

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**April 24, 2023**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Steve Smail of 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:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 04/10/2023 regular meeting and the closed session. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None
7. County Commissioner Report:  
County Commissioner Dugan expressed regrets for missing the meeting, but submitted a written report of Board of Commissioner actions for Council's consideration
8. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the Agenda for the April 24, 2023 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
9. Mayor's Report:  
Mayor Keeler reported the Council had made a conditional offer to the next Plainwell City Manager.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Clerk Kelley reminded Council that it previously authorized the Director of Public Safety to liaison with the State of Michigan for closing M-89. He reported that the State has a new format outlining that authorization, which will no longer need annual renewals.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to re-confirm authority for the Director of Public Safety to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation for the necessary permits to work within the State Highway Right of Way. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reminded Council that the city switched elevator maintenance companies and is need of a 3-year certification update for the freight elevator. The certification is needed to aid in development of the mill property.  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve a three-year certification for the mill freight elevator with Great Lakes Elevator in the amount of \$6,500.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported a gathering of street sweeping debris that need to be hauled away. Council was reminded that street sweeping debris is left at the DPW facility and is considered a hazardous waste which needs to be tested before it can be hauled away. The current debris has been

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tested and will be accepted at the Kent County Landfill, which charges by the truck load and tonnage. The hauling has been contracted and Council is being asked to approve the disposal fees at the landfill. Council asked about the cost and there was discussion about the current load being an accumulation of several years of sweepings and the city is looking to incorporate these costs annually into future budgets. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to approve the disposal fees to Kent County Landfill in the amount of \$7,500.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

D. Community Development Siegel reported having met with appraisal firm NAI Wisinski of West Michigan, which has offered to market for sale the land purchased adjacent to the industrial park. The firm noted they could have for sale signs in the ground by the end of next week and is positive about its ability to successfully market the land.

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve an agreement with NAI Wisinski of West Michigan for marketing/sale of the 52 acres adjacent to the Industrial Park. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

E. Superintendent Pond reported the 17-year old water heater at the Treatment Plant had reached the end of its useful life. He reported the three options for replacement of the heater, which is used in the chemical process at the plant. An exact replacement, using electricity, is approximately \$6,700; a gas replacement is approximately \$9,000 while a more energy-efficient model using a heat exchanger is \$11,020 and offers a much longer useful life.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the purchase of a new Viessmann Vitocell 300 Water Heater in the amount of \$11,020.00. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Communications:

**A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the March 2023 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all voted 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 \$80,435.78 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None

14. Staff Comments:

Community Development Manager Siegel reported ongoing work with the mill development and the industrial park.

Superintendent Pond noted that the Dystor cover would be replaced this week.

Director Callahan reported having sworn in two new on-call firefighters last week.

Clerk/Finance Director Kelley reported working on several projects.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that streets would again be swept this week and that bridge work will start in early June.


15. Council Comments:

Council each thanked staff for a successful Saturday session interviewing City Manager Candidates.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
May 8, 2023  
  
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Brian Kelley, City Clerk