

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**October 11, 2021**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Shawn Fowler 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 of the 09/27/2021 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment:  
David O'Bryant, a Gun Plain Township resident and a Plainwell DDA Board Member, addressed Council regarding an item on the October 12, 2021 DDA Board Agenda related to the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce. Mr. O'Bryant believes the Chamber should support Plainwell and Otsego businesses equally and gave instances where that may not be the case. He asked for support in rejecting the proposed contract with the Chamber and negotiate a more favorable plan for the city dollars being spent. City Manager Wilson commented the city has had discussions with the Chamber, and that the DDA will consider the option at the Tuesday Meeting.  
  
Craig McCormick, 235 N. Sunset, address Council concerning a neighbor's unkempt back-yard including a brush pile and standing water in a kiddie pool. The standing water and the brush have brought insects and odors making this property unlivable, in his opinion. He asked for the City to address the matter. City Manager Wilson noted that he and Director Bomar would look into the matter and report back to Council.
7. Presentation:  
Danene Shumaker, Manager of Hart's Jewelry, read her nomination for the Chris Haas Award for her boss, EJ Hart. The nomination reported EJ's accomplishments. Jeff Haas and Caitlin Honeysett presented, in person, the 2021 Chris Haas Volunteer of the Year to EJ with the plaque inscription. EJ remarked that Chris Haas set a very high standard for volunteering and that he is privileged to continue trying to reach that benchmark.
8. County Commissioner Report: None
9. Agenda Amendments: None
10. Mayor's Report: None  
Mayor Keeler wished City Manager Wilson a happy birthday. He also noted the improvements made to Golf Cars Plus are welcomed and appreciated.

11. Recommendations and Reports:

- A. A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to open a Public Hearing at 7:23pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

Manager Wilson introduced Tom Darby, CEO of Darby Metal Treating Inc., who reported an application for an Industrial Facility Tax (IFT) property tax abatement for a building addition. The estimated value of the building is \$875,725, and the abatement period is 12 years. Mr. Darby briefed Council on the improvements that can be made with the building addition, necessitated by a business change into heavy equipment. He thanked Council for their ongoing support going back to the 1990s.

*No public comments.*

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to close the Public Hearing at 7:25pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2021-16 to approve the IFT Abatement Application for Darby Metal Treating, Inc. On a roll call, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- B. Superintendent Pond reported a planned capital project in the 2021/2022 fiscal budget was to replace doors at the Water Renewal Treatment Plant and the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station. Due to the specialized nature of the doors, only two vendors submitted bids to replace four (4) single and two (2) double doors. Superintendent Pond recommends the low-bid and more local vendor.**

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the replacement of four (4) single and two (2) double doors at the Water Renewal Facility with Bommersheim Window & Door in the amount of \$42,980.96. On a roll call, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported additional repairs needed to Truck 12 for the upcoming winter season. The engine's turbo unit and engine has failed. This same truck was repaired earlier this year at a cost of \$7,451. This truck is used for winter maintenance and paving, as it carries the pull paver machine recently purchased. Council discussed options of rebuilding the engine at an estimated cost of \$16,880.00 or getting a new engine, which was quoted by M & K on October 11 at \$20,985.90. There was discussion of towing the truck for a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote for rebuilding. There was discussion of warranties and Council was generally in favor of a new (OEM) engine to avoid other repairs with a rebuilt engine.**

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the purchase of an OEM engine replacement for Truck 12 in an amount not to exceed \$20,985.90, subject to securing at least one additional quote in addition to the October 11, 2021 M&K quote. On a roll call, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Communications: None

- A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place of file the September 2021 Investment and Fund Balance Reports, and the Draft Minutes from the September 30, 2021 Otsego/Plainwell Small Urban Meeting. 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 \$174,058.28 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

14. Public Comments: None

15. Staff Comments

Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported having interviewed Clerk candidates last week and ongoing work for job openings/new hires in Public Safety and Public Works.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the October 8 hydrant flushing was successful and reminded everyone that loose leaf pickup started October 11.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported working on grant applications for Perfect Image Salon and the former Warnement Building. She also noted working on engineering costs for infrastructure improvements on the Meert property. She also gave a report a several upcoming events the weekend of October 15.

Director Bomar reported working on implementing the Lexipol system recently approved by Council, and also reported a successful vaccine clinic hosted on October 8.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported the financial auditors are on-site.

City Manager Wilson reported change orders are needed for the south walls for Buildings 2 and 3 and that a special meeting could be needed to approve the orders. He reported an October 12 meeting to determine the cost and the scope of work needed to "close" the buildings before winter. He noted that topsoil was being laid this week for grass plantings.

16. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele expressed concern for traffic on Starr Road and the congestion without controlled stop signs. She asked when the traffic study would be complete.

Councilmember Wisnaski thanked the Public Works Department for efficient and cost effective clean up at the Clark Gas Station.

17. Adjournment:

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
October 25, 2021

  
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Brian Kelley, City Clerk