

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
February 23, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Ken Fritz 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.
Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 02/09/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment:
 - A. Darius Grigaliunas, owner of Classic Auto Mill, stated that contractors and materials to begin work on the Mill Buildings will arrive soon, and shared how excited he and his family are to be in Plainwell and part of the community.
 - B. Tom Siver introduced himself, sharing that he is running for District Judge of Allegan County.
7. County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan county.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the Agenda for the February 23, 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 an opening on the DDA Board for a partial term ending June 30, 2026. Appointments to Boards and Commissions are made by the Mayor, and subject to confirmation from City Council.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the Mayor's appointment of Rimante Grigaliunas to the DDA Board. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten discussed a Small Business Revolving Loan Application. The City of Plainwell, using grant funds awarded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), offers a Revolving Loan program to qualifying small businesses within the City. This program provides low-interest loans to help finance building improvements, support job creation, and promote long-term business success. An applicant's ability to repay the loan, available collateral, proposed use of loan proceeds, and the public benefit are all to be considered when reviewing the application for approval.
Drew Doster and Molly Allen-Doster, owners of Doster Real Estate, have applied for a \$10,000 loan with the intention of making improvements to the property located at 145 E Bridge Street, which they plan to later open as Doster Brewing. City Staff and the DDA Board have reviewed and recommend approval of the loan
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the Small Business Loan Application from Doster Real Estate in the amount of \$10,000. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Clerk Leonard discussed Special Event Permit 2026-02 for the Plainwell Community Easter Egg Hunt to be held Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Brook's Plaza, Hick's Park and a small section of W. Bridge St and Special Event Permit 2026-03 for the Memorial Day Parade which begins at 11am on Monday, May 25, 2026 on N. Anderson St and ends at Hillside Cemetery.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, approving Special Event Permits 2026-02 and 2026-03 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

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D. Director Callahan discussed the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), and how adopting it would benefit the City and provide a better platform for Ordinance enforcement.

11. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the January 2026 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports, the 01/13/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 11/05/2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Green, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$889,008.58 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

A. Benedictus Grigaliunas shared how happy he was for his family to have the opportunity to work with Plainwell.

14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis asked Tom Siver how he would handle blight enforcement as an Allegan County Judge. Tom responded he would use Plainwell's Code of Ordinances to address blight issues.

Superintendent Keyzer reported a frozen sludge line that broke upon thawing and needs to be replaced.

Director Callahan discussed a juvenile at Plainwell Schools who had been apprehended after firing a water pellet gun on school grounds.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report.

15. Council Comments:

A. Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked Bob and the DPW staff for filling a pothole on Sherwood St.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Green, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 09, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk