

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
April 27, 2020

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Application.
2. Terry Steele gave the invocation.
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/Summary:
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 04/13/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comments: None.
7. County Commissioner Report:
County Commissioner Rick Cain reported there is much work being done by the Health Department, among others. He gave an update on recent news reports about a large number of positive COVID tests at a local commercial facility, noting that the Health Department continues to identify the specific sources of the infection.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler is anxiously awaiting spring weather.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Treasurer Kelley reported having surveyed several municipalities around the state, most of which have opted to waive utility billing late fees and shut-offs during this health crisis. The resolution under consideration was offered by the City Attorney to meet compliance with the city's water and sewer ordinances as a formality to allow for the waiver of the penalties for April and May 2020.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2020-11 to temporarily suspend the collection or implementation of late fees on water/sewer accounts for April and May 2020 due to COVID-19. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Director Bomar reported damage to four (4) public safety patrol vehicles and one (1) public works vehicle during the April 7, 2020 hailstorm. The insurance adjustor on April 10 reviewed the claim for H&H Auto Body to do the work. To date, the city has received insurance proceeds of \$14,683.72.
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve the repair of four (4) Public Safety vehicles and one (1) Public Works vehicle damaged during the April 7, 2020 hail storm, with H&H Auto Body at a total estimated cost of \$18,282.38, paid for by the city's liability insurance. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

C. Treasurer Kelley reported that the City Assessor's contract expires on April 30, 2020. The current contract is recommended to be extended for another three-year term with the first year being paid at the current rate, with regular increases in year 2 and 3 of the contract.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve a three-year contract with Michael Richmond for Assessing Services beginning May 1, 2020. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

D. Community Development Manager Siegel reported allowable expansions to the city's Revolving Loan Program to allow loans for certain working capital needs during times of national disasters. These new loans would be slightly limited compared with the current rehabilitation loans included in the Program. The proposed changes have been agreed to by the USDA, the original grantor that established the Program.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to approve modifications to the city's Revolving Loan Program to include loans for business working capital loans during the time of national disaster. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

11. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the February 2020 Public Safety Report and the March 2020 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all 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 \$51,964.64 for payment of same. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported a successful street sweeping last week and successful hydrant flushing earlier on Monday the 27th.

Superintendent Pond reported status quo at the plant, with staff working every day to meet operational standards.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported having learned of two (2) businesses that have permanently closed – Aubree's and Highland Ridge. She noted having been in touch with other businesses on a weekly basis. She noted whether the Memorial Day Parade would be canceled.

Public Safety Director Bomar thanked the Martin and Gun Plain Fire Departments for their assistance at the Tuesday April 21 fire on Hicks Street. He reported that court will be resuming soon on a virtual platform. There was discussion about the parks and whether they would be opened - Council recommended the parks remain closed until the Stay At Home Order is lifted. Complaints about gatherings in the park will continue to be investigated at the officer's discretion, but everyone seems to be listening to the warnings to disburse.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported working on the budget, considering operational changes for if the city opens back up to the public, and starting work on the August election.

City Manager Wilson gave an update about making an application to the State Historic Preservation Office as part of the Mill Demolition Grant. He noted reviewing available grants as relates to industrial park road improvements. He noted that the City Attorney is currently reviewing the Mill Demolition contract. He also discussed the easement negotiations with Consumers Energy. The current draft easement includes a large swath of land with several restrictions that could impede future development. Manager Wilson suggested delaying the work until a developer could have input on the easement and the improvements to the development. Council agreed. Finally, Manager Wilson hinted that the budget could show some lean times coming.

15. Council Comments:

Each Council Member thanked Public Works and Public Safety for continued professionalism and hard work during this public health crisis and with the recent fire.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
May 11, 2020



Brian Kelley