

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
November 28, 2022

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. No invocation was given.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Current City Council:
 - A. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Keeney.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to excuse Councilmember Keeney from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 11/14/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Fenger presented the report from the Allegan County Board of Canvassers certifying the results of the November 8, 2022 General Election with Brad Keeler, Roger Keeney and Randy Wisnaski each elected to a 4 year term expiring in 2026.
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept the report of the Allegan County Board of Canvassers as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. Public Comment: None.
 - E. Comments from Councilmembers: None.
 - F. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting *Sine Die* at 7:02 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
5. New City Council:
 - A. Clerk Fenger administered the Oath of Office to Brad Keeler and Randy Wisnaski as Councilmembers.
 - B. Roll Call of New Council: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Keeney.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to excuse Councilmember Keeney from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Fenger stated that according to section 4.11 of the Plainwell City Charter, the vote for Mayor is public, and the term shall be for 2 years. She then opened the floor to nominations for the office of Mayor. Councilmember Overhuel nominated Councilmember Keeler. Councilmember Steele nominated Councilmember Steele. Hearing no other nominations, Clerk Fenger closed nominations.
On a roll call vote, Councilmembers Keeler, Overhuel and Wisnaski voted for Councilmember Keeler, and Councilmember Steele voted for Councilmember Steele. By a vote of 3-1, Councilmember Keeler was elected Mayor.
Clerk Fenger administered the Oath of Office to Brad Keeler as Mayor.
 - D. Clerk Fenger stated that according to section 4.11 of the Plainwell City Charter, the vote for Mayor Pro Tem is conducted the same way as the vote for Mayor. She then opened the floor to nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Overhuel nominated Councilmember Steele. Hearing no other nominations, Clerk Fenger closed nominations.
On a roll call vote, all voted for Councilmember Steele. By a vote of 4-0, Councilmember Steele was elected Mayor Pro Tem.
Clerk Fenger administered the Oath of Office to Lori Steele as Mayor Pro Tem.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Clerk Fenger returned the meeting to Mayor Keeler at 7:09pm.

E. Public Comments: None.

F. Comments from New City Council:

Councilmember Overhuel congratulated Councilmembers Keeler and Steele for returning to their roles as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for another term.

Councilmember Steele thanked everyone.

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Councilmembers Keeler and Steele for returning to their roles as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. He stated that he was thankful to be back for another term as Councilmember.

6. County Commissioner Report: None.

7. Agenda Amendments: None.

8. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler reported that Bill Bomar's mother had passed recently and offered condolences to the family for their loss. He also reported that a North Main Street business owner had complained that another business owner was parking illegally in the handicap space, and customers were unable to use it.

Manager Wilson noted that he had recently received a report from the engineer with recommendations for improvements to the handicap parking areas in the city. He stated that he would be reviewing the report and discussing the recommendations with Superintendent Nieuwenhuis. Manager Wilson also noted that there had been law enforcement activity in the downtown area parking lots.

9. Recommendations and Reports:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the public hearing at 7:14pm to hear comments regarding the transfer of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption to VDI Manufacturing LLC. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Jeff Becker, VDI Manufacturing owner, introduced himself and his business. He noted that he had been considering expanding his business in Kalamazoo, but instead was able to purchase the property here for roughly the same cost as expanding in Kalamazoo. He stated that his business has been operating for 7 years and does injection molding for a variety of businesses.

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley noted that the current Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption was granted in 2015 to Perceptive Industries, and expires in 2027. He noted that while VDI Manufacturing is reapplying, since the previous business closed, the transfer is allowable under Michigan tax law. He also noted that he had contacted the State of Michigan regarding the transfer, and they advised that the request would be approved at the December meeting of the Tax Board, so there would be a seamless transfer for the tax bills.

Councilmembers asked if he would keep the Kalamazoo location in addition to the Plainwell location, when he planned to move in to the new building and whether he planned to hire any new workers.

Mr. Becker stated that he would be moving his entire business to Plainwell, and his manager was already working to move everything. He hoped to be in and operational around December 14-16, 2022. He also noted that currently he has 17 employees, and 5 are Plainwell area residents. He does not expect to hire immediately, however as his business grows, he expects to be able to hire more employees.

