

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**January 27, 2020**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Steve Smail from Lighthouse Baptist Church gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Councilmember Overhuel and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Steele and Councilmember Keeney.
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 01/13/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comments: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:  
Mayor Keeler distributed a thank you note received from the family of the fallen postal employee – the city had sent a card of sympathy after the last Council Meeting.  
  
Mayor Keeler showed Council a concept map plan for moving the power poles off the river through Pell Park to 75' off Allegan Street to the east side of Island Avenue, then northwest to the north side of Short Street behind Public Works. The city has been in discussions with Consumers about the route, saving the maple trees between Allegan Street and the Public Safety Building. The city is awaiting a quote from Esper Electric to bore electric lines from the new power pole locations to City Hall – it is unclear which pole would be the source of the City Hall lines. Consumers will pay for the tree removal and it is unclear who will pay for the electricity to City Hall. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Concept Plan and authorize the City Manager to continue finalizing the plan.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the power pole concept plan as presented and to authorize the City Manager to continue negotiations with Consumers and with Esper Electric. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Director Bomar reported that a patrol vehicle has been identified for purchase through the Macomb County State of Michigan Commodities Contract. The purchase was appropriated as part of the 2019/2020 budget and the department recommends purchasing a 2020 Ford Utility patrol vehicle from Signature Ford, to be outfitted with updated electronics upon delivery at additional costs. The existing patrol vehicle will be repurposed as a training vehicle and serve as a department backup.  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford Utility Patrol**

**Vehicle from Signature Ford for \$36,389.00 through the Macomb County State of Michigan Commodities Contract. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

- B. Mayor Keeler introduced Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried Crandall PC who presented the audited financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. Mr. Veldhuizen presented the city's financial statements received an "unmodified" opinion, meaning no material misstatements were noted, and no audit adjustments were made during the audit. He reported the city's financial position is sound for communities our size and that the audit revealed no deficiencies in internal controls which could be consider a material weakness. He reported that very few of their audit clients have no deficiencies, and that Plainwell is the only municipality that actually prepares their own financials, saving the city about \$5,000 in audit fees. He did note that the Water Fund available "fund balance" was below the threshold of having six (6) months of expenses in reserve and that the city may need to evaluate its rate structure. A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the audited financial statements for the City of Plainwell as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Communications:

- A. A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the December 2019 Public Safety Report and the December 2019 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

12. Accounts Payable:

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$257,593.38 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis thanked the Department of Public Safety for timely communicating the need for plowing during the recent snow event.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the building at 112 N Main Street had sold and will be the new home of Perfect Image Salon, upon renovation.

Superintendent Pond reported that the annual stormwater plan had been submitted to the State and that several maintenance efforts are underway, including cleaning all seven (7) lift stations.

Director Bomar thanked the Department of Public Works for their timely clearing of the Fire Department apron and for quick response to maintenance issues.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported the Absent Voter Ballots for the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary are now available and anyone needing a ballot can make application with the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel thanked Treasurer Kelley for his work on the audit.

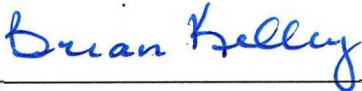
Councilmember Wisnaski shared concerns about complaints from the recent BRA/TIFA/DDA Meeting about landscaping and decorating around 140 S. Main Street. Community Development Manager Siegel suggested that she would check the Ordinances for what is allowed and will report back to Council.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
February 13, 2020



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Brian Kelley