

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 24, 2020

1. Mayor Pro Tem Steele called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
3. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Mayor Keeler.
4. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 02/10/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Public Comments:
Maher Hassan and Paige Maz introduced themselves as the new owners of 127 S. Main St., formerly Arlene's. The plan to introduce a vegan restaurant to Plainwell. They discussed their business plan to tap into a \$10-Billion nationwide industry which includes a very few fully vegan restaurants in Michigan. The site is attractive to the owners who are evaluating options for updating the building to preserve as much history and culture as possible. There are plans to add an outdoor patio. Maher and Paige both said how happy they are to be here in Plainwell. Council enthusiastically welcomed them.
6. County Commissioner Report: None.
7. Agenda Amendments: None.
8. Mayor's Report: None.
9. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Community Development Manager Siegel reported the current practice of marking on the city calendar, without formal reservation, when someone wanted to use a park facility, such as the Pell Park Gazebo, the Cook Park Pavilion or the Kenyon Park Pavilion. The administration and the Parks & Trees Commission have long considered formalizing a policy where the facility could be reserved for a specific event, in response to inquiries about formal reservations and complaints about the current practice. The draft policy allows, for a fee, the reservation of a facility. The policy states that while the park remains open to the public, the facility is reserved for the specific use and marked accordingly. There are currently two (2) reservations pending under this policy.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the City of Plainwell Park Reservation/Special Event Policy. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
10. Communications:
 - A. **A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Keeney, to accept and place on file the January 2020 Water Renewal Report, the January 2020 Public Safety Report and the 2019 Annual Public Safety Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$695,750.18 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. Public Comments: None.

13. Staff Comments:

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that with the sale of 127 S. Main St., three major properties remain available in the downtown area – 200 E Bridge (Lost Raven), 200 S. Main (Purple Awning) and the Champion Law Building. She noted that the industrial park is at 100% occupancy and that the downtown area is between 90- and 95% occupancy. She also reminded Council of the Leap of Kindness Day scheduled Saturday February 29, 2020 at City Hall Council Chambers. Finally, she noted that the Art Hop is scheduled for March 13.

Superintendent Pond gave a report on general maintenance of a large mechanical screen that runs constantly in the Wastewater Treatment Plan. The screen is an important component of the operation removing a lot of debris from the flow and has been running constantly since 2013.

Public Safety Director Bomar reported that Wednesday February 26, 2020 he will be attending a Homeland Security inspection at Drug & Lab. He also noted that the department is seeking bids for upgrading its fire reporting software that needs to be replaced.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reminded Council that the next meeting of City Council, on March 9, 2020, will be held at the Department of Public Safety Training Room, as City Hall Council Chambers will be set up for the election on March 10, 2020.

City Manager Wilson thanked the Department of Public Works for excellent work on the added office/storage space in Council Chambers. He then reviewed previous discussions and maps related to moving the power poles off the river as part of the mill upgrade project. He updated Council regarding discussions with Consumers Energy about trees within a 20' barrier and the city would like to save sycamore trees in Fannie Pell Park. He noted that MDOT has the right-of-way on M-89 and that the communication companies can request their own poles on the north side of M-89 as opposed to co-locating their lines with the proposed new poles that Consumers is placing as previously discussed. Manager Wilson also recommended working with the City Attorney to draft a Letter of Agreement with Consumers and Weyerhaeuser to lay out specific responsibilities and timelines for each party.

14. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel inquired about the gas station on South Main. Staff reported working with the owner regarding code violations and pump maintenance.

Councilmember Keeney thanked the Department of Public Works for prompt and professional work during a recent water emergency.

15. Adjournment:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 9, 2020



Brian Kelley