

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**September 25, 2023**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Peter Dams of Lighthouse Baptist Church gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, Councilmember Wisnaski and Councilmember Keeney. Absent: Councilmember Overhuel  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to excuse Councilmember Overhuel from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
5. Approval of Minutes:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the September 11, 2023 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None
7. Presentation:  
Public Safety Director Callahan commended Public Safety Officers: Varley, Rantz, Pell, Culver, and Welcher.  
Man With a Gun: On February 15th, 2023 Officers were dispatched to the area of Bridge Street and Sunset for a report of an Adult Foster Care resident armed with a gun. Staff called to report that the resident had pointed a handgun at staff with his finger on the trigger and was now outside. Officers arrived and set up a hasty perimeter. Officers approached from different angles and gave loud repetitive verbal commands to drop the gun while talking with the subject. One of the officers deployed the ballistic shield and they were able to get the subject to drop the gun. The subject was taken into custody. The weapon was found to be a bb pistol. The subject did have another firearm in his room at the facility that resembled a disassembled Glock 19.

Public Safety Director Callahan commended Public Safety Officer Bruce.

Crime Ring: On May 21st, 2023 Officers were dispatched to the area of Meijer. A caller reported that several subjects had pushed out a large amount of alcohol and other items in shopping carts from Meijer. The suspect vehicle was reported as a grey van with no license plate. PSO Michael Bruce located the vehicle on M89 headed into Plainwell and turned around on it. He activated his lights to attempt a traffic stop as it pulled into the Admiral gas station and stopped. As PSO Bruce exited his patrol vehicle the driver fled. The suspect fled and jumped on US 131 headed south into Kalamazoo County. As the vehicle entered Kalamazoo City the pursuit was terminated. In driving around the immediate area PSO Bruce was able to locate the suspect vehicle but it was now empty. Two subjects were quickly located and taken into custody which

resulted in identification of the other two subjects. The other two subjects were located by MSP later in the evening and taken into custody after doing the same thing in Van Buren County.

8. County Commissioner Dugan gave information on the Allegan County budget, the search for a 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit court judge and support staff, new vests purchased for the Sheriff's department and a commercial washer and dryer provided to the Allegan County Animal Shelter.
9. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the September 25, 2023 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
10. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler thanked DPS for all they do to keep Plainwell a safe community. He offered condolences to the family who lost a child to a farming accident recently.
11. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. City Manager Lakamper provided Council with his recommendation to set a Public Hearing.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to set a Public Hearing for October 23, 2023 to consider a Commercial Rehabilitation Tax Exemption request. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. Public Safety Director Callahan discussed the sale of the 2015 Ford Interceptor. This service vehicle was replaced with a Chevrolet Tahoe, and is no longer viable for department use.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the sale of the 2015 Ford Interceptor. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. Public Safety Director Callahan discussed the purchase of new equipment for the DPS.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to approve the purchase of pistols, red dots, and holsters using forfeiture and evidence room funding. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - D. Community Development Manager Siegel shared the Commercial Rehabilitation Application Checklist.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the internal Commercial Rehabilitation Application Checklist for use. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - E. Finance Director Kelley discussed Resolution 2023-30, a house keeping item which updates retirement plan trustees.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to approve Resolution 2023-30 naming Justin Lakamper and Brian Kelley as trustees for the City of Plainwell 401a and 457 Retirement Plans as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

- F. Community Development Manager Siegel discussed Wayfinding signs.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the purchase of five Wayfinding signs from Signcrafters, LLC for \$6550.00 using funds provided by the DDA. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
- G. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and City Manager Lakamper discussed installation of new water meters and service line surveying throughout the city by ETNA Supply. Resolution 2023-31 allows ARPA funds to be used for payment.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept the quote from ETNA Supply for installation of new water meters with radio end points city wide, including lead service identification and cross connection surveys in residential buildings for \$173,590.00 and to adopt Resolution 2023-31 to allocate the city's ARPA Fund Allotment to fund the Water Meter Replacement Project. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
- H. Superintendent Pond discussed replacement of Bio-bed Material. The material has a projected life span of 5 years, and was last replaced in 2017. This is a budgeted item.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve contracts with Renewed Earth, Advanced Hydrovac Inc. and Superior Groundcover Inc. for \$28,126.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Communications:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the August 2023 Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal Monthly Reports, the draft September 12, 2023 DDA/BRA/TIFA Meeting Minutes and the draft September 14, 2023 Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes. On a voice vote, all voted 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 \$128,459.59 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

14. Public Comments: None

15. Staff Comments:

Finance Director Kelley had nothing to report.

Personnel Coordinator Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis stated that hydrant flushing will began Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2am and continue until 10am. He noted that there was be some water discoloration noticed during this time.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that two new businesses are coming to downtown Plainwell. She noted that this Thursday is the last day for the outdoor Farmer's Market, and that there were five merchants in attendance at the Merchant's Meeting.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

City Clerk Leonard stated that a new tabulator had been purchased in support of early voting.

Public Safety Director Callahan discussed the new DPS Rescue Boat, providing a picture and giving details about the jet engine and shallow water performance. He shared that the DPS had hosted an event for ~30 Cub Scout Troop 3024 members, providing the Cub Scouts with the opportunity to see fire trucks, police cruisers and attend a fire safety presentation. Several local departments brought vehicles and equipment for the Troop to interact with.

City Manager Lakamper shared that the Nobis land purchase is wrapping up this week. He stated that he had received approval for the EGLE loan increase, which will allow Taplin to begin work on lead abatement at the Mill. He commended the DPW, who cleaned up the Riverwalk stairs and planted butterfly bushes. There were four statues donated to the City that will be placed soon.

16. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski thanked DPS for their efforts and community service.

Councilmember Keeney thanked DPS for their service.

Councilmember Steele thanked DPS for their service to the community.

17. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
submitted by,  
Ginger J Leonard  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
October 09, 2023

  
Ginger J Leonard, City Clerk