

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
January 27, 2025

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Scott Fenner of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Wisnaski, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember 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 01/13/2025 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 Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the January 27, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: The Mayor thanked DPW for keeping up with snow removal in such cold temperatures.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Clerk Leonard discussed Ordinance #399. This Ordinance is effective for ten years, and allows Michigan Gas Utilities access to public right of ways within the city as needed to operate a natural gas business and distribution system.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, to adopt Ordinance #399 – *Michigan Gas Utilities Franchise* as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Community Development Manager Siegel presented Special Event Permit 25-01 for Dean's Ice Cream. The permit allows the closure of Sherwood Street between Sterling and Oak on Monday nights from 4pm-8pm. The event begins Monday, April 14, 2025 and ends Monday, October 6, 2025.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving Special Event Permit 25-01 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Treasurer/Personnel Coordinator Kersten discussed the City's annual Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) contribution.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, approving a transfer of \$9,949.00 into the OPEB Trust to cover the actuarially determined normal cost for employees covered by the City of Plainwell Retiree Medical Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. City Manager Lakamper discussed the sale of vacant Industrial land at 830 Miller Road. The City has approximately 28 acres remaining for sale, and has received two offers. The first offer, from USA Earthworks, is for 15 acres with a sale price of \$400,000.00. The second offer, from Complete Remarketing Services, is for 28 acres with a sale price of \$700,000.00.

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A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to table the land sale at 830 Miller Road until the next Council Meeting on February 10, 2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- E. Community Development Manager Siegel discussed Resolution 2025-06. This Resolution is in support of the West Michigan Trails Regional Master Plan, which includes about 1.5 miles of trail located within the City of Plainwell.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, adopting Resolution 2025-06 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- F. Director Callahan discussed the sale of a 2016 Ford Explorer SUV previously used as the Chief's car. Following the generous donation of a 2018 Ford Explorer Patrol SUV from the Gun Lake Tribal Police, the vehicle is no longer needed.

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving the sale of the 2016 Ford Explorer with the minimum sale price being \$9,000. 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 December 2024 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, the 12/10/2024 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 12/12/2024 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. 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 \$235,661.43 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 shared that employee W2s are now available. She is working on year end wrap up, as well as MI Osha reporting.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis stated that the DPW has done a great job of snow removal this winter.

Community Development Manager Siegel gave an update on the Old Mill committee meeting, sharing that there are two potential developers. She continues to work toward RRC recertification. She reminded everyone about the Chocolate Stroll happening on Saturday February 8th. The high school choir will be performing in the lobby at City Hall, and downtown businesses will offer chocolate themed specials to event attendees.

Deputy Superintendent Keyser stated he is taking three certification classes.

Superintendent Pond had nothing to report.

Director Callahan reminded everyone to slow down and watch for buses, especially when the roads are snowy.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

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City Manager Lakamper discussed interest in the Old Mill property, sharing that a third developers had contacted him. He is working on the City Budget process, and is researching asset management software that would be used at the water renewal plant. The DPW is tracking water usage.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Keeney thanked DPW for keeping up with snow removal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steele shared that she is looking forward to the Chocolate Stroll as it is always a fun event.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
February 10, 2025


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk