

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
November 14, 2016

1. Mayor Brooks called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
3. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brooks, Mayor Pro-Tem Overhuel, Councilman Keeler, Councilman Keeney and Councilwoman Steele. Absent: None.
4. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Steele, supported by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 10/24/2016 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. General Public / County Commissioner:
County Commissioner Don Black discussed funding at the County Parks.

Economic Development Manager Siegel introduced Holly Thomas of Jaqua Realtors as the winner of the Scarecrow Contest. Of the 17 scarecrow entries this year, Jaqua's "Olaf" was voted the winner.
6. Agenda Amendments: None.
7. Mayor's Report: Mayor Brooks recognized City Clerk Noreen Farmer, who passed away on November 11, 2016, as a great asset to the city and the community as a whole, and that she will be greatly missed.
8. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Economic Development Manager Siegel briefed Council on the 2nd annual Candy Cane Hunt in Hicks Parks that will be combined with several downtown activities, including open classes at Dance Kraze in the former City Hall at 141 N. Main Street.
A motion by Keeler, supported by Keeney, to approve Special Event Permit 2016-19 for the Community / Family Plainwell Christmas Festival on December 10, 2016. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Economic Development Manager Siegel presented a site plan for the current Plainwell Diner, which has acquired the former bait shop building just to its north. The buildings will be combined. Owner Barb Bechtel spoke about the location becoming a true community destination on the south side of downtown. She wants to continue the small-town farming feel to her establishment and anchor the history on the south side. She is anticipating an investment of \$100,000 and may employ 12 persons. The Planning Commission has reviewed the site plan and is recommending approval.
A motion by Keeney, supported by Keeler to approve the site plan for 140 and 138 South Main. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Superintendent Pond briefed Council on the solicitation of bids for city-wide pipefitting and mechanical services, which would be primarily focus on well and water-renewal projects. .
A motion by Keeney, supported by Overhuel, to enter into a 5-year contract for mechanical services with Allied Mechanical Services Inc., as presented. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
9. Communications:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeler to accept and place on file the October 2016 Fund Balance and Investment Activity Reports, the 09/01/2016 Draft Inter-Municipal Sewer Minutes, the 11/02/2016 Draft Planning Commission Minutes and the 11/08/2016 Draft DDA/BRA/TIFA Minutes. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
10. Accounts Payable:
A motion by Keeler, supported by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$144,699.25 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

11. Public Comments

None.

12. Staff Comments

Economic Development Manager Siegel noted November 26 is “Shop Small Saturday” and kicks off the indoor farmer’s market. She noted that she is prepping for Holiday celebrations, working on the RRC Grant application and writing a grant for the dog park. She is working on learning many things related to Planning & Zoning.

Superintendent Updike noted that the city received a \$2,500 grant from Consumers for plants for the nursery. He initiated a discussion about the leaf pickup and the timing of such pickups this season with the autumn weather having been so warm. City Manager Wilson questioned the value of the fall street sweeping, which was scrubbed to allow the DPW staff to put up holiday decorations and then have time to make a last run at leaves the week after Thanksgiving, weather permitting. Finally, there was much discussion about the process for finding a suitable vehicle for the budgeted purchase of a new dump truck. Superintendent Updike is worried that he will find a vehicle only to lose it because of waiting for Council approval, which is required by Ordinance. Discussions of making a deposit on a suitable vehicle resulted in **a motion by Keeler, supported by Keeney, to authorize the City Manager to make a deposit of up to \$8,750 for the budgeted dump truck purpose. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

Superintendent Pond reported that biosolids hauling was underway and that he was researching osmosis practices from Texas that may be suitable for use in the city’s facility.

Personnel Manager Lamorandier noted that Noreen’s visitation and funeral were scheduled at Life Story Funeral Home on Woodhams Street. Visitation is Tuesday November 15 from 4pm to 8pm. Funeral services are Wednesday November 16 at 10am.

Treasurer Kelley congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Overhuel and Councilwoman Steele for being the top two candidates for the Council seats at the November 8, 2016 election. He reported that 1,695 ballots were tallied and that 1,329 voters came through the doors on Election Day. He thanked the election inspectors for enduring an 18+ hour day.

City Manager Wilson requested of Council that City Hall be closed on Wednesday November 15, 2016 from 9.30am until 1.30pm to allow staff to attend the funeral of City Clerk Noreen Farmer. Council supported the closure without question. He also noted that the city had received an offer for the Harding’s Building on Monday the 14th and that the offer was delivered to Council for consideration at the November 28, 2016 meeting.

13. Council Comments:

None.

14. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, supported by Keeler to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully

Submitted by,

Brian Kelley

Deputy City Clerk/City Treasurer