

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
November 25, 2024

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Dan Martin of Lighthouse Baptist Church
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Current City Council:
 - A. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Keeney
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to excuse Councilmember Keeney from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 11/11/2024 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Leonard presented the report from the Allegan County Board of Canvassers certifying the results of the 11/05/2024 General Election with Cathy Green and Lori Steele each elected to a 4-year City Council term, expiring in 2028.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to accept the report of the Allegan County Board of Canvassers as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. Public Comment: None
 - E. Council Comment:
Councilmember Overhuel thanked Plainwell staff, both past and present. He thanked the late Mayor Brooks for convincing him to run for City Council. He complimented the members of the various Boards and Commissions of the City, with special attention given to Parks & Trees. He called out all the things that Parks & Trees have accomplished over the past 16 years- a dog park, playground equipment, updated restrooms at the parks, and thanked the members for their commitment to working together to accomplishing these goals. He thanked Mayor Keeler, City Manager Lakamper and former City Manager Wilson for always putting the good of the City above all else. He concluded by thanking the Council members, City Staff, both past and present, and city residents as a whole.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele stated that she will miss Councilmember Overhuel, sharing that they had sat next to each other without conflict for the past 16 years.

Councilmember Wisnaski shared that it was a privilege to have worked with Councilmember Overhuel, and he was sorry to see him go. He wished him luck for the future.

Mayor Keeler shared that working with Councilmember Overhuel had been great, and that he would continue to contact him in the future with questions about bands and music.
 - F. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting *Sine Die* at 7:10pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
5. New City Council:
 - A. Per Section 4.3 of the City of Plainwell Charter, Clerk Leonard administered the Oath of Office to Cathy Green and Lori Steele as Councilmembers.
 - B. Roll Call of Council: Present: Councilmembers Cathy Green, Brad Keeler, Lori Steele and Randy Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Roger Keeney.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to excuse Councilmember Keeney from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Leonard stated that according to Section 4.11 of the Plainwell City Charter, the vote for Mayor is public, and the term shall be for 2 years. Ballots were cast as follows: Councilmember Green nominated Councilmember Keeler. Councilmember Keeler nominated Councilmember Keeler. Councilmember Steele nominated Councilmember Keeler. Councilmember Wisnaski nominated Councilmember Keeler.

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By a vote of 4-0, Councilmember Keeler was elected Mayor.

Clerk Leonard administered the Oath of Office to Brad Keeler as Mayor.

- D. Clerk Leonard stated that according to Section 4.11 of the City of Plainwell Charter, the vote for Mayor Pro Tem is conducted in the same manner as the vote for Mayor, and the term shall be for 2 years. Ballots were cast as follows: Councilmember Green nominated Councilmember Steele. Councilmember Keeler nominated Councilmember Steele. Councilmember Steele nominated Councilmember Steele. Councilmember Wisnaski nominated Councilmember Steele.

By a vote of 4-0, Councilmember Steele was elected Mayor.

Clerk Leonard administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Lori Steele as Mayor Pro Tem.

Clerk Leonard returned the Council Meeting to Mayor Keeler at 7:25pm.

- E. Public Comment: None

- F. Council Comment:

Mayor Keeler congratulated Councilmember Green and welcomed her to City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele welcomed Councilmember Green, and thanked everyone for attending.

Councilmember Wisnaski welcomed Councilmember Green.

6. Presentation: *Meritorious Service Award*

Director Callahan presented this award to Public Safety Officer McGehee, Deputy Director Varley and Detective LaLone (of the Otsego Police Department) for outstanding service rendered in the line of duty on June 12, 2024.

7. 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 November 25, 2024 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler stated he is working with his draft horses for the upcoming holiday events.

