

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**November 11, 2019**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
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 Keeney, Councilmember Overhuel, and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 10/28/2019 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comments: None.
7. Community Development Manager Siegel presented the 2019 Scarecrow Contest Winners to Jaqua Realtors (People's Choice) and to Hart's Jewelry (Best in Show)
8. County Commissioner Report:  
Commissioner Rick Cain reported about a recent survey of the lakeshore along Allegan County showing erosion of several areas from South Haven to Holland. He also reported on countywide efforts to evaluate aquifers and their ability to sustain future development. City Manager Wilson noted that the city pays for its own water reliability study and questioned why the county would fund similar studies for the townships for economic development purposes. Commissioner Cain also discussed financial concerns at the county's medical care facility at Dumont Lake.
9. Agenda Amendments: None.
10. Mayor's Report:  
Mayor Keeler reported having attended a well-run veteran's ceremony in Sherwood Park today.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the Planning Commission recently considered text language changes to the section of the Zoning Ordinance that outlines site plan reviews. The changes relate to the approval process and the circumstances under which the city administrator or Planning Commission could approve permitted site plans without City Council consideration. No other changes to the Zoning Ordinance were considered along with this opportunity to streamline the approval process. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the changes.  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve Ordinance 385 modifying Section 53-128 of the Zoning Ordinance to modify the city's site plan approval requirements. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

- B. DPW Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and City Manager Wilson reported on the Sherwood Avenue Project and some water-related changes to the project that precipitated a delay in completion. The changes improved the water installation work, adding additional valves to the distribution system and avoided numerous residents being without water. Overall the project came in under budget, but additional engineering costs were incurred due to the changes and Council is being asked to approve those changes. **A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve a change order for construction engineering on the Sherwood Avenue Project with Fleis & Vandenbrink in the amount of \$21,900.00. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Communications:

- A. **A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to accept and place on file the October 2019 Investment and Fund Balance Reports and the draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from 11/06/2019. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$91,712.81 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

14. Public Comments: None

15. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the snow delayed some leaf pickup efforts and that the roads were salted but not plowed, which would have made leaf pickup more cumbersome.

Community Development Manager Siegel reminded Council of two (2) ribbon cuttings on Friday November 15 – 10am at Sherwood Park and 2pm at Prevalent Boutique – and Ladies Night later that evening. She also reported a successful opening of the indoor farmer’s market with 130 guests and 2 new vendor requests.

Superintendent Pond reported on a loss of power at one of the plant’s buildings caused by outdated parts. Redundant systems were implemented and the plant was fully operational within a short period of time. A system-wide review of redundancies is being conducted.

Director Bomar reported having attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference as a grant recipient. The conference included several helpful classes and that the entire experience was overwhelming but wonderful. He also noted an upcoming Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) audit in early December.

Clerk Kelley reported that the Election went well and thanked all the inspectors for their service.

City Manager Wilson reported unanticipated challenges with the MEDC Mill Demolition Grant related to the demolition of buildings 1 and 9. He provided Council an informational packet which included a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office which outlined stipulations related to the demolition that must be completed within 90 days. The packet also included preliminary costs bids for demolition, structural and architectural engineering. He noted that there are several unanswered questions also related to the proceeds from the sale of land and why these strings were not disclosed earlier in the process. After a conference call with the MEDC staff, information will be compiled for Council to provide direction on how to proceed.

City Manager Wilson also reported the Airport Manager Virgil Williams was recently inducted into the West Michigan Aeronautics Hall of Fame in a ceremony at Western Michigan University.

16. Council Comments:

Council Member Overhuel reported that the recent cemetery tour went great.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele inquired about leaves in the road and grain trucks driving down Sherwood.

Council Member Keeney thanked all the veterans.

17. Adjournment:

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

November 25, 2019

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Kelley, City Clerk