Mr. Becker noted that he was excited to be in Plainwell, and that VDI Manufacturing is a 3rd party certified veteran-owned business.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

No Public Comment.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to close the public hearing at 7:23pm. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Transfer to VDI Manufacturing, LLC. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

B. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to set a public hearing for 7:00pm on January 9, 2023 to allow all interested parties to express their views prior to adoption of the proposed recreation plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. Superintendent Pond reported that the existing plug valves in the digester tanks were becoming worn and needed to be replaced. He noted that they could only be replaced while the tanks were taken out of service and cleaned, which would be scheduled soon. He also noted that Kennedy Industries is a sole source vendor for the replacement plug valves.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a purchase from Kennedy Industries for the purchase of 7 new Dezurik Plug Valves in the amount of \$11,419.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

10. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the draft 11/16/2022 Planning meeting minutes and the draft 11/17/2022 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

11. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$66,365.62 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Public Comments: Caleb Gilkison, Councilmember Wisnaski's grandson, said "Go Blue!"

13. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley congratulated the new Councilmembers. He noted that the 2022 Winter tax bills will be mailed on Wednesday, and will be due February 14, 2023. He also noted that he would be working with each department on their CIP projects and budget requests as part of the revamped budget process.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported both trucks would be going in Wednesday; one to start the previously approved repairs and one to get a quote for repairs. He welcomed VDI Manufacturing and congratulated the new Councilmembers. He noted that DPW has been busy working on Christmas decorations and preparation for Christmas events.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that she was all about Christmas right now. She noted the tree lighting would be Friday, and invited the Councilmembers to ride on the horse-drawn wagon with Santa. She noted that since the sound system hadn't been installed yet, BC Sound would provide a loaner system for the tree lighting ceremony. She reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new business, Bushel and a Peck, would be Friday at 4pm and invited the Councilmembers to attend. She stated that there was a record turnout for Black Friday and Shop Small Saturday at the downtown businesses and the Indoor Market. She

noted work was continuing on the Recreation Plan and the Master Plan. She also welcomed Jeff Becker and VDI Manufacturing to Plainwell.

Superintendent Pond reported that when the State and Federal government raised the plant to a higher rating, the testing requirements also increased. He reported that all tests came back acceptable with the exception of the chlorine, which had to be retested. He noted that the third chlorine test came back as acceptable and all tests were at 100% acceptable, and the report stating such was filed last week.

Director Callahan welcomed Jeff Becker and VDI Manufacturing, and congratulated the new Councilmembers. He offered his condolences to the Bomar family. He noted the department was prepping for the Christmas events coming up, including the tree lighting and parade. He also noted that Jeff Welcher's son is still progressing well, and was able to walk two laps unassisted recently.

Clerk Fenger congratulated the new Councilmembers. She noted that elections would be changing for 2024 with the passage of Proposal 2 mandating nine days of early voting, and the elections budget would need to increase to support the changes.

Manager Wilson welcomed Jeff Becker and VDI Manufacturing. He also noted that he was working on finding a new location for a retreat, and asked everyone to start thinking of dates that would work for a one-day retreat. He thanked DPW for their work on Christmas decorations and noted that the town is really inviting thanks to their hard work.

14. Council Comments:

Mayor Keeler stated that since Commissioner Dugan was not present to make his comments earlier in the meeting, but was able to attend later in the meeting, he would like to allow him to speak before Councilmembers made their comments.

Commissioner Gale Dugan thanked Mayor Keeler for the opportunity to speak, and congratulated all the re-elected Councilmembers. He provided updates on various projects and grants the County was working on, and noted that the Board of Commissioners had scheduled their organizational meeting for January 25, 2023. He reported that the broadband infrastructure project had been awarded to 123Net, and they planned to complete the entire project within 18 months, working from east to west across the county. He also reported on the changes made to the commissioners' pay, and noted that it took effect for 2023. He wished everyone seasons greetings and a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Overhuel congratulated everyone who was re-elected. He thanked Jeff Becker for choosing to move his business to Plainwell, and said he thought they would like it here. He also thanked the staff for their hard work, and noted that it was easy to forget how beautiful it is in the City when you look at it every day.

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated everyone who was re-elected and stated that he was happy to be back. He congratulated Commissioner Dugan on his re-election. He welcomed Jeff Becker and VDI Manufacturing, and stated that he wanted them to feel free to come to the City with any concerns or issues they have, as we want them to succeed.

Councilmember Steele congratulated everyone who was re-elected, and welcomed Jeff Becker and VDI Manufacturing. She thanked DPW for their help last week in a sad situation with a loose dog. She also said she had a wonderful time shopping during Small Business Saturday and noted that all the businesses were packed.

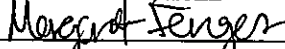
15. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Margaret Fenger
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 2022



Margaret Fenger, City Clerk