MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
September 28, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by County Commissioner Gale Dugan.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Lori Steele, and Councilmember Randy Wisnaski.
   Absent: Councilmembers Cathy Green and Roger Keeney
   A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to excuse Councilmembers Green and Keeney from tonight's proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes:
   A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 09/14/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment:
   1. Matthew Bradley of 115 Walnut Woods – shared that the upcoming Parks & Tree meeting on Wednesday 10/14 at 5pm will be held at Kenyon Park.
7. Presentation – MACP Agency Accreditation for the Plainwell Department of Public Safety
8. County Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
9. Agenda approval:
   A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the September 28, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
10. Mayor's Report: None.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
    A. City Manager Lakamper discussed Special Event Permit application 2026-23 – Pumpkins in the Park.
    A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve SEP 2026-23 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    B. City Manager Lakamper discussed Special Use Permit application 2026-01 – Accessory Dwelling Unit
    A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve SUP 2026-01 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    C. City Manager Lakamper discussed Ordinance 409, which amends Ordinance 199 – Establishing the Plainwell Parks & Tree Commission by removing the Department of Public Works Superintendent from the Commission.
    A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Ordinance 409 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the purchase of blocks to repair the retaining wall at Sherwood Park.
    A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the purchase of blocks from Oldcastle Infrastructure at a cost of $6,320.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    E. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a blanket purchase order request for Ed's Truck Repair.
    A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a blanket PO to Ed's Truck Repair in the amount of $5,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    F. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed preapproval to purchase a one-ton dump truck for use at the Department of Public Works.
    A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the purchase of a one-ton dump truck for DPW at a price not to exceed $30,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

    G. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed a 3-year contract for preventative maintenance covering the City generators.
    A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a 3-year generator preventative maintenance service contract with Cummins Sales and Service for $22,389.67. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

H. Detective Varley discussed hiring On-Call Firefighter (OCFF) Tanner Callahan.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the hire of OCFF Tanner Callahan, pursuant to Section 6.8(b) of the Plainwell City Charter. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the August 2026 Department of Public Safety Report, and the 08/11/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 8/11/2026 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Accounts Payable:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of $258,575.44 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments: None.

15. Staff Comments:
Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the volunteer tree planting event planned for Saturday, October 10th from 8:45am until noon. We need about 40 volunteers and currently have 12. If interested, please sign up online at www.releafmichigan.org/rsvp or contact Matthew Bradley at mcbrad61@gmail.com for more information. Hydrant flushing will occur this Thursday night/Friday morning. He congratulated DPS on receiving accreditation.

Detective Varley thanked Council for hiring OCFF Callahan, stating he is a great fit for the department.

Director Callahan shared that the tree planting event is scheduled for the same day as Pumpkins in the Park, and volunteers could take advantage of the Food Trucks available at Hicks Park for lunch. The DPS received a $2,000 grant from MGU to purchase a gas meter, allowing the department to measure carbon dioxide levels and other dangerous gases. The DPS will be available to support the Classic Auto Mill Grand Opening Event planned for this Saturday 10/03 at the Mill Complex. He thanked Detective Varley for his hard work over the past two years to get accreditation for the Plainwell Public Safety Department. He reminded everyone about AI generated emails from scammers that pretend to be from the City of Plainwell. Please contact City Hall directly at 269-685-6821 if you are unsure of the authenticity of an email communication.

Clerk Leonard shared that absentee ballots are available and can be picked up in person at City Hall Monday through Friday from 8am until 4pm. For those on the permanent absent voter list, ballots will be mailed out by this Friday 10/02/2026.

City Manager Lakamper shared that closing for property sale of one acre to Plainwell Auto happened last Friday. NAPA intends to begin building in the spring. He reminded everyone of the Classic Auto Mill Grand Opening being held this Saturday from noon – 9pm. There is a ribbon cutting planned for 2pm, and CAM has invited Council to participate.

16. Council Comments:
    1. Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated DPS on accreditation.
    2. Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked PSO Bruce for his quick response to a situation in her neighborhood, and congratulated DPS on receiving accreditation. She thanked all City employees for their hard work and dedication to Plainwell.

17. Adjournment:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
October 12, 2026
JoAnn Leonard
JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk