

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 9, 2020

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Public Safety Training Room.
2. Scott Smail from Lighthouse Baptist Church gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 02/24/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comments: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Rick Cain arrived later in the meeting and spoke during the public comments.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Keeler reported that the City has received the \$5,100,000 grant from the MEDC for the mill demolition, and that it will need to be signed by Council.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, for Council to sign the grant agreement at a future date. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Keeler also requested that he and City Manager Wilson be given the authority to execute all documents related to this grant.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, for Mayor Keeler and City Manager Wilson to execute all grant documents. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Wilson presented updates on the mill demolition and Consumers power pole relocation projects. Bids for the mill demolition will be opened March 12th. Now that the City has received the grant, they will need to provide the 10% matching funds. Wilson is currently working on an application with EGLE (formerly DEQ) for funding.
Council asked if the water tower was part of the demolition, as the public has been asking if it can be saved. Wilson said it is currently part of the project, but they will need to open bids before deciding. The issue with keeping the water tower is that it is in poor condition and would be expensive to maintain. Council asked if the Plainwell Paper logo could somehow be removed and displayed somewhere, which can be looked into.

Wilson also briefed Council on moving the Consumers power poles away from the river onto the other side of the mill property by M-89. Some trees will need to be removed before the poles are moved, starting this week. The current power poles along the north side of M-89 will be removed, and co-located to the taller poles that are being added on the mill property. There was a question about losing some of the street lights along M-89 when the power poles are removed. Wilson said a future goal could be to extend the decorative street lights in the central business district to the front of the mill. The DPW is currently looking into getting the City Hall fire suppression system onto city water which would help clear the path for the new Consumers poles. A flow test will be done to determine if this is possible.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve the Consumers power pole relocation plan. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

11. Communications:

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

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$166,506.29 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

County Commissioner Rick Cain reported that the Allegan County Medical Care Community has gotten approval to request .25 mils on the August 2020 ballot. The County Commission supported this 6-0. Cain explained that the facility supports 170 residents that may not be able to afford to go anywhere else, so it provides an important service. Cain also discussed a recent community survey that found 70% of people in Allegan County are happy with the county, and that areas of improvement would be in public safety, public transportation, and medical care.

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported helping with preparing City Hall for the upcoming election. He also reported that a Consumers pole at Sherwood Park will be removed in the near future, helping clear space for the Veteran's Memorial expansion.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that Art Hop will be on Friday, March 13th from 5:00 to 7:30pm at various locations around the City.

Director Bomar reported that the Homeland Security inspection at Drug and Lab went well. He also had a phone conference with the Health Department about the coronavirus. They plan to continue these calls every Monday for the next few weeks.

Deputy Clerk Saukas reported preparing for the Presidential Primary election tomorrow at City Hall. The polls will be open 7am to 8pm.

City Manager Wilson shared the Mayor Keeler attended his first Dr. Seuss night at the library recently.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel thanked Community Development Manager Siegel for doing a great job bringing new businesses to the City, and for how well she manages the City's social media pages.

Councilmember Wisnaski thanked Nancy's Kitchen (Nancy Morehouse) for hosting the Leap of Kindness event at City Hall on February 29th.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Julie Saukas
Deputy City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 23, 2020

Brian Kelley