

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
June 22, 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 06/08/2026 Budget Workshop and the 06/08/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment:
 - A. Kevin Deleat, a former Plainwell resident, spoke in support of Christopher Burnett.
 - B. Christopher Burnett introduced himself, sharing he is running for 47th District Court Judge for Allegan County.
7. County Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the Agenda for the June 22, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper presented the 2025/2026 City Budget amendments, a housekeeping item accounting for budgetary shifts and/or projects from the previous yearly budget.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, to approve the amendments to the 2025/2026 budget as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. City Manager Lakamper discussed water and wastewater rate adjustments for the new budget year.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to adopt Resolution 2026-07 Water and Wastewater Rates for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. City Manager Lakamper discussed recycling and bulk trash rates for the new budget year.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2026-08 Recycling and Bulk Trash Rates for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. City Manager Lakamper discussed fines and fees for the new budget year, noting several changes to the fee schedule.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2026-09 Fines and Fees for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - E. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to open a Public Hearing at 7: 30pm for consideration of the 2026/2027 City Budget. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

City Manager Lakamper gave a presentation on the 2026/2027 City Budget.

No public comment.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to close the Public Hearing at 7:42pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2026-10 General Appropriations Act and Resolution 2026-11 Special and Operating Funds Appropriations Act, approving the Plainwell City Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - F. City Manager Lakamper presented a listing of blanket purchase orders for approval for fiscal year 2027. These items are for previously approved contracts, sole-source purchases or blankets for reoccurring purchases to preferred vendors.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve 42 blanket and confirming purchase orders for Fiscal Year 2027 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - G. City Manager Lakamper discussed the health insurance options available to the City.

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A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2026-12 approving the 80/20 Employer/Employee Health Care Cost Option for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

11. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the May 2026 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, and the 05/12/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 4/14/2026 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$251,943.07 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox shared she is glad the budget was approved and adopted, and that we can move on for the year. It was a big process, but it's done now.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis had nothing to report.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer shared that generators are being wired to support the lift stations during power outages.

Director Callahan had nothing to report.

Clerk Leonard shared that ballots for the upcoming August election arrived, and that Absent Voter ballots will be mailed out soon.

City Manager Lakamper stated that Ransom Library is hosting a reading of the Declaration of Independence on Wednesday, July 8th at 6pm.

He asked if Council members had received email invitations to the Chamber of Commerce grand opening in Otsego. Some members did not, so Justin will check in with Miranda from the Chamber to confirm email addresses.

He discussed the sale of the Mill buildings, sharing that the title work had come back. The title work was needed to complete the survey, which was needed to complete the sale. The City attorney has been working on an amendment to the purchase agreement to include the sale of building 2 to Classic Auto Mill and clarify the details of any reimbursements made from the insurance settlement to CAM for repairs or renovation to building 2. As soon as the amended agreement and survey come back, everything will come to Council for final approval.

He shared that Mill 17 was disappointed with the parking lot situation but did ask the City to provide them with a letter for their lender stating they could use the parking area for their business. Lakamper stated he is providing them with that, but it is not special in any way. They will have the same access and use of the parking lot as anyone else.

He thanked Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox for her work on the budget, noting it was her first year with Plainwell.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele shared that she had witnessed two young men on bikes, one motorized, one not, almost collide with a pedestrian near the police station. She wonders what can be done about golf carts and other motorized vehicles on sidewalks and streets near Thurl cook park. Director Callahan stated that golf carts are not allowed on city streets, and that all vehicles driven on the street must be street legal. There was a discussion of the danger of golf carts on the streets, and concern with them being driven by kids with little or no adult supervision.

Councilmember Wisnaski said the flowers look great.

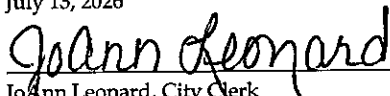
Councilmember Green shared that the Art's Council just finished the children's theater residency. The event was popular and it went well. It will be offered again next year. She reminded everyone about the Collywobbles performance Thursday night at the band shell. They will be doing a old radio play at 7pm. It is a comedy and is free to the public.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
July 13, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk