

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
August 21, 2019

1. Mayor Pro Tem Steele called the special meeting to order at 4:31 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Keeler, Councilmember Overhuel and Councilmember Keeney. Absent: None.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Action Items
 - A. Mayor Pro Tem Steele welcomed everyone in attendance and offered the candidates in attendance the opportunity to be heard. None of the candidates spoke at that time. She then asked Council for input on a process to narrow a field of nine (9) candidates for Council. Councilmember Keeler asked the candidates in attendance to introduce themselves. The candidates in attendance were Randy Wisnaski, Dennis Moore, Jason Byrd, Jay Lawson and Matthew Bradley. Councilmember Keeler noted he was surprised by having received 9 applications and that he'd read each application three times and was impressed with everyone's qualifications. Councilmember Overhuel asked the candidates if they had any questions for Council at this time. City Manager Wilson reported that the process was up to Council – they could vote to narrow the field, or they could interview the candidates, or make a motion to choose one – it really is up to Council.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Keeler, to take a vote for the top 5 candidates. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Kelley reported that each Councilmember had in front of them the listing of candidates in alphabetical order and asked that each Councilmember list the top 5, by number, and that he would gather the ballots and "score" them according to rank and report the top 5. Each Councilmember prepared the listing, folded the sheet and put in into a box. The box was then tossed by the Clerk and opened to reveal the votes. Upon tally, the Clerk informed Council that there was a tie for 5th place resulting in 7 candidates remaining in the race. Upon discussion, Council considered another vote to reduce the field more.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Keeler, to take a second vote to pick the top 3 candidates. After discussion and on a voice vote, all voted in opposition. Motion denied.

It was determined that the Council ranked the candidates in different ways during the first vote, which may have skewed the results. Additional discussion was made for how to "rank" the candidates. Council was asked to report "first choice" by their top candidate, "second choice" by their second candidate, and so on. Then the Clerk would assign a point value to each ranking – the "first choice" would receive 4 points, "second choice" would receive 3 points, and so on.

A motion by Keeler, seconded by Overhuel, to re-start the process and vote for the top 4 candidates using the point system explained. After discussion and on a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Kelley received the rankings from each Councilmember in the box, which was tossed and the results
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tallied. Each Councilmember appeared to have completed the rankings consistently. The top four candidates were reported in alphabetical order as Candidates Lawson, Sausaman, Whitney and Wisnaki. Council asked if there was a scoring gap amongst the top 4. Clerk Kelley reported that one candidate had received three "first place" rankings, so there was a gap between the top and the second-place scores. Council asked who the top 2 candidates were and Clerk Kelley reported them alphabetically as Lawson and Wisnaski.

Council then discussed how to proceed focusing on the top 2. Council discussed whether to meet again and, if so, when. Clerk Kelley reminded Council that there was an 18-hour requirement to post a Special Meeting, so Council could meet as soon as Thursday afternoon.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Overhuel, to interview the Top 2 Candidates at a special meeting of Council on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 6:30pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

5. Public Comments: None

6. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel thanked all the candidates for having applied and that everyone was qualified. He also challenged everyone to come to the Council Meetings.

Councilman Keeney also thanked the candidates for having applied.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked everyone who applied as well as those who thought to apply. She noted that the process has been hard and emotional for everyone.

7. Adjournment:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Keeler, to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
August 26, 2019


Brian Kelley, City Clerk