

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
July 27, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Peter Dams of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Kori Steele, Councilmembers Roger Keeney, Randy Wisnaski and Cathy Green. Absent: None
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 07/13/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment:
 - A. Troy Steffel of 316 E Chart – asked if the City will enforce Chapter 53: Zoning of the Code of Ordinances as it applies to the old Clark Gas Station, noting that the ordinances say that the city shall enforce the upkeep of buildings and lawns, and he wants to be sure that will happen.
 - B. Lois Heuchert of 514 Morrel St – asked for more communication from the City. She gave an example, stating that last she knew Mill Building #2 was supposed to be demolished, but it is still there. Unless you know to look through the meeting packets to see what happened, you have no idea. She shared that when she sees Council members socially, she asks a lot of questions about what's going on in the city, which they are nice enough to answer. She stated it's your job to communicate with the city, and you've got to do things differently then they've always been done. You kind of need to spoon feed society nowadays, and recommended a State of the Union type event, along with a YouTube channel and/or increased Facebook updates.
7. County Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
8. County Clerk Report: County Clerk Bob Genetski gave an update about Allegan County Register of Deeds, noting that the County has launched a new service, Property Fraud Alert, for residents. This free notification service alerts subscribers of possible fraudulent activity being committed against their property. Further information is available by contacting the Register of Deeds Office at 269-673-0390, or by visiting PropertyFraudAlert.com/MIAlegan. He provided copies of the 2025 Allegan County Clerk and Register of Deeds Annual Report to the Taxpayers of Allegan County, highlighting some areas of interest.
9. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the Agenda for the July 27, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
10. Mayor's Report: Pray for rain.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed Ordinance 406, which amends Chapter 53: Zoning of the Code of Ordinances to add definitions for specialty vehicle garages, automobile service stations and public garages, and provide guidelines for where these type of businesses may be located in the Central Business District (CBD) and if they require a Special Use Permit. (SUP).
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, to adopt Ordinance 406 to amend Chapter 53: Zoning of the City of Plainwell Code of Ordinances regarding specialty vehicle garages and automobile service stations and public garages in the Central Business District. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Finance Director Wilcox discussed an update to the approved depository list, noting that the Lake Michigan Credit Union offers better interest rates on CDs.
A motion by Green, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2026-13 as presented, adding Lake Michigan Credit Union to the list of approved depositories. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Councilmember Green discussed Special Event Permit Application 2026-15. The Plainwell Arts Council will perform Animal Farm at the bandshell on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 6pm. This free event is open to the public.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve SEPA 2026-15 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. City Manager Lakamper discussed Resolution 2026-14, which recommends approval for a RDA Class C Liquor License for Brixton Ways Events, LLC (Mill 17) by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

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A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to approve Resolution 2026-14 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- E. City Manager Lakamper discussed Resolution 2026- 15, which recommends approval for a Social District Permit for Halen Enterprises LLC, dba Joe's Pizza and Sports Bar by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve Resolution 2026-15 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the June 2026 Department of Public Safety Report, and the 06/09/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 5/09/2026 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$227,394.28 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments:

- A. Troy Steffle of 316 E Chart – stated he had emailed Councilmember Steele prior to the Planning Commission Public Hearing on July 15th, 2026 sharing his concerns. Councilmember Steele stated she did not get the email, and if she had, she would have shared it at the meeting. Steffle continued, asking now that the amendment is passed, can we count on the city to enforce the ordinance? Lakamper replied yes.

15. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis thanked DPW staff for completing water sampling for the year. He mentioned talking with Consumer's Power about Consumer's replacing up to 40 trees in the city that were damaged by the storm.

Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasure Kersten had nothing to report.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer shared that the odor study begins tomorrow.

Clerk Leonard shared that Early Voting was going well. She is thankful for her team of election workers, who are doing a great job.

City Manager Lakamper shared that the title work and surveys are completed, and the closing of the sale of the Mill buildings to Classic Auto Mill is scheduled for next Tuesday. The city attorney is working on easements for utility access.

He thanked DPS for their quick response to the recent shooting involving an officer.

He discussed the condo project along the river, stating that the EPA and EGLE have both appointed new project managers, which has basically put the project on hold. The restricted covenants are drafted, and have been reviewed by EGLE, but not the EPA.

Watts Homes still remains interested in developing the property when approved to do so.

16. Council Comments:

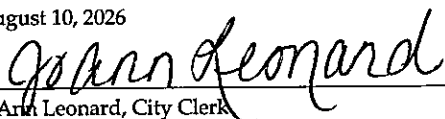
- A. Councilmember Green asked for an update on the S. Main home that was demolished. Lakamper stated the owner applied for a permit to rebuild, and the new home will be very similar in size to the original home. There is also a fire damaged home on Sherwood that was taken down, which the owner intends to split into two parcels and build two new homes.
- B. Councilmember Keeney asked about the fire damaged home on N Main. Lakamper stated that he isn't sure if the investigation has been completed and would need to follow up with Director Callahan to be sure.
- C. Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked DPW for doing the water testing, and shared that the palm trees are doing well.

17. Adjournment:

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

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
August 10, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk