

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
January 9, 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 Dan Martin 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 12/27/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Dan Veldhuizen, Siegfried Crandall PC, presented the audited financial statements. He noted that out of 120 government clients, only 2, including Plainwell, had Finance Directors that were capable of preparing certain reports which saved the City time and money. He reported that the City was in a good position based on these reports, and recommended that it might be beneficial to set aside more money for Other Postemployment Liabilities (OPEB).
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the audited financial statements. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the public hearing at 7:15pm to hear comments on Ordinance 393 regarding proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Community Development Manager Siegel detailed the amendments and noted that a variance application had been submitted for the same project, however it was denied based on the recommendations of the City Planner.

Nathaniel Mehmed, Williams & Works, noted that a variance has certain circumstances that must be met for approval, and if the circumstances don't apply, the variance shouldn't be approved. He also noted that approving variances does weaken the ordinance, which is why he recommended amending the ordinance instead.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Manager Wilson reported that the proposed ordinance amendment would increase the allowed height only in the commercial district along the US Route 131 corridor, not the central business district. He also noted that the proposed amendment would apply to every site within the designated district, and was not specific to one site like a variance would be.

No public comment.

A motion by Steele, seconded Overhuel, to close the public hearing at 7:21pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve Ordinance 393 Zoning Amendment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- C. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the public hearing at 7:23pm to hear comments on the proposed Recreation Plan. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Community Development Manager Siegel detailed the process for updating the 5 year Recreation Plan, which included working with Superintendent Nieuwenhuis, Nathaniel Mehmed of Williams & Works, the Parks & Trees Commission, and the community as a whole.

Cory Redder, Parks & Trees Commission, noted that this was his first time working on the Recreation Plan as a newly appointed Commission member, and he appreciated the opportunity.

A motion by Steele, seconded Overhuel, to close the public hearing at 7:27pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adopt Resolution 2023-06 A Resolution Adopting the City of Plainwell Five Year Recreational Plan 2023 Thru 2028. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the DPW building had several windows, a door, and some siding that needed to be repaired. He recommended adding a sliding window for customer service purposes as well, which could easily be included in the repair project. DPW employees would perform the work with materials purchased from Wood Works Specialties. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis estimated the cost of building materials would be \$5,200.00.

Director Callahan noted that this improvement would improve safety at the building.

Manager Wilson noted that protective film could be added to the window at the same time as the doors at City Hall.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve a purchase of building materials from Wood Works Specialties in the amount of \$5,200.00 and approve protective film on the window and the City Hall door in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. 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 December 2022 DPS Report, the December 2022 Investment and Fund Balance reports, and the draft 12/15/2022 Parks & Trees**

meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$748,360.42 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley reported working on the budget & policies.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported 2 new businesses had opened downtown: Arcadia Occupational Therapy and 143 Tattoo. She noted with Old Plank closing, this brought the total number of businesses downtown to 64. She noted that there would be a merchant meeting Thursday at 8:30am with herself, Superintendent Nieuwenhuis, Director Callahan, and Manager Wilson attending, and invited the Councilmembers to attend.

Superintendent Pond reported that work was in progress on the previously approved boiler project.

Director Callahan reported there had been an uptick of vehicle break-ins in Allegan County, with a couple isolated incidents in the City's parks. He reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and never leave valuables in a vehicle. He also noted that today was National Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Day, and stated that he appreciated every law enforcement officer working.

Clerk Fenger reported working on prepping for 2023 by moving all 2022 records to storage and organizing the election paperwork and equipment.

Manager Wilson reported showing the Mill property to 3 prospective businesses, and noted that all approved electrical work had been initiated, with parts ordered and work expected to begin soon.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that Otsego Township has their well pump house built, however all instruments still need to be installed. He estimated it would take another 2 months of work to complete, during which time the township would still need to purchase water from the city.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski said hats off to Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley for another outstanding audit. He also thanked Community Development Manager Siegel for coming in on a Saturday for the open house at 143 Tattoo.

Councilmember Keeney wished everyone a Happy New Year.

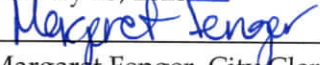
Councilmember Steele thanked Community Development Manager Siegel, and noted that 143 Tattoo was really nice inside. She also thanked Councilmember Wisnaski for coming to the open house. She thanked Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley for being embarrassed during the audit presentation, and noted that the auditor clearly thought the world of him, so he shouldn't be embarrassed about the praise. She also thanked all law enforcement officers.

Councilmember Overhuel told Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley good job on the audit, and noted that he wasn't surprised one bit by the auditor's praise of Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley. He noted that Community Development Manager Siegel, Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and Cory Redder along with the other Parks & Trees Commission members had put in a lot of effort on the Recreation Plan and thanked them for their hard work.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Margaret Fenger
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
January 23, 2023


Margaret Fenger, City Clerk