

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
December 09, 2024

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, and Councilmember Green.
Absent: Councilmember ~~Wisnaski~~ 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.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Green, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 11/25/2024 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioners Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the December 09, 2024 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: There was a huge crowd for the tree lighting ceremony on Friday- that was nice to see. The parade went great as well.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Clerk Leonard stated that several board members' terms end December 31, 2024. She confirmed that these candidates, Rachel Colingsworth (Planning Commission) and Cathy Green (DDA/BRA/TIFA) were willing to serve another term. She welcomed newly appointed Planning Commission member Paul Grimm, who is finishing the remainder of a partial term which ends in June of 2025.
The City is currently accepting applications for two vacancies on the Compensation Board, and one vacancy on DDA/BRA/TIFA.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, a confirming the Mayor's appointment of several community members to various boards and commissions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Director Callahan discussed the replacement of the Chief's vehicle. The current vehicle was totaled after being struck in the Plainwell High School parking lot.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving the purchase of a used vehicle and associated police vehicle upfitting to replace the current Chief's car for a total cost not to exceed \$14,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Superintendent Pond discussed the purchase and use of ferric chloride at the Water Renewal plant. Alexander Chemical, the current supplier, has agreed to maintain the current price through June of 2025.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving the purchase of ferric chloride from Alexander Chemical as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

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- D. City Manager Lakamper discussed executing a quit claim deed to Mark and Lisa Meszaros for the small portion of land between Design Street (former fire station), where the old city jail stood, and the parking lot for Mosaic Distillery (formerly Warnement's). The City did not believe it owned this property. This quit claim deed reiterates that and removes any question of ownership.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Green, authorizing City Manager Justin Lakamper to execute a quit claim deed to convey the property described as: The South 14 Feet of the Unnumbered Lot East of Lot 18 in Block 1 of Thompson's Second Addition to the Village (now City) of Plainwell, to Mark Meszaros and Lisa Meszaros for the sum of \$10.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- E. City Manager Lakamper discussed appointing Personnel Coordinator Amanda Kersten as Interim Treasurer. The City has not yet been successful finding a replacement Finance Director/Treasurer. Amanda has trained extensively with the previous Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Kelley, and is able to perform the duties of Treasurer for the City.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, confirming the appointment of Amanda Kersten as Interim Treasurer of the City of Plainwell. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- F. City Manager Lakamper discussed hiring the Offices of Brian Kelley to provide professional accounting services for the City until the position of Finance Director/Treasurer can be filled. Prior to accepting employment with the City of Otsego, Brian Kelley was the Finance Director and Treasurer of Plainwell for over 12 years, and possesses a wealth of knowledge of current financial processes and best practices. As a contractor, Brian would be a valuable resource to the City.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, engaging the Offices of Brian Kelley for professional accounting services. 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 November 2024 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. 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 \$1,043,201.23 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 thanked Council for trusting her to be Interim Treasurer. She has done a lot of training with previous Finance Director Brian Kelley, and shares that it is a challenge she is looking forward to.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis had nothing to report.

Community Development Manager Siegel stated that she is wrapping up several end of the year projects. She will be working with Clerk Leonard on some documentation required for the City to maintain its Redevelopment Ready certification.

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Deputy Superintendent Keyser noted that there was an odor study performed, testing levels of hydrogen sulfide at several location in the City, as well as Martin Township and Gunplain Township. Results will be available soon.

Superintendent Pond had nothing to report.

Director Callahan noted that the parade went well.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

City Manager Lakamper thanked Community Development Manager Siegel and the Department of Public Works for a great Christmas celebration. He thanked Dale Burnham for the push to complete and dedicate Brook's Plaza. He stated that he had been in discussion with GHD concerning the restrictive covenants on the Old Mill property. He believes that these covenants will run concurrent with any developer plans without issue.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski stated that the Christmas lights look great.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steele shared that the tree lighting was nice, and the Brook's Plaza unveiling went well. She noted that the City had a new Santa this year, and thanked Director Callahan. She thanked City staff for doing such a great job at all the holiday events.


Councilmember Green shared that everything downtown went well, and looks great. She thanked everyone for their hard work, and mentioned that having the volume lowered on the frog display was appreciated.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
December 23, 2024


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk