

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**January 23, 2023**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was given by Terry Steele.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 01/09/2023 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Dugan thanked the City Council for their time and noted that he appreciated being able to give these reports. He reported on 2 meetings and provided an update on the courthouse/county services building project, the organization meeting and committee/commission assignments for each County Commissioner, and noted that a third judge which would be elected in 2024 had been approved by the governor.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Community Development Manager Siegel reported the Planning Commission had held a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments to the sign ordinance on January 18, 2023, and had recommended the proposed ordinance amendment be sent to City Council for approval. She noted that the proposed ordinance amendment would establish more clear guidelines for sandwich signs in front of downtown businesses. She also reported that this was part of the effort to clean up ordinances and make the language more clear.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to set a public hearing for 7:00pm on February 27, 2023 for the purpose of allowing interested parties to comment on proposed sign ordinance amendments. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the recreation plan had been approved at the last meeting and the resolution was the final step to be approved before sending the plan in to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve Resolution 2023-07 Adoption of Five Year Recreation Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- C. Clerk Fenger reported that the City Assessor regularly reviews the poverty exemption guidelines from the federal government and recommended updating the guidelines adopted by the City. She noted that this was mainly a housekeeping item for the Assessor and the poverty exemption applied to a very small number of people, but it was something the City should be updating regularly.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to adopt Resolution 2023-08 Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Communications:

- A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the December Water Renewal Report, the draft 1/12/2023 Parks & Trees meeting minutes, the draft 1/10/2023 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the draft 1/18/2023 Planning meeting minutes. 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 \$526,666.70 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley reported that Winter Property Taxes are due February 14, 2023. He also reported that Julie Saukas, Utility Billing Clerk, has found another opportunity and her last day will be February 1, 2023, and that they were working on finding a replacement for her role. He noted that he was working on the budget and meeting with department heads regarding their budgets, and monitoring pending legislation for any changes that would affect the City.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported submitting a grant for an outdoor fitness park through Priority Health, which would allow for a 38x39ft outdoor fitness court in one of the parks if selected. She also reported working on upcoming events in February and March, and that a pay request for the rental rehab project would be coming soon.

Superintendent Pond reported that the heat exchanger project was completed and had reduced the gas bill as hoped.

Director Callahan introduced Michael Bruce and reported that he had recently completed a weeklong Field Training Officer program in order to be able to train new officers. He also reported that the Allegan County Tech Center had reached out about participating in their work-based learning program, and he would be working with them to have students participating in the program spend time at DPS.

Clerk Fenger reported working with Julie Saukas on learning some of her job functions related to training. She also noted that she would be attending an Allegan County Clerk's Association meeting this week, and had enrolled in the mentor/mentee program they offered.

Manager Wilson reported that EGLE was petitioning to be able to remove the gas from the Clark Station because LARA had tagged them and no one could touch the tanks until that was resolved. He also reported that he had shown the William Crispe House to another interested party, and had a meeting with the new project manager out of Chicago for the Plainwell Dam Removal project. He also noted that the State of Michigan wants more PFAS sampling which has thrown a curveball in the river clean up project.

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15. Council Comments: None.

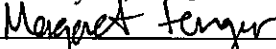
16. Adjournment:

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

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Margaret Fenger  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

February 13, 2023

  
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Margaret Fenger, City Clerk