweeping services with Walters Sweeping.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving a 3-year contract with Walters Sweeping for street sweeping services at a cost of \$22,200 for the first year, \$23,088 for the second year, and \$24,011 for the third year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- E. City consultant Brain Kelley discussed the draft BRA/DDA/TIFA budget for fiscal year 2025/2026.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the draft 2025/2026 BRA/DDA/TIFA budget as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- F. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a contract with PK Contracting to stripe major streets for the City.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving contract with PK Contracting for striping major streets in the City of Plainwell for a cost not to exceed \$44,827.50. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- G. City Council discussed the two developers interested in the Mill property.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to postpone choosing a developer until the next Council meeting on June 9, 2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the April 2025 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, and the 04/08/2025 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 4/17/2025 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Accounts Payable:

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A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$48,357.71 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments:

Sandy Lamorandier shared that she enjoyed the dedication and renaming of the airport in honor of Virgil Williams, and that she appreciated the street sweeping provided by the City, saying that it makes a noticeable difference.

15. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Interim Treasurer Kersten shared the DPW had hired two new seasonal employees who would be starting soon, and that open enrollment period for benefits is coming up..

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis congratulated Virgil. He shared that the City had been awarded a settlement from a PFAS lawsuit, and that there are two other potential settlements still being processed.

Deputy Superintendent Keyser stated that he is doing preventative maintenance and continued training.

Superintendent Pond had nothing to report.

Director Callahan reported that a person had gone into the river recently, and reminded everyone that there are resources available to anyone who is struggling with mental health or any other issues.

Clerk Leonard shared that she is attending the Clerk's Conference in Muskegon the first week of June.

City Manager Lakamper shared hoe thankful he was to have Virgil managing the airport for the City, stating that there will be a new sign and dedication ceremony soon. He said that the PFAS settlement could only be used for the water fund. He thanked Brian Kelley for coming to the meeting. He gave an update on Building #2, stating that the insurance company had requested that a structural engineer provide an evaluation of the damage. He also set a date for the Budget Workshop, which will be held June 9, 2025 at 5:30pm prior to the Council Meeting that night.

16. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele congratulated Virgil, and stated that he makes a mean cup of coffee.

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Virgil.

Councilmember Keeney congratulated Virgil, saying it was well deserved. He shared that the Memorial Day parade was great, and that this year there were more tractors.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
June 09, 2025


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk