

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**May 09, 2022**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. No invocation was given.
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:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 04/25/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment:  
Craig McCormick, 235 N Sunset St, stated his concerns about a potential ordinance violation in his neighborhood.  
  
Jim Ferguson, 210 W Hill St, stated his concerns about the speed of traffic driving to or from the schools on his road.  
  
Interim Director John Varley noted that both concerns would be investigated. He also asked anyone with concerns to contact the Department of Public Safety so they could address the concerns in a timely manner.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:  
Mayor Keeler noted that he has had ongoing issues with junk pickers out overnight going through the items he set out for the bulk waste pick up.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. City Manager Erik Wilson introduced DPS Director Kevin Callahan to the City Council. Director Callahan gave a brief overview of his qualifications.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to confirm Kevin Callahan as the new DPS Director. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Manager Wilson reported that the Request For Proposal had been sent out for sealed bids, and one (1) bid was received from Republic Services for the bulk waste/recycling contract. The current contract expires June 30, 2022 and there are different options to be considered. Republic Services submitted a bid for both bulk waste and recycling, while Allegan County has approved two options for recycling through the county program. Deputy City Clerk Maggie Fenger explained the county options and the difference

between services provided by the county and Republic Services. Council directed staff to create a presentation or memo that outlined all possible options for consideration at a future meeting.

- C. Personnel Manager Sandy Lamorandier reported that the 80%/20% health care cost option needs to be adopted for each plan year. Resolution 2022-08 establishes the 80%/20% health care cost option for the 2021-2022 plan year. She stated that going forward this resolution will be part of the budget process along with the other annual budget-related resolutions.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve Resolution 2022-08 establishing the 80%/20% health care cost option for the 2021-2022 plan year. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- D. Interim Director Varley reported that the current air fill station has reached the end of its usable life and is out of compliance. The air fill station is needed for filling the self-contained breathing apparatus used by firefighters operating in dangerous environments. Five quotes were received for the new system, and based on the items included such as training as well as installation and better equipment, Interim Director Varley recommends the system by West Shore Fire. The low bid received does not address all the needs of the system, and several bidders were in different states which would make annual maintenance difficult. Interim Director Varley noted that he had contacted several other departments that use the Mako system and use West Shore Fire and got great reviews for both.

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve a contract with West Shore Fire for a new air fill station cost, delivery, installation and training in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- E. DPW Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis reported that the belly blade on Truck 10 needed to be repaired and at this time the only company that specializes in this type of work is Truck & Trailer Specialties. The cost to repair or replace the components of the blade is expected to be \$6,119.00 with most of the parts currently in stock.

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve a contract with Truck & Trailer Specialties for repairs on Truck 10 in the amount of \$6,119.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- F. WR Superintendent Bryan Pond reported that the new local limit was evaluated in the recent M.A.H.L. study and recalculating the fees at this time would make sense. Fleis & VandenBrink performed the M.A.H.L. study and will do the surcharge calculations for \$3,600.00. The current budget includes funding that can be used for this work.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve a contract with Fleis & VandenBrink for surcharge calculations in the amount of \$3,600.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Communications:

- A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the April 2022 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$205,513.57 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported that redistricting was underway due to the census, and new voter ID cards had been mailed this week to every registered voter. The new ID cards show the new districts; however, no other changes have been made. He also reported working on identifying revenue sources for the upcoming budget work.

Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported ongoing work training Treasurer Kelley on her portion of the budget work, an upcoming insurance agent meeting, and SEIU contract negotiation work. She also congratulated Director Callahan and welcomed him.

Interim Director Varley reported that he was looking forward to Director Callahan's arrival, and noted an upcoming training he and Director Callahan would be attending.

Community Development Manager Denise Siegel reported that two revolving loan applications were on the agenda for tomorrow's DDA meeting: Mayor's Joint and Barbed Wire Café. She reported working on preparing for the outdoor Farmer's Market to open next week, as well as continued progress on the rental rehab project. She noted that Highland Ridge Boutique had opened on Saturday, making it the third business to open in Plainwell this year.

Superintendent Pond reported one capital improvement project involving replacing doors was completed and the other project involving replacing handrails was underway. He also noted annual sampling would begin soon.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the Bridge Street repair project was completed, and had helped the DPW learn a lot about their equipment needs and different processes for future road repair projects. He reported that the two items previously approved for sale at auction had sold for more than anticipated. The plow truck had sold for just over \$9,000 and the diesel generator had sold for \$2,400.

Deputy Clerk Fenger reported upcoming election training provided by the State Bureau of Elections and hosted by Allegan County, as well as working with Clerk Kelley on the redistricting project.

Manager Wilson reported continued work on the mill project, including receiving an extension on the grant, and work on liquidated damages and the punch list. He also reported hosting a tour recently of the river dam project sites for contractors about an upcoming grant project through the State of Michigan to replace the #2 dam in Plainwell. He noted continued contract negotiations with SEIU. He also welcomed Director Callahan to the City and stated he was excited to work with him.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski thanked Interim Director Varley for his work as the Interim Director, and welcomed Director Callahan.

Councilmember Keeney also thanked Interim Director Varley for his work as the Interim Director, and welcomed Director Callahan.

Councilmember Overhuel welcomed Director Callahan and stated that he thought Interim Director Varley had done a good job on the proposal for the new air fill station. He stated that he had learned a lot from the proposal and presentation, and was impressed with the work Interim Director Varley had put into the proposal. He also requested that a list of the current ordinance violations and how they were being addressed would be provided to the Council at each meeting.

Councilmember Steele welcomed Director Callahan and his family and extended family that attended in support of him.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Maggie Fenger  
Deputy City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

May 23, 2022



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Maggie Fenger, Deputy City Clerk