

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
May 23, 2022

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was 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, and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Overhuel.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 05/09/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report:
Gale Dugan, District 6, reported that Midwest Strategies was selected as the new lobbyist for Allegan County interests in the legislature. He also noted an information session had been held on the broadband projects and whether projects with approved grant funding were being supported differently than projects in the planning stages, which resulted in no clear answer yet. He also noted work on the internal wellness program for Allegan County employees, and a report from the Sheriff's Department. A notable statistic from the report was that 50% of the inmates in the jail are awaiting trial, and have not been sentenced. To help combat the lengthy wait times, Allegan County has worked on adding a third judgeship to help. He noted that a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, May 26 to discuss funding concerns for water and sewer projects throughout the county.

Commissioner Dugan presented a historic sign donated by the Allegan County Road Commission for Cookieville to Mayor Keeler. Commissioner Dugan noted that Mayor Keeler had inspired him to look into Cookieville with his stories about his grandfather who was the Mayor of Cookieville.

8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:
Mayor Keeler discussed the historic boundaries of Cookieville, and noted that it was a small town just south of Plainwell, with records at least as far back as the late 1800s referencing Cookieville.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Community Development Manager Denise Siegel reported that Plainwell Days Festival submitted a special event permit application for a parade on June 24 and an all-day event on June 25, 2022. In the past, the City has been listed a sponsor for the festival as an indication of the support the city provides.

Tracee Dunlop, event organizer, requested to have Public Safety officers on site throughout both June 24 and June 25, and to extend the noise ordinance to 11pm for June 25 in order to have the beer tent and live music until 11pm. The application also includes various street closures and other considerations. She also noted that due to financial concerns from shutting down during the Covid-19 pandemic and the loss of the
The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

carnival, the organizers requested to have the charges for Public Safety Officers be waived. They also requested the \$50 Special Event Permit Application fee be waived. The organizers will send a letter to the surrounding businesses and residents for the noise ordinance extension, as they have done in the past. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Plainwell Days Festival Special Event Permit Application, charge the \$50 application fee, extend the noise ordinance until 11pm on June 25th, and direct the City Manager to work with the Department of Public Safety to provide support at no charge. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- B. Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the Rental Rehab Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process requires a public hearing regarding the use of CDBG funds. In order to meet the publication requirements, the notice must be printed and posted at least 15 days ahead of the hearing. The public hearing would be held during the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on June 13, 2022. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a public hearing for June 13, 2022 to consider using CDBG funds for the rental rehab project at 112 North Main Street. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
- C. Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the CDBG application process also requires an authorizing resolution to be approved by City Council. The resolution authorizes the City Manager to apply, execute the grant agreement, and any other documents that might be needed. **A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve Resolution 2022-09 Authorizing the City of Plainwell to Apply for Funding from the Michigan Strategic Fund Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Rental Rehabilitation Project. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
- D. Deputy City Clerk Maggie Fenger reported that the Republic Services bid has been reviewed and there are several changes to the proposed contract compared to the current contract. Most notably, the price has increased, and there are several new fees added along with provisions that rates may increase based on outside factors such as Kent County raising the landfill rates. The price the city charges residents would increase due to the contract price increase, however the city does not currently add any additional fees to the residents' cost. There is concern with the fuel surcharge that is proposed as a monthly charge, because the city currently bills the residents annually and there would be no way to accurately include the monthly fuel surcharge on an annual bill. The city attorney is currently reviewing the existing contract and proposed changes, and further changes will be made based on their recommendation and any negotiated changes. No action was taken on the proposed contract.
- E. City Manager Wilson reported that Deputy Clerk Fenger has completed the 6-month probationary and training period, and enthusiastically recommended promoting her to City Clerk. This promotion would also affect Clerk/Treasurer Brian Kelley. Manager Wilson recommended confirming the appointment of Maggie Fenger as City Clerk and Brian Kelley as City Treasurer. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to appoint Brian Kelley as the City Treasurer. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to appoint Maggie Fenger as the City Clerk. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

11. Communications:

- A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the April 2022 Public Safety Report, April 2022 Water Renewal Report and the DRAFT 5/10/2022 DDA/BRA/TIFA Commission meeting minutes, and the DRAFT 5/12/2022 Parks & Trees Commission meeting minutes. On a voice**

vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$82,590.35 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

Austin Marsman, County Commissioner District 5 candidate, gave an update about the campaign trail. He also noted that the presentation about Cookieville was interesting, and he was excited to learn more about Cookieville. He reported as a member of the Broadband Action Workgroup that a county-wide RFP for broadband projects was in the works and hopefully would be ready soon. He also reported that the broadband survey was still active and encouraged everyone to submit responses to the survey.

14. Staff Comments:

Public Safety Director Kevin Callahan reported that the speed radar trailer went out near the schools the morning after the last council meeting, which greatly impressed the residents and directly impacted the speeding issues throughout that area.

Personnel Manager Sandy Lamorandier reported continuing transition training including employee health care open enrollment and SEIU contract negotiations. She also congratulated Clerk Fenger.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported work on finalizing the CDBG grant in order to meet the Letter of Intent deadline. She noted the farmer's market had opened last Thursday with great attendance. She congratulated Clerk Fenger.

Water Renewal Superintendent Bryan Pond reported that the new permit included a status change from small municipal to large municipal, which meant the lab is now EPA listed.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis reported that the flowers were the big focus now, with flower orders picked up and planted both last week and this week. He also noted the gazebo in Fannie Pell Park was rebuilt recently, and a concrete walkway will be added soon.

Clerk Fenger thanked the Council for confirming her appointment, and noted that she has enjoyed her time at Plainwell and looks forward to her new role. She also noted upcoming election cycle training with the Bureau of Elections to prepare for the midterm elections.

Manager Wilson reported that Allegan County planned to mill and pave Starr Road/102nd Street, and would give the city the option to piggyback on the project to continue paving on Starr Road from Jersey Street to South Main. He noted the addition would cost approximately \$49,000 and while Starr Road is classified as being in fair condition, Jersey Street is classified as being in failing condition. He feels the money would be better spent replacing Jersey Street due to the condition rather than Starr Road, however there is red tape involved in attempting to use a county-negotiated contract for a city street. He has asked MDOT if it would be possible to pave Jersey Street instead of Starr Road while using the contract pricing MDOT secured for the project, but hasn't received a response yet.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Steele congratulated Clerk Fenger and Treasurer Kelley, and welcomed Director Callahan. She hoped everyone would have a wonderful Memorial Day and be safe over the holiday weekend.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Clerk Fenger and Treasurer Kelley, and welcomed Director Callahan.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Margaret Fenger
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

June 13, 2022



Margaret Fenger, City Clerk