

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 23, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by County Commissioner Gale Dugan.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Lori Steele and Councilmembers Randy Wisnaski, Roger Keeney and Cathy 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 03/09/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Presentation: Conversion Dam Project Update provided by EGLE and NOAA.
7. Public Comment was heard from:
 - A. Jim Dexter of 95 E. Baseline
8. County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan county.
9. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the Agenda for the March 23, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
10. Mayor's Report: None.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Clerk Leonard discussed an opening on the Board of Review for a partial term ending June 30, 2028. Appointments to Boards and Commissions are made by the Mayor, and subject to confirmation from City Council.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the Mayor's appointment of William Elliott as an alternate to the Board of Review. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Superintendent Keyzer discussed rebuilding a sewage pump for the Cushman Lift Station. This Wilo pump is one of three in the Cushman lift station. Last week it quit working, so it was sent to Midwest Electric. They took it apart and found the lower bearing had locked up and burned up the electric motor. The pump is a 2008 and has been in service for 18 years. Wilo pumps are very well built and last a long time. Midwest Electric can rewind the motor and replace all the bearings and seals.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, approving the rebuild of the Cushman St. lift station Wilo sewer pump by Midwest Electric at a cost of \$6,390.44. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Leonard discussed Special Event Permit 2026-06 for a Festival Friday Event sponsored and held by Kalamazoo Experimental Learning Center (KELC). Festival Friday will be held June 12th downtown Plainwell at Hick's Park, Brook's Plaza and a portion of Bridge St. This 3-hour pop up festival is held as part of a collegiate learning opportunity for students interested in planning and event design. This celebration of downtown Plainwell will feature local businesses, Food Trucks, live entertainment and family friendly arts and crafts and games.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving Special Event Permit 2026-06 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. City Manager Lakamper discussed the demolition of a burned residence at 134 Mariette. The home at 134 Mariette burned down approximately 1.5 years ago. Since receiving the insurance funds, the owner of the

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property has taken no action to clean up or rebuild the fire damaged home. As part of the State's fire withholding program, the City received ~\$16,000 from the property owner's insurance payout to be used in the event that the building was not repaired, and needed to be torn down. The City was able to secure a court judgement on March 5th, 2026, allowing us to demolish and clear the property using the fire withholding funds. **A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, selecting Wolfe Waste Removal to perform the demolition of the fire damaged home located at 134 Mariette Street at a cost of \$15,075.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- E. City Manager Lakamper discussed the sale of one acre of land at 761 N. Main St. It was purchased for \$5,000 by the City to be used as an access point for a potential housing development on the other side of the railroad tracks. Council had agreed to put the parcel up for sale through an RFP process, which was done. We received one response from the adjoining property owner who offered \$10,000 for the lot so that they can attach it to 771 N. Main and build a driveway back to the business that they are putting in on 771 N. Main.

A motion by Green, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the sale of approximately 1 acre of real property, commonly known as 761 N. Main St., to All Star Paving for a price of \$10,000, and authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to enter into a purchase/sale agreement for the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute any documents or other agreements necessary to close on the sale of the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to take any steps reasonably necessary to effectuate the sale of the Property subject to this motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- F. City Manager Lakamper gave an update on Building #2. Classic Auto Mill has proposed acquiring building 2 instead of having us tear it down. Darius would like to remove the roof and make the third floor an open-air patio, and use the second floor for his car business. The caveat is that he would like to use part of the City's insurance payout to perform the construction. The City received \$589,000 from insurance which would cover the cost of demolition. This was the plan prior to Darius proposing keeping the building. When he first asked about it, he was told he would need a structural engineer to verify that his plans are possible. Were this to work out as proposed, the building would be saved and a portion of the insurance payout would remain in the BRA fund.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to pursue the possibility of Classic Auto Mill acquiring and renovating Building #2. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the February 2026 Department of Public Safety Report, the 02/10/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 11/11/2025 Parks & Tree meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$97,080.13 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments: None.

15. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox was thankful she was allowed to sit in on this meeting.

Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis the presenters of the dam update, stating he had learned a lot. He reminded residents that bagged leaf and brush pick up is still 2 weeks away, and not to put those items out early, even if your neighbors do. Pick up day is Monday, April 6, and brush and leaves can't go out until the Friday before at 5pm.

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Superintendent Keyzer had nothing to report.

Director Callahan shared that there will be reminders going out to those with leaves and brush too early.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

City Manager Lakamper shared that the DPW contract negotiations are moving along and going well. He reported that Clerk Leonard had completed the required 3 years of training and is now State certified. He thanked the presenters for their time tonight and continued commitment to working with the City of Plainwell over the last 4 years on the dam project.

16. Council Comments:

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked the presenters for their time and information they provided about the project. She thanked the audience members for coming as well, noting that posting the event on the City's social media page was well received. She wished everyone a happy spring, and a wonder Easter.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 2026



JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk