

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**February 27, 2023**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was given by Peter Dams 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 02/13/2023 regular meeting and the 02/21/2023 special meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report:  
County Commissioner Gale Dugan wished City Manager Wilson well on his new endeavor. He gave a synopsis of two (2) meetings of the County Board of Commissioners, noted that election materials would still be received at the Courthouse, and fielded questions about county dams.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the Public Hearing at 7.13pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

City Clerk Kelley reported that the Planning Commission recently considered amendments to the sign ordinance to include the definition of a sandwich board, the height, construction and durability of signs and how many signs a business can use in the right of way. City Manager Wilson noted that the ordinance creates more uniformity for signage. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

*No public comment.*

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to close the Public Hearing at 7.15pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve Ordinance 394 amending Sections 52-3 and 52-10 of the Zoning Code. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

B. City Clerk Kelley reported that application has been received for a special liquor license for certain special events at Around the Board Game Café, which needs local board approval before the State can consider the application.

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2023-11 for a Special License for Liquor Sales at Around the Board Game Café. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

C. Manager Wilson reported that Community Development Manager Siegel has worked to secure a \$40,000 grant from Priority Health for an outdoor fitness court. The next step in the process is for the National Fitness Campaign Committee to help secure the rest of the funding with local support. The project is contingent pending funding confirmation from outside sources.

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2023-12 supporting the National Fitness Campaign Committee in providing public outdoor fitness courts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

D. Superintendent Pond reported on a budgeted project to maintain and clean the Dystor Tank in coordination with the cover replacement coming up. The cost is higher than original budgeted, but a necessary cost of maintenance of the tank and the anerobic digesters. The tank should be cleaned every 7 to 8 years and it's been more than 10 years since the last cleaning. The digester valves are failing and six (6) are being replaced as part of this project.

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve a project with Plummer's Environmental to clean the Dystor tank and anerobic digesters for a cost not to exceed \$68,750.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

E. Superintendent Pond noted that in addition to the cover replacement contract, two small leaks should be repaired while the tank is offline. Two bids were received for the project.

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept a bid of \$5,995.00 from Mulders Waterproofing to waterproof the Dystor tank. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

F. Mayor Pro Tem Steele opened a discussion about search firms for a city manager. Each Council member expressed their review of the proposals distributed at the February 21, 2023 special meeting. There was a discussion of creating a committee to consider the candidates and how that would be coordinated with a professional search firm. There was a discussion about attorney involvement through the process.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to negotiate a contract with Walsh Municipal Services for purposes of conducting a city manager search. 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 January 2023 Water Renewal report and the draft 02/14/2023 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the draft 02/16/2023 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$755,388.62 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the city lucked out and missed most of the damage from the recent ice storm. The DPW crew managed the storm well.

Superintendent Pond reported on maintenance of two (2) older diesel mowers used to mow the mill and the right-of-ways.

Deputy Director John Varley reported a successful LEIN audit and thanked Angela Doster and all the staff for their hard work. He reported ongoing training and briefed Council on an ordinance violation investigation.

Finance Director/Clerk Kelley reported that tax collections were nearly complete for Tax Year 2022. Settlement with County will happen on Wednesday March 1. He reported that the city is close on making an offer for Utility Billing Specialist. He reported working with Personnel Coordinator Kersten on posting the City Clerk position. He reported working on the budget and utility billing issues.

Manager Wilson thanked the Department of Public Safety for its professionalism in handling a recent incident on West Bridge Street. He reported a public hearing on the dam project is scheduled for March 23.


15. Council Comments:

Each Councilmember thanked Public Safety for its professionalism and congratulated the Plainwell High School Wrestling Team in its recent successes at the state tournament level.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
March 13, 2023  
  
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Brian Kelley, City Clerk