

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 24, 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 Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Wisnaski, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Green. Absent: Mayor Keeler
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to excuse Mayor Keeler from tonight's proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 02/10/2025 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 Wisnaski, seconded by Green, to approve the Agenda for the February 24, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Community Development Manager Siegel discussed the return of unused Brownfield Redevelopment Loan (BRL) funding to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). The loan was given to the City in September of 2020 to assist with Phase 3 of the Plainwell Papermill Project. **A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, to return \$22,171.71 of unused loan funds to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
 - B. City Manager Lakamper discussed the City's first right of refusal to purchase buildings 18 and 19 from GHD. There is an offer of \$326,000.00 for the buildings, which the City can match. Council discussed purchasing the buildings, and the potential advantages and disadvantages of keeping the property versus selling it.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to table the discussion concerning the purchase of buildings 18 and 19 by the City of Plainwell. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
11. Communications:
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the January 2025 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, the 01/14/2025 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 01/16/2025 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
12. Accounts Payable:

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 24, 2025

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$1,042,798.72 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis stated that he was enjoying the nicer weather.

Community Development Manager Siegel shared that Doggie DeeTails has been purchased, and the new owners plan on keeping it the same. She mentioned the upcoming Art Hop event.

Deputy Superintendent Keyser stated that he continues to train at the Wastewater Plant.

Director Callahan had nothing to report.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

City Manager Lakamper shared that Nick Larabel has organized a meeting discussing Brownfield and how it applies to the Mill Site. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 8:00am at City Hall in the Council Chambers and is open to the public. All Board and Commission members are encouraged to attend. He stated that the City has requested for bids to clean and line sewer lines in the Old Orchard. Bids are due March 3, 2025. He discussed receiving notification from the State of Michigan that the Mill Site has higher than allowed PFAS levels.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-Tem Steele told Director Callahan that she has experienced an increase in cars not stopping for bus red lights on N. Main past Russet.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 10, 2025



JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk