

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
August 11, 2025

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Peter Dams of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmembers Wisnaski, Keeney and 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 07/28/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner's Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the August 11, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler shared that he has met several times with Darius, owner of Classic Auto Factory. They went to Dean's Ice Cream to see the classic cars there, and Dean's generously provided free ice cream to the group. He stated he stopped by Mosaic Distillery, and is impressed with the progress and work being done there. The building looks great, and the first batch of vodka is being distilled.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Fleis & Vandenbrink. The cost of the PSA will be fully reimbursed using Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) funds from Lakeshore Advantage.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Fleis & Vandenbrink for fieldwork, design, permitting, bidding assistance and GIS services for Industrial Park improvements at a cost of \$135,000.00. 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 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
12. Accounts Payable:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$333,739.65 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
13. Public Comments: None.
14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis shared the City clock was picked up for repair. He stated that Home Depot had contacted him to discuss a possible River Walk joint project with the City. He said the Surf Internet is installing fiber in the City, and had submitted Miss Digs for Starr, Brigham, Jersey and Hill Streets.

Superintendent Keyzer stated the entire grit system is up and running now.

City Manager Lakamper shared that he will provide Council with a Manager's update in weeks without a Council meeting. He shared that the Clark Gas Station has sold, and the owner's intent is to rebuild/remodel and keep it as a gas station. Interviews were held for the Finance Director position, with some promising candidates. He has talked with Watts Construction about the Mill development and condos along the river, and Watts is open to building a river walk.

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He stated that he is working with Classic Auto Factory on a list of benchmark tasks to be done prior to transferring building ownership, with the building façade being one of the main concerns.

BizEx has not closed with GHD yet.

MEDC may be an avenue available to NAPA Auto to design a new building that aligns with the other Mill Buildings historic appeal.

He discussed Accessory Dwelling Units, sharing that a City resident with an apartment above their garage is presenting their case to the Planning Commission at their next meeting. The resident would like to be able to rent the apartment, but per zoning ordinance, that is currently prohibited.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele discussed the All School Reunion, sharing that turnout was good with ~75 people. Next year may be the last year, as there is little interest in planning this event. She will continue to keep memorabilia, and maintain PHS obituaries.

Councilmember Green thanked Bob and the DPW staff for the City's beautiful flowers this year, sharing that people coming into her downtown business have commented on them as well.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, 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
August 25, 2025


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk