

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
August 10, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: None.
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.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 07/27/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the August 10, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: The All School reunion on Saturday was very nice.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed a new 3-year area ambulance agreement with Beacon Health. In the past, Plainwell has partnered with Pipp hospital, Gun Plain Township, Otsego Township, and Otsego, to share the cost of ambulance service in the area.
Pipp is now owned by Beacon Health, who is asking that each municipality execute a new agreement with updated rates for the next three years. The annual cost to the City of Plainwell is \$10,919.00. The cost will increase each subsequent year of the 3-year contract by CPI-U. Each participating municipality pays on a per capita basis.
Paying for this service in a shared fashion allows for economy of scale that no individual municipality could achieve on their own and allows for two ambulances to operate out of Beacon for the community. They also maintain a third ambulance in Allegan that can be brought down the Plainwell/Otsego area if needed. The City would not be able to contract with a private entity or maintain its own ambulance service for this price. This represents great value for the community.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, adopting the Plainwell Area Ambulance Agreement. 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 July 2026 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
12. Accounts Payable:
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$274,239.78 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
13. Public Comments: None.
14. Staff Comments:
 - A. Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox had nothing to report.
 - B. Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.
 - C. Superintendent Keyzer shared that a pump motor had burned out at Cushman lift station.
 - D. Director Callahan had nothing to report.

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- E. Clerk Leonard discussed the August Primary Election, sharing that Plainwell had record turnout, and received excellent marks from the Board of Canvassers.
- F. City Manager Lakamper discussed the upcoming Public Hearing to be held at the Planning Commission meeting on August 19, 2026 at 6:30pm here at City Hall. The Public Hearing is to receive comment on Special Use Permit Application received from Bex Farms for a redi-mix concrete plant to be located at 830 Miller Rd. in Plainwell's Industrial Park. We have received lots of public feedback, mostly concerning noise, dust and vibration, which are all regulated by Ordinance.

Closing on the Mill buildings has been pushed back to 8/18/2026, though the closing packet itself has been received and reviewed. Lakamper noted that in addition to the duck logo murals on the front of the building, Classic Auto Mill owner Darius has asked permission to reuse the original paper mill sign. Water and sewer hookup for Classic Auto Mill is happening now.

Last winter, the old William Crispe house suffered water damage. The current owner reached out to share that a company is coming to inspect the property, and restore power.

Mill 17 is in the process of applying for a new Class C Redevelopment Liquor license. The sale of the building has not closed yet, but Mill 17 shared that after closing, work would begin on both the 1st and 3rd floors.

The fire damaged home on S. Main has been demolished, and the owner sold the lot. The insurance company of the fire damaged home on N. Main is working with the City of the fire withholding deposit. The home has cleared probate and should be rebuilt soon.

Consumers Energy has partnered with ReLeaf to offer the City of Plainwell 40 trees to plant in up to two locations. 17 trees will be planted in the downtown area, with the remaining 23 trees planted in the New Orchard, which was heavily impacted by the tornado in April. There will be a volunteer tree planting event held on a Saturday in September or October. Everyone is welcome at this event, and further details will be announced soon.

15. Council Comments:

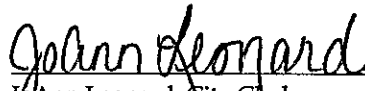
- A. Steele thanked everyone who came to the All School Reunion, sharing that 3 people have volunteered to continue planning for and hosting the annual event. She thanked City Staff for their hardwork.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Green, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
August 24, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk