

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**July 14, 2025**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Scott Smail 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 Green, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 06/23/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: Lois Heuchert of 514 Morrell St. discussed filming and uploading City Council meetings to YouTube.
7. County Commissioner's Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the July 14, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Board and Commission appointments are made by the Mayor, and subject to confirmation from Council.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, confirming the Mayor's appointment of Dale Burnham to the Planning Commission. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Clerk Leonard discussed Ordinance 401, which amends Ordinance 199 to change the Parks and Tree Commission required annual meeting from January to March.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, adopting Ordinance 401 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. Clerk Leonard discussed a Special Event Permit application for Island Fest. Island Fest will be held Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, approving the Special Event Permit for Island Fest. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - D. City Manager Lakamper and council discussed both demolition and restoration of Mill Building #2, and the financial impact of each.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, supporting the demolition of Mill Building #2. 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 June 2025 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. 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 \$297,252.63 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/Interim Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.  
  
Superintendent Nieuwenhuis was excused from the meeting.

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Superintendent Keyzer stated he's getting acclimated now that Bryan Pond has retired, and fixing issues as they arise.

Director Callahan reminded everyone about Island City Fest, being held Saturday July 26. A section of Main St. will be closed from ~8am-1pm to allow for a classic car show.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

City Manager Lakamper shared follow up information about Classic Auto Factory, a party from Illinois interested in several Mill buildings for use as a classic car restoration, storage and display business. He is meeting with them this Thursday at 1pm for a second property tour. He hopes to have a presentation from the interested party to present to Council with further information following the meeting.

He gave an update on the parcel in Industrial Park that the auto auction is interested in, sharing that an extension was provided to allow for further research into water retention on the property.

He shared an idea put forth by Corey Redder from the Parks & Tree Commission and City resident Terry Pickett to utilize a mile of the 10 acres behind the water tower in Kenyon Park as a walking trail. He noted that this land is dedicated for recreational use, and that changing that designation would be challenging and require working with the State.

15. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to meet in closed session as permitted under section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public employee if the named individual requests a closed hearing at 7:39pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to return to Open Session at 7:47pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

16. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele discussed gravel trucks speeding down Sherwood St., noting this is a reoccurring issue. She would like a heavier police presence on Sherwood to discourage speeding.

Councilmember Green wished everyone a happy belated 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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  
July 28, 2025

  
JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk