

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 10, 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, 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 02/24/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: Dennis Bird, 224 Russet, discussed discoloration in his water.
7. County Commissioners Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the March 10, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Downtown Development Manager Siegel shared that two City residents, Molly Wright and Barbara Seekman, had submitted applications to join the City's Compensation Commission.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeler, confirming the Mayor's appointment of Molly Wright and Barbara Seekman to the Compensation Commission as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed cleaning and lining sewer lines within the City. An RFQ (Request for Quote) was put out, and a sealed bid opening was held on March 3, 2025. Plummers Environmental Services is recommended for this project.
A motion by Keeler, seconded by Steele, approving Plummer's Environmental Services to complete the lining and cleaning project for the City of Plainwell for \$183,036.50. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Superintendent Keyser discussed rebuilding the 15+ year old Wilo grit pump. Rebuilding the pump is a fraction of the cost of replacing it, and will provide many more years of service before it needs to be replaced.
A motion by Keeler, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the rebuild of the Wilo grit pump by Fixall Electric for \$6,640.28. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the installation of three large water meters which will complete the City-wide water meter change out. Quotes were solicited, and two were received. W Soule is recommended for this project.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the installation of three large water meters by W Soule for \$5,320.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - E. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed auctioning off unused items and equipment from the DPW. The City has authorized the sale of unused equipment in the past and done well. Proceeds from the sale will have a positive impact on the budget.
A motion by Keeler, seconded by Steele, approving the auction of unused equipment and items by the DPW as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - F. City Manager Lakamper discussed the purchase of Mill buildings #17 and #18 from GHD. The City has first right of refusal, which allows for the purchase of the buildings for the same price offered by another interested party.

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 10, 2025

A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to postpone the purchase of buildings #17 and #18 from GHD until a special meeting can be held on Wednesday, March 19 so Council will have an opportunity to review all documents before making a final decision. 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 February 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 Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$355,089.58 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

- A. Terry Pickett, 124 Floral; Questioned Council on their decision to table the sale of GHD and urged them to sell the property.
- B. Dale Burnham, 201 Prairie; Voiced concern over the Council's decision to table the sale of GHD, urged them to sell the property.
- C. Eric Fein, 219 Washington; Asked Council and City staff to reconsider the parking ordinances for overnight parking.

14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis addressed Mr. Bird and set an appointment to meet with him. Also mentioned the cost to maintain buildings 17 & 18 if Council decided to keep them, would be beyond the DPW budget to maintain the buildings.

Community Development Manager Siegel shared 3 new businesses in downtown; EGLE Loan repayment schedule and amount.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer stated staff were training on the Asset Management Software

Superintendent Pond mentioned the sale of GHD to BizEx Ventures would be a good idea.

Director Callahan had nothing to share

Clerk Leonard was excused from the meeting for training.

City Manager Lakamper reported Watts Homes proposing a variety of sizes of home for the Mill Site. Further discussion is underway.

15. Council Comments: None.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 08:40 pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
Denise Siegel
Community Development Manager

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 2025


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk