

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**January 13, 2025**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Steve 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 12/23/2024 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 January 13, 2025 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
9. Mayor's Report: We have two offers on the remaining 25 acres of property in Industrial Park. One offer is for 15 acres, and the other is for the full 25 acres. We are hoping to work with both.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Clerk Leonard discussed Resolution 2025-05. This Resolution updates Poverty Exemption guidelines based on information provided and updated each year by the US Department of Health and Human Services.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, to adopt Resolution 2025-05 - Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the annual road salt purchase through Michigan's MiDeal program. This purchase was approved by Council on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as part of an annual blanket confirming and purchase order. At that time, the vendor was unknown. Michigan has chosen Detroit Salt to be this year's supplier.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the seasonal salt purchase through the Michigan MiDeal program from Detroit Rock salt for \$6,667.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the City's water tower. The water tower is about 25 years old, and is due for maintenance and repair. Dixon Engineering has provided a professional service agreement for this project. In the agreement, Phase 1 will consist of Dixon Engineering writing the specifications for the bid process and assisting with the contract and the preconstruction meeting.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, approving a professional services agreement with Dixon Engineering for Phase 1 of the water tower renovation project for a cost of \$11,500.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - D. Director Callahan discussed a purchase agreement with Axon Body Worn Cameras. The agreement requires annual installment payments over a five-year period. This is the third of five total such payments. The City will make the payment, and then submit proof of payment to a grant program awarded through Small Rural Tribal to purchase body cameras. Small Rural Tribal will reimburse the City half of the cost of each installment payment.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, approving the third installment payment to Axon Body Worn Cameras in the amount of \$5,916.45. 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 December 2024 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

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12. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$1,172,207.00 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis complemented the DPW staff, sharing that they are doing a good job plowing and keeping up with the snow.

Community Development Manager Siegel shared that she is preparing for the new year. She is working with a business on a Match on Main grant, which awards up to \$25,000 to downtown business for renovation projects. She reminded everyone about the upcoming Chocolate Stroll.

Assistant Superintendent Keyser stated that a variable frequency drive at the Cushman lift station is being replaced. The new gas detection equipment has been installed, and will be programmed and fully operational in the next week.

Superintendent Pond shared that W Soule will be fabricating several replacement pieces for the grit mitt auger, as the equipment is old enough that OEM parts through the manufacturer are no longer available.

Director Callahan shared that the Shop with a Hero event held on 12/17/2024 was a huge success. About 140 kids were provided with \$175 gift cards from Meijer to shop for the holiday. Police officers, firemen, first responders and teachers worked together to assist Plainwell students shop and wrap their chosen gifts.

Clerk Leonard stated that she had learned about annual poverty exemptions while researching information to create Resolution 2025-05.

City Manager Lakamper mentioned that the tribe had donated a police vehicle to DPS. He shared that Assistant Superintendent Keyzer is taking certification classes.

He provided an update on the Mill property. There have been discussions with two interested parties, Union Suites and Allen Edwin Homes. Recently a third group expressed interest, and he will bring further information before Council once all three interested parties have presented their development ideas.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmembers Keeney and Green wished everyone a happy new year.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
submitted by,  
JoAnn Leonard  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
January 27, 2025

  
JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk