

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
July 13, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Scott Smail from Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Lori Steele and Councilmembers Randy Wisnaski, Roger Keeney and Cathy Green.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 06/22/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: Craig Gilbert of 803 N. Main St. - thanked the City for showing up the way they did following the storm and tornado damage in April. He lost 9 trees, and his driveway was blocked and truck buried. The devastation was hard to believe. He thanked DPW for hauling brush day after day and helping clean up the damage.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the Agenda for the July 13, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Clerk Leonard discussed Ordinance 407, which amends Chapter 52: Signs of the Code of Ordinances in the following manner: An Ordinance to amend Chapter 52 "SIGNS" of the City of Plainwell Code of Ordinances; to amend Sec. 52-10, to amend subsection C to add the Service Business (SB) zoning district; to amend Sec. 52-10 (C)(7) to include the Service Business (SB) and Central Business (CBD) zoning districts, and add a new subsection E; to amend Sec. 52-10, to amend subsection D from "USES" to "SIGNS", to amend Sec. 52-10, to amend subsection E to read "INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT", to amend Sec. 52-10 (E), to amend subsection 5 to include the Service Business (SB) zoning district; and to amend Sec. 52-17, to amend the Table of References. The amendment will allow businesses that meet the requirements in the CBD to have freestanding signs.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, adopting Ordinance 407 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Director Callahan discussed Ordinance 408, which amends Ordinance 405 2024 Internation Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). It was noted that some sections of the IPMC needed further clarification to align with best practices and better meet the City's needs. Ordinance 408 makes these changes.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, adopting Ordinance 408 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Director Callahan discussed Golf Cart and E-bike use on City streets and public parks, noting that DPS has received multiple complaints about both, as well as complaints of individuals sleeping and/or camping in public parks and on other City owned property. Director Callahan believes that it is in the City's best interest to consider drafting new Ordinances to address these concerns, as current enforcement options are limited. Council supports the drafting of Ordinances that address Director Callahan's concerns, and authorized him to work with the City Attorney. The draft Ordinances will be presented to Council for review when ready.
 - D. Superintendent Keyzer discussed responses received for a 5-year Biosolids Management Service Request for Proposal (RFP). Two companies provided bids. Bio-Tech Agronomics is recommended to provide this service. The contract cost is estimated, as diesel fuel prices above \$4.00/gal incur additional fees.

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
July 13, 2026

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving a new five-year contract with Bio-Tech Agronomics for annual biosolids disposal with an estimated contract cost of \$141,875.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- E. Superintendent Keyzer discussed annual flow meter testing required by the State of Michigan (EGLE). The meters are used for reporting, process control and to bill customer communities for service. EGLE mandates meter calibration annually. Forberg Smith is recommended for this service.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, approving the annual calibration of flow meters at the Water Renewal Plant by Forberg Smith for \$5,926.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- F. City Manager Lakamper discussed an amendment to the Purchase Agreement with Classic Auto Mill. The amendment adds Building #2 to the sale and stipulates that CAM will be reimbursed \$360,000 from the insurance settlement originally intended to demolish the building after construction is completed. There are four items listed in the agreement under Section 6.8:

1. Removal of the existing damaged roof so that the floor of the top level becomes the new roof structure.
2. Construction of a four-foot barrier wall around the newly created rooftop open terrace, anchored to the floor.
3. Completion of a functional floor and drainage system for the newly created rooftop area.
4. Construction of a new access stairwell to the newly created rooftop terrace.

There is a 5 year timeline for project completion, with a 3 year extension available if needed.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, approving the amendment to the purchase agreement with Classic Auto Mill as presented. 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 June 2026 Investment and Fund Balance Reports and the June 2026 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$294,667.31 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

- A. Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten shared that open enrollment for benefits went well. The new benefit year begins in August. She is working on payroll updates for the new fiscal year.
- B. Superintendent Keyzer had nothing to report.
- C. Director Callahan stated that the 4th of July holiday went well. There were a few complaints, but nothing serious.
- D. Clerk Leonard discussed Early Voting, letting everyone know it begins Saturday, July 25 and runs through Sunday August 2 from 8am - 4pm.
- E. City Manager Lakamper discussed the conversion dam project, sharing that DPS is taking GHD employees to the sites by river in the water rescue boat as landowners have yet to allow access. He discussed the Mill property, stating that the preliminary survey and title work were completed but the parcel number was wrong- this is fixed now. As soon as the finalized survey comes back, we will be able to schedule the closing and sign the buildings over to CAM officially. Chip sealing on N. and S. Main St. will begin next week which will extend the life of the road by ~7 years. One lane will remain open for travel. Following chip sealing, the roads will be striped. Playground equipment for Thurl Cook Park has arrived and will be installed shortly, along with wood chips specifically designed for playground safety. Mayor Pro-Tem Steele stated that the City should have a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new playground equipment once it's installed.

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
July 13, 2026

Lakamper discussed a meeting he had with Ginger, who runs the flight school and Stem Academy at the airport. They have a new mechanic on staff, Miguel, using one of the larger hangers and are renovating the other large hanger for use as a classroom. They received grant money last year, and have installed a bathroom, new lighting, a furnace, and are currently installing drywall. They need some siding, and the City will help with that. It's a great partnership, the airport and the City. There hasn't been any word on the runway grant offered by the State of Michigan. That group meets on the 16th, hopefully there will be news in a few days. He discussed a Public Hearing being held at the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, July 15th, discussing a zoning Ordinance amendment to allow automobile service stations and public garages and Specialty Vehicle Garages in designated areas of the CBD, inviting everyone to come and share their thoughts. The amendment will allow the old Clark gas station to be demolished and rebuilt, as well as Classic Auto Mill to operate as a classic car restoration, sales, service and storage facility.

15. Council Comments:

- A. Wisnaski asked for an update on the parking lot use agreement wedding venue. Lakamper answered that they can use the parking lot as is and would be required to maintain it. It sounds as though they intend to pave and use the lot that they purchased with the building now.
- B. Steele stated her daughter is here, and she is updating flooring. She had a nice 4th of July. She reminded everyone of the All School Reunion happening August 8 at 1pm in the PHS cafeteria. Doors open at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.
- C. Green shared that clean up at the Miller Road cemetery is underway.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
July 27, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk