

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 25, 2019

1. Mayor Brooks called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Terry Steele gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brooks, Mayor Pro-tem Steele, Councilmembers Keeler and Keeney. Absent: Councilman Overhuel
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeler, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 02/11/2019 regular meeting and the Council Minutes. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None
7. County Commissioner Report: None
8. Agenda Amendments: None
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Wilson reported having worked with Consumers Energy and business owners on South Main to plan a project to upgrade electrical conduit underneath the parking lot behind Plainwell Flowers and Rhino's. The area has been experiencing intermittent power interruptions, so the upgrade is necessary to increase reliability. The project includes an estimated 3- to 4-week trenching phase to lay the conduit and new wiring then a planned 24-hour outage to connect the new infrastructure. Consumers was available to meet with business owners to discuss and review their concerns. During the project, vehicular traffic in the parking lot will be suspended. The city secured temporary delivery parking on South Main with a dedicated spot for Plainwell Flowers. Consumers did confirm the availability of crews on call for emergency repairs and outages during this project. It was also noted that similar work will be needed in the parking area north of M-89 at some time in the future.
Discussion Only, no action required.
 - B. City Manager Wilson and Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported work, related to the SAW Grant, for cleaning the sewer lines, which involves jetting the lines to push materials through then vacuuming them back out. The vacuum effect could cause water in individual plumbing fixtures to be sucked out, or return excess water into the toilet bowls. The city recommends homeowners and business owners keep toilet lids down to minimize any impacts. It was reported that these issues arise in less than 3% of dwellings affected. The project is considered routine maintenance and has been done in areas as needed over the years, but the city is now maintaining the system city-wide for the first time in many years.
Discussion Only, no action required.
11. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeler, to accept and place on file the January 2019 Public Safety Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeler, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$786,466.03 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None

14. Staff Comments

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley introduced Julie Saukas as the new Utility Billing Specialist/Deputy City Clerk. Julie is a recent resident in Plainwell with her family having relocated from the Grand Haven area. She started training part-time last week.

Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported upcoming union negotiations, an upcoming retirement at the Water Renewal Plant and advertising for seasonal staff for the upcoming seasons.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported having completed a DEQ sanitary survey inspection which resulted in everything looking well taken care of, according to the inspector.

Community Development Manager reported the upcoming Art Hop on March 8 and planning for the Sesquicentennial Celebrations to include a history of the Mill this month with former employees sharing stories. She reported interest from Channel 3 News wanting to report on the stagecoach. She also reported ongoing work toward the Redevelopment Ready Community certification, which is about 90% complete. Finally, she praised a recent training about workplace violence and suggested the training be expended to include more city departments and business owners.

Public Safety Director Bomar reported working with the school on a safety grant to update security.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley noted the end of property tax collections on February 28, 2019, settling the tax roll with the County on March 1. He also noted training for Julie was going well and the Shirley reported good progress so far.

City Manager Wilson reported having opened bids for the Sherwood Park Restrooms, all of which far exceeded the project budget, so staff was reassessing the options within the grant parameters.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Keeler inquired about two (2) downtown vacant buildings. The Plainwell Variety building is not listed for sale and the former Arlene's building is on the market and has been shown, yet the city is not aware of any offers to buy the building.

The Council each welcomed Julie Saukas to the city.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer