

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
June 09, 2025

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Scott Fenner of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Wisnaski, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember 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 05/27/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner's Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the June 09, 2025 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 shared that several board members' terms end on June 30, 2025. Shas confirmed with each candidate their willingness to serve for another term. Appointments are made by the Mayor, and subject to confirmation from Council.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, confirming the Mayor's appointment of several community members to various Boards and Commissions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the water tower inspection by Dixon Engineering. Dixon Engineering put together a proposal for the City for the maintenance and repairs recommended following the inspection. Eight bids were received in total. Dixon Engineering recommends Fedewa Inc. for this project.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving a contract with Fedewa Inc. to complete the water tower painting and upgrades under the supervision of Dixon Engineering for the cost of \$84,499.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. City Manager Lakamper discussed the two developers interested in the Mill property. Both Allen Edwin Homes and Watts Homes and Construction presented concepts to Council in May. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will assist the City with this project.
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, instructing City Manager Lakamper to enter into negotiations to establish a development agreement with Watts Homes & Construction for the creation of a housing development on parcels 2 and 4 of the Mill property, and to negotiate the terms of conveyance for the same parcels. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
11. Communications:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the May 2025 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. On a voice vote, all voted 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 \$109,567.77 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
13. Public Comments: None.

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14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Interim Treasurer Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis congratulated Bryan Pond, stating that is had been nice working with him.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer stated the seal repair stopped the escape of methane gas, and thanked Bryan for training him over the past year.

Superintendent Pond shared that the last 30 years working at Plainwell have been great. He appreciated working with a Council and staff that were supportive of building and maintaining a water renewal plant and everything needed to operate it successfully. He is looking forward to retirement and moving up north.

Director Callahan reminded stated that Department Head meetings won't be the same without Bryan, and congratulated him on retirement. He shared that the Color Your World event hosted by Ransom Library was a success, with ~300 people attending. He reminded everyone to lock their cars doors, sharing that there had been a car stolen from Plainwell and recovered in Kalamazoo.

Clerk Leonard congratulated Bryan on his retirement, stating that he would be missed.

City Manager Lakamper thanked Bryan for planning his retirement ahead of time with the City, allowing for a year of training for Luke. He acknowledged Bryan's years of service, and wealth of knowledge. He gave an update on Building #2, stating that the insurance company wants to assess the roof before providing further information. He stated that Plainwell is actively seeking a Finance Director/Treasurer as well as a Downtown Development Manager.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked Bryan for everything he has done for the City, and said she appreciates him training Luke.

Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Bryan, and thanked him for his service. He shared that he is happy to be working with Watts Homes & Construction.

Councilmember Green thanked Bryan and wished him well in retirement.

Councilmember Keeney thanked Bryan, saying it has been a pleasure working with him.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
June 23, 2025



JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk