

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
April 13, 2020

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 PM on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Application.
2. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
3. Clerk Kelley reported on the Governor's Executive Order allowing virtual online meetings during the current health crisis when everyone is encouraged to Stay Home and Stay Safe. He read temporary meeting procedures outlining how meetings would be conducted and how the citizens could participate through the online portal. **A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2020-08 setting temporary remote meeting procedures during the COVID-19 health emergency. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
4. Terry Steele gave the invocation.
5. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
6. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 03/09/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
7. Public Comments: None.
8. County Commissioner Report: None.
9. Agenda Amendments: None.
10. Mayor's Report: History is being made during these times.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Superintendent Pond discussed the need for additional maintenance and repairs of plant and lift station equipment from the specialized vendor, Main Tech Services. There was discussion about some of the repairs being done in-house or with local providers. Superintendent Pond noted that as much work as possible was being done in house and that the request was to allow for such services, some of which had not been identified.
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to confirm additional mechanical assistance and repair of plant and lift station equipment from the specialized vendor, Main Tech Services, as an estimated cost of \$9,000.00. On a roll-call, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Clerk Kelley reported a pre-COVID need for a second tabulator for election processing, specifically for absentee voter ballots. On January 31, 2020, the Plainwell Election Commission created a Plainwell Absent Voter Counting Board (AVCB) as a separate "precinct" whose purpose is to process, verify and tabulate absentee voter ballots. The AVCB is a separate set of inspectors with a second tabulator. The Clerk applied and was approved for grant funding to cover 50% of the cost of the equipment. The sole-source provider,

Dominion Voting Systems, issued a quote for \$5,295.00 for the equipment and the State of Michigan confirmed a 50% cost-sharing grant.

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approved the purchase of a new ImageCast precinct Tabulator for the City of Plainwell Absent Voter Counting Board at a cost of \$5,295.00 with 50% of that cost paid by a cost-sharing grant from the Michigan Department of State. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

- C. Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported recent federal legislation temporarily loosening restrictions on retirement fund distributions and adding allowances for new costs from health savings and flexible spending accounts. This legislation requires temporary modifications to the city's plan documents for both the retirement and the health insurance plans. Resolutions were drafted by the plan administrator to authorize these changes.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2020-09 and Resolution 2020-10 to modify the city's Retirement and Section 125 plans due to legislative changes related to COVID-19. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

- D. City Manager Wilson reported the city having received four (4) bids for the Demolition Project, ranging from \$3.5-million to \$5.7-million. The low bidder is being vetted to confirm all bid specifications were met and that the bidder is qualified for the asbestos removal, which is the area of the biggest cost difference. GHD is managing the review process and has vast experience in this area, and is confident with the process. Their recommendation will be solid and the review process is very complicated, as is this project. Once the abatement actually starts, the city will hire an independent firm to monitor and report on the air quality.

He also reported progress on the power pole move and that Consumers Energy had offered a new easement, which is being negotiated to ensure that future development is not restricted. Manager Wilson appreciates Consumers' efforts and willingness to negotiate through this process. He hopes to have a draft easement for Council's consideration soon.

No action needed on this report.

12. Communications:

- A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the March 2020 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$345,615.89 for payment of same. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments: None.

15. Staff Comments:

Personnel Manager Lamorandier wished everyone continued health and thanked the Public Safety and Public Works departments for their efforts during these days.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported the department was keeping up with required water testing and other activities as COVID allows. Leaves and brush are being picked up to maintain accessible streets.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported staying in touch with the businesses, several of which applied for loan/grant funding. She reported that the vegan restaurant project in the old Arlene's is on hold and that the progress at the former Lost Raven is going very slowly.

Superintendent Pond reported having applied for a permit renewal with the State of Michigan.

Public Safety Director Bomar reported that four (4) of the five (5) patrol vehicles were damaged in the recent hailstorm and that he's been in touch with the insurance company and the body shop. He also thanked the community at large for their support during this health crisis – the Department has received donations of sanitizers, masks and food, all of which is greatly appreciated.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported ongoing discussions with clerks and treasurers across the state working to develop new procedures during these strange days. He thanked the Public Safety Department for their work.

City Manager Wilson thanked the Department of Public Works for excellent work during this crisis. He also thanked the Department of Public Safety to help stop non-essential door-to-door sales for home repairs and discussed having the Public Safety and Public Works Departments work together on removing illegally placed yard signs in the public right of way.

16. Council Comments:


Each Council Member thanked Public Works and Public Safety for ongoing professionalism and hard work during this public health crisis.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
April 27, 2020



Brian Kelley