

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 28, 2022

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Peter Dams of 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 of the 02/14/2022 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 the county made many training and gear updates for law enforcement and first responders recently. Additionally, the county has applied for grants and continued work towards creating new parks and working with the EPA on Gun Lake projects. He further reported that work has started on new HVAC for all the County buildings, and that the Commission on Aging by-laws had been updated to go from 11 members to 9 members.
8. Presentation:
Deputy Director John Varley presented Joseph Mony with the Distinguished Citizen Award for his quick thinking and heroic effort that prevented serious injury and property damage. Deputy Director Varley stated that while driving, Joseph observed another vehicle stopped in the middle of an intersection and then continue to roll down the street. He noticed that the driver appeared to be laying down on the front seat. Joseph exited his vehicle, and ran to the driver's side of the door, was able to open it, jumped in the rolling vehicle and brought it to a stop before it could hit several parked cars. The driver of the other car was in distress and needed medical attention. A witness called 911 and stayed at the scene with Joseph until help arrived. Joseph's actions prevented what could have been a much more serious situation. Joseph's mother also noted that tonight was his 19th birthday.
9. Agenda Amendments: None.
10. Mayor's Report:
Mayor Keeler offered condolences for both the Hart and Vandenberg families in light of their recent losses.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Erik Wilson reported on the need for the resolution to authorize tax bonds in order to finance the purchase of the 52 acre Industrial Park expansion. He noted that the purchase of the 52 acres was a sound investment for the city based on the expected sale price for the new parcels once the utility work was completed.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Keeney, to approve a Resolution to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, series 2022 (taxable). On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- B. Manager Wilson reported that the first reading of the proposed ordinance had taken place at the February 14, 2022 regular council meeting, and no amendments were brought forth. The City Attorney drafted the proposed ordinance, and Manager Wilson recommended approving Ordinance 390 Single Lot Special Assessment.**

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve Ordinance 390 Single Lot Special Assessment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- C. Manager Wilson reported that the preliminary report for the Industrial Park expansion utility and road construction project had been completed, however an engineering report was required for the grant process. Richard Postema Associates, P.C. had completed the preliminary report and would be able to complete the engineering report in a timely manner for inclusion with the grant application. Manager Wilson recommended approving a contract with Richard Postema Associates, P.C. for an engineering report in the amount of \$5,500.00**

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve a contract with Richard Postema Associates, P.C. for an engineering report in the amount of \$5,500.00. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

- D. DPW Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis reported that the Department of Public Works had equipment that was no longer used or had expired and needed to be removed or destroyed. The unused equipment could be sold as a private sale or at auction, and the expired, unusable equipment could be gifted to Kalamazoo Valley Community College. KVCC would use the expired equipment for demonstration purposes, and the sale of the unused but still usable equipment would recoup some of the cost for the City. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis asked for direction from the Council on how they would like to proceed with the unused and expired equipment.**

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve the sale of the unused city owned equipment at auction and the donation of the unusable city owned equipment to Kalamazoo Valley Community College. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- E. Manager Wilson asked for a budget increase for the previously approved change order for propane heat in Building 2 & 3. Propane heat is required to maintain the integrity of the mortar, and the initial budgeted amount will run out before the end of the winter season. He further reported that the contractor had been making a lot of progress and he believed \$5,000.00 would be enough to get through the remainder of the cold weather.**

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a change order for \$5,000 for additional propane heat for the Building 2 & 3 projects previously approved. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:

- A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the January 2022 Public Safety Report and the January 2022 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$1,153,698.84 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments: None.

15. Staff Comments:

A. Manager's Report – Bulk Waste/Recycling RFP

Manager Wilson discussed the upcoming Request For Proposals for the City's bulk waste and recycling services. The current contract expires June 30, 2022 and was originally with Chef, until Republic bought out Chef and took over the contract. He noted that there has been some volatility in the private sector, however Allegan County offers a recycling program that may help. He stated that the staff would continue researching and compile all options for Council to review in order to make an informed decision about the upcoming contract.

Clerk/Treasurer Brian Kelley reported that Winter Property Taxes had been collected and were ready to be sent on to Allegan County. He also noted continuing work on the budget as departments were submitting budget requests.

Deputy Director Varley reported that trucks #17 and #11 had been sent in for general maintenance. He also noted that he was able to find reflective chevrons the department could apply in-house to the back of truck #17, which saved the City money and increased visibility for truck #17. He also noted that the firefighters had held confidence building training involving performing tasks while unable to see, and all had done well. He reported that CPR training had just been completed, which is done three times per year due to the frequency first responders are required to perform CPR. He also noted that the police officers had completed Ethics of Law Enforcement training and How to Recognize Child Abuse training. He further reported on a high rise rescue that was recently performed by the department at 403 N Main Street.

Personnel Manager Sandy Lamorandier reported having received 13 applications for the Director of Public Safety position which closed March 1, 2022. She noted that once the job posting closed, the process would move forward to reviewing applications and beginning the interview process.

Superintendent Bryan Pond gave an update on the Lake Allegan study funded by Georgia Pacific. He noted that the study ran from 2020 through 2025 and had removed 200,000 invasive carp so far. Removal of the carp helped reduce turbulence in the lake, which in turn helps reduce phosphorus levels overall.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that Renewed Earth had hauled out the last of the leaves and brush collected over the year. He also noted that the department had hosted lock out/tag out, hearing loss prevention, and rigging & hoisting trainings through Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Deputy City Clerk Fenger reported that the email issues had been resolved and Council emails were functioning correctly again. She further noted that email lists had been updated City-wide to improve efficiency.

16. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel thanked Joseph Mony and his mother, who is a cardiac nurse, for their service to the community.

Councilmember Steele offered condolences to the Hart and Vandenberg families. She also thanked Joseph Mony and his mother.

All Councilmembers wished Joseph Mony a happy 19th birthday.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Maggie Fenger
Deputy City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 14, 2022
Maggie Fenger
Maggie Fenger, Deputy City Clerk