

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**October 10, 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. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Keeney, Councilmember Overhuel, 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 09/26/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Presentation – *2022 Chris Haas Volunteer of the Year Award*  
Joe Gross, Ransom District Library Director, read his letter nominating Sandy Stamm to receive the award. The Haas family presented Sandy Stamm, library volunteer & Plainwell historian, with the 2022 Chris Haas Volunteer of the Year Award.
8. County Commissioner Report: None.
9. Agenda Amendments: None.
10. Mayor's Report: None.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. **A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to open a Public Hearing at 7:09pm to hear comments regarding the zoning variance application for 371 12<sup>th</sup> St Parcel A. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

Community Development Manager Denise Siegel reported on the planned construction for 371 12<sup>th</sup> St Parcel A.

Manager Wilson spoke regarding the issue of a variance approval weakening the existing ordinance, and noted that the city's planner felt the better course of action would be to amend the ordinance.

*No public comment.*

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Keeney, to close the Public Hearing at 7:16pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to deny the zoning variance application and direct staff to amend the zoning ordinance to accommodate the proposed changes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

B. Community Development Manager Siegel reported on the rental rehab project for 112 N. Main Street. She noted that while the city is a pass-thru for the grant money, none of the cost associated with the grant is held by the city. The grant funding covers the majority, and the remainder is paid by the property owner. **A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve all spending and contracts associated with the rental rehab CDBG grant for 112 N. Main Street. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported on the previous contract for elevator inspection and maintenance, and noted that the previous contract holder, Otis, had canceled the contract. Three companies were contacted and one provided a bid for the inspections and maintenance. Great Lakes Elevator provided the bid, and noted that they needed to inspect the elevators prior to any work being done. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that without completing the inspections and repair work for the freight elevator, the grandfathered status would be lost, and a new elevator would cost around \$200,000. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to approve a contract with Great Lakes Elevator in the amount of \$6,500 for the annual and three year inspections and \$650 for quarterly inspections. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

D. Manager Wilson reported on the issues between Melching, Inc and one of the subcontractors, Division 7, and explained the how the situation affected the city. He noted that resolving the issue might include paying the subcontractor for the outstanding invoices in order to ensure the city received the lien waivers and the roof warranty. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to authorize the City Manager to collaborate with the City Attorney to resolve the issues with Division 7 and Melching, Inc related to the roof work, including the final lien waiver and warranty. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Communications:

A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the September Investment and Fund Balance reports, and the September DPS Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$216,608.13 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

14. Public Comments: Todd Smits, 140 N. Sherwood Ave, asked when the crosswalk for Sherwood Ave was going to be installed. He also mentioned that the radar speed sign on Sherwood Ave had what looked like glitches happening where it reset itself and did not function correctly.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis stated that they had the equipment for the crosswalk and were working to get a location set and the equipment installed.

Director Callahan noted that he had been concerned about the radar speed signs, and had attempted to reset them himself without success. He stated that he would get in contact with the manufacturer to resolve the issue.

15. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley reported that he was wrapping up the audit and starting the next budget process.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that loose leaf pickup had started today.

Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported that the foreman's job had been posted internally, and one candidate had been identified. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and Personnel Coordinator Kersten planned to review the candidate qualifications this week.

Community Development Manager Siegel invited everyone to attend Personnel Manager Lamorandier's retirement open house being held this Friday from 3-6pm in the Council Chambers, with a party to follow at the Mayor's Joint at 6:30pm. She reported that the scarecrow contest started today with votes coming in via Facebook. She reported that Vanna had been abducted from one of the entries, and Perfect Image's cameras caught the incident. A Vanna had also been abducted from a similar contest in Portage around the same time. She noted that there were a lot of events coming up this weekend, including Pumpkins in the Park, trick or treating, motorcycle trunk or treat, and the Arts & Eats tour, which Barbed Wire Café and Bridge Street Gallery were participating in. She also reported that the rental rehab project for 112 N. Main Street was underway, and the Community Recreation Plan and Master Plan were slated for completion on time, with rough drafts planned for the end of the year.

Director Callahan reported that he had found a great deal on tires for the patrol cars. The State of Michigan removes all the tires from their new patrol cars and replaces them with a different brand they prefer, and sells the factory original tires cheaply. He was able to get 5 sets of brand new tires for the patrol cars for \$500 total, when normally the tires are around \$450 per tire.

Clerk Fenger reported continuing work to prepare for the upcoming November 8, 2022 general election. Just over 500 absent voter ballots have been sent out, with just under 100 returned, and 12 new election workers have been scheduled for training.

Manager Wilson reported that he had some upcoming plans for staff reorganization to discuss with the Council soon. He noted that the plans involved improving operations and his future at the city.

16. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel stated that the staff has been doing a great job. He also noted that "Sandy" is a name that helps Plainwell, since both Sandy Stamm and Personnel Manager Sandy Lamorandier are so dedicated to the city.

Councilmember Steele congratulated Sandy Stamm. On a personal note, she thanked Sandy for being there for her, and pushing her when she needed it.

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Sandy Stamm and wished Personnel Manager Lamorandier good luck in the future.

Councilmember Keeney congratulated Personnel Manager Lamorandier, and noted that he was saving his big speech for the party on Friday. He also congratulated Sandy Stamm.

17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Margaret Fenger  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

October 24, 2022

*Margaret Fenger*

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Margaret Fenger, City Clerk