10. Recommendations and Reports:

- A. Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried Crandall PC presented the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024. Mr. Veldhuizen stated that the city's financial statements received an "unmodified" opinion, meaning no material misstatements were noted, and no audit adjustments were made. He reported the city's financial position is acceptable. He called attention to the OPEB Fund, noting that these funds are the most concerning and should be addressed. The audit revealed no deficiencies in internal controls. He reported no material misstatements with federal funds reporting. He stated that very few audit clients have no deficiencies, and Plainwell is the only municipality of 120 that prepares its own financials. He recognized and thanked Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley for his hard work and attention to detail.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, accepting and placing on file the audited financial statements for the City of Plainwell as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- B. Superintendent Pond stated that the existing grit removal equipment has begun to wear through at the bottom and needs to be replaced before it fails. W. Soule is able to fabricate and install a new unit.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the removal and replacement of the existing grit removal equipment by W. Soule for \$12,822.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- C. City Manager Lakamper discussed the City of Plainwell's Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2024-2030. The CIP has been reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission, and is being referred to Council for their consideration.

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving the 2024-2030 CIP as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

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D. City Manager Lakamper discussed the purchase of a floating kayak launch and dock system for use at Darrow Park. The purchase will be fully funded by grant money, received from the Pipp Foundation.
A motion by Green, seconded by Steele, approving the purchase of a Wave Armor Floating Dock and Kayak Launch System from BoatLifeandDock.com for a total cost of \$6,148.80. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

E. City Manager Lakamper discussed USA Earthworks LLC Pay Application #7 for work performed on the Old Orchard project. Per contract, the City will retain \$59,638.89 in funding until the project has been fully completed.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving Pay Application #7 for USA Earthworks LLC in the amount of \$888,345.58 for work done on the Old Orchard Project. 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 October 2024 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, the 8/21/2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes, the 10/08/2024 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes, the 10/17/2024 Parks & Trees meeting minutes and the DRAFT 11/20/2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$105,124.46 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

Sandy Lamorandier of 518 S. Woodhams stated that Councilmember Overhuel had always done a great job for the City of Plainwell. He is a hard worker with no agenda, consistently putting the City first. She congratulated Councilmember Green, and wished Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley good luck at his new job with the City of Otsego. She shared that she is proud to be a resident of the City of Plainwell, and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

14. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley stated that his last day with the City of Plainwell is December 6, 2024, so this was his last official Council meeting. He thanked former City Manager Wilson, current City Manager Lakamper, City Council and City Staff, both past and present, as well as the community for the past 12 years. He shared that the experiences and friendships he has made will never be forgotten, and Plainwell will remain his original home town. He wished everyone well from the bottom of his heart.

Personnel Coordinator Kersten welcomed Councilmember Green.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis welcomed Councilmember Green, and shared that loose-leaf pickup using the new City garbage truck has saved ~120-man hours while making the overall process cleaner and more efficient. The Christmas Tree for downtown will be placed Monday. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Community Development Manager Siegel welcomed Councilmember Green, and noted that Shop Small is this Saturday. She thanked the Department of Public Works Staff for their ongoing effort and hard work installing holiday decorations and lights for the City. The tree lighting ceremony, Light Up the Night (@7pm) and unveiling of Brook's Plaza (@4:30pm) will happen December 6, 2024 at the times stated. Plainwell recently hosted MEDC for a tour.

Deputy Superintendent Keyser welcomed Councilmember Green, and thanked Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley, wishing him good luck in Otsego. He noted ongoing maintenance work for the City and education for himself.

Superintendent Pond reported the Water Renewal Plant is running well, and the newly purchased Spectrophotometer is being put to good use testing for lead as well as phosphorus.

Director Callahan welcomed Councilmember Green, and told Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley that he will be missed.

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Clerk Leonard welcomed Councilmember Green.

City Manager Lakamper welcomed Councilmember Green, stating he is looking forward to working with her. He thanked Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley for staying on to assist the City as a consultant, noting that he will be missed. He shared that there are two developers interested in separate pieces of property on the Old Mill site. Old Orchard residents can now connect to City Sewer. He offered some follow up commentary on the audit presentation, noting that the General Fund balance is actually low after accounting for the Industrial Park property purchase funds.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski welcomed Councilmember Green. He stated he hates to see Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley go, but wishes him well at his new job working for the City of Otsego.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked Mayor Keeler for the use of his draft horses- she noted that she has City's white truck on standby. She wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Green stated she was glad to join City Council, sharing that she has 30 years of experience on other Boards and Commissions. She congratulated Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley on his new job.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
December 09, 2024


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk