

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**June 24, 2024**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Brian Warren of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call:  
Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney 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 06/10/2024 regular meeting and the 06/18/2024 special meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment:  
Emily Jipp introduced herself and stated she is running for Circuit Court Judge.  
Marilyn Hess introduced herself and spoke in support of Alice Bernal, who is running for Circuit Court Judge.  
Judge Michael Buck introduced himself and also spoke in support of Alice Bernal.
7. County Commissioner Report: Commission Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
8. Agenda approval:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the Agenda for the June 24, 2024 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 stated that several board members' terms end June 30, 2024. She confirmed that these candidates were willing to serve another term. There are two new board members.  
**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, 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. Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley discussed amendments to the 2023/2024 City Budget, a housekeeping item accounting for budgetary shifts and/or projects from the previous yearly budget.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, approving budget amendments as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - C. City Manager Lakamper discussed water and waste water rates for the new budget year.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2024-13 to establish water and wastewater rates for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
  - D. Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley discussed recycling and bulk trash rates for the new budget year.  
**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to adopt Resolution 2024-14 to establish recycling and bulk trash rates for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

E. City Manager Lakamper discussed fines and fees for the new budget year, noting that fees/fines remain unchanged from the previous year.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adopt Resolution 2024-15 to set city wide general fines and fees beginning July 1, 2024 for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

F. **A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to open a Public Hearing at 7:30pm for consideration of the 2024/2025 City Budget. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

City Manager Lakamper gave a presentation on the 2024/2025 City Budget.

No public comment.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to close the Public Hearing at 7:38pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adopt Resolution 2024-16 General Appropriations Act and Resolution 2024-17 Special and Operating Funds Appropriations Act, approving the Plainwell City Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

G. Finance Director/Treasurer Kelley presented a listing of blanket purchase orders for approval for fiscal year 2025. These items are for previously approved contracts, sole-source purchases or blankets for reoccurring purchases of less than \$5,500 each to preferred vendors.

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve 24 confirming and blanket purchase orders for Fiscal Year 2025 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

H. City Manager Lakamper discussed health insurance options available to the City.

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to adopt Resolution 2024-18 approving the 80/20 Employer/Employee Health Care Cost Option for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

I. City Manager Lakamper discussed the sale of one acre of Mill property to local business owner David Steffens. David spoke to Council about his intention to build a new NAPA store, sharing some plans and ideas that he had. He stated that access to the new building would be off Island Ave.

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the sale of approximately 1 acre of real property as depicted in exhibit A of the purchase agreement with a permanent parent parcel ID# of 55-030-076-02 and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to enter into a purchase/sale agreement for the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute any documents or other agreements necessary to close on the sale of the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to take any steps reasonably necessary to effectuate the sale of the Property subject to this motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

11. Communications:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the May 2024 Department of Public Safety report, the draft 6/13/24 Parks & Trees meeting minutes and the draft 6/19/24 Planning Commission meeting minutes. 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 \$470,261.52 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments:

Elizabeth Peterson introduced herself and stated she is running for Circuit Court Judge.

Alice Bernal introduced herself and stated she is running for Circuit Court Judge.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

14. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley stated he is finishing up summer property taxes, and tax bills will be mailed soon.

Personnel Coordinator Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis shared the Old Orchard project is moving along well, and he is happy with the City flowers.

Community Development Manager Siegel stated that she continues to focus on necessary items for RRC certification for the City, and local event planning. She met with Comstock DDA members to discuss Plainwell's flower baskets and irrigation system across the local bridges.

Superintendent Pond introduced Deputy Water Renewal Superintendent Luke Keiser, who thanked the City for having him.

Clerk Leonard shared that her training last week went well, and she is looking forward to the August election.

Manager Lakamper thanked Finance Director/Treasure Kelley for his hard worked on the City budget. He shared that the William Crispe house sale is complete, and that Meszaros had inquired about utility connection for their building. He applauded Superintendent Nieuwenhuis for his efforts at the Old Orchard water main break that occurred earlier in the day, stating that Bob was neck deep in water, getting it repaired as quickly as possible. He discussed interest in selling Well 5 property, but noted an issue with deeded access.

15. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to meet in closed session as permitted under section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public employee if the named individual requests a closed hearing at 8:13pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to return to Open Session at 8:28pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

16. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-Tem Steele sends condolences to the Kuitert and Dee families.

17. Adjournment:

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
JoAnn Leonard  
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
July 8, 2024

  
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JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk