

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**July 11, 2022**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was given by Brian Warren of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
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:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 06/27/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Presentation: Mayor Keeler presented Deputy Director John Varley with a certificate recognizing his 35 years of service.

City Manager Wilson congratulated Deputy Director Varley on his years of service and thanked him for representing the City in a phenomenal way.

8. County Commissioner Report: None.
9. Agenda Amendments: None.
10. Mayor's Report: None.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Clerk Fenger reported on the proposed purchasing policy amendments drafted by the department heads and reviewed by the City Attorney. Councilmember Steele asked questions regarding the reasoning behind the proposed amendments. Clerk Fenger explained the types of situations that the proposed amendments were attempting to address. No action was taken.
12. Communications:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the June 2022 Investment and Fund Balance reports. On a voice vote, all voted 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 \$257,616.68 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

14. Public Comments: None.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

15. Staff Comments:

Treasurer Kelley reported working on the year end financials, and learning HR work in anticipation of Personnel Manager Lamorandier's retirement.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported a water main break under the rail road tracks on July 4<sup>th</sup> had been repaired successfully. He also reported that work would be starting this week to connect a new build on North Main Street to the city water and completing tree trimming in several locations.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported the release of funds request had been submitted for the rental rehab grant agreement for the Southwright Apartments project and approximately \$275,000 was anticipated to be released.

Director Callahan praised Deputy Director Varley and thanked him for being such a valuable resource and his excellent work with the public. He also noted that Officer Jeff Welcher had helped a citizen with an Allegan County Sheriff dispatched call and the citizen reached out on Facebook to show their appreciation for his help. He reported a successful river rescue that involved multiple local units and took 4 hours, as well as assisting Allegan County with a suicidal subject last week.

Clerk Fenger reported that the Election Commission had met the previous Friday and appointed election inspectors for the upcoming August election. She noted training for the election inspectors would take place over the next several weeks. She also reported that 333 av ballots had been issued as of that evening.

Manager Wilson reported that the Clark Station representatives had not attended the pre-trial conference, which helped strengthen the City's case. He gave an update on the private property dispute in the Walnut Woods neighborhood. He reported that he had submitted the last pay app for the mill demolition project, which covered the retainage funds. The city withheld approximately \$448,000.00 in retainage throughout the project, and he had informed MEDC of the city's intent to return all of the retainage except for \$144,000.00. The withheld funds will compensate the city for the 144 days of delay on the project that were the responsibility of the contractor and were not due to unforeseen circumstances.

16. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel congratulated Deputy Director Varley on his years of service.

Councilmember Steele thanked Deputy Director Varley and his wife, Lori Varley, for his years of service.

Councilmember Wisnaski noted that the flowers around the city looked great, and congratulated Deputy Director Varley on his years of service.

Councilmember Keeney thanked Deputy Director Varley for his years of service.

17. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Margaret Fenger  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
July 25, 2022

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Margaret Fenger, City Clerk