

**MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 13, 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 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 02/27/2023 regular meeting and the 03/06/2023 special meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Proclamations:

Mayor Keeler read the following proclamation honoring the Plainwell High School Wrestlers

WHEREAS, the hard work, dedication, sportsmanship, talent and exceptional team chemistry of the 2023 Plainwell High School wrestling team has enabled these student athletes to compete for and earn a State Championship title; and

WHEREAS, earning its way to the 2023 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 Semi-Finals in team competition brought honor to Plainwell High School and the City of Plainwell on the local and state; and

WHEREAS, six (6) individual wrestlers also earned their way to the 2023 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 Tournament, with four (4) of them placing in the finals; and

WHEREAS, Wrestlers Steele Madison and Austin Gyorkos qualified for states, Wrestlers Trammel Robinson and Avery Lynch placed 3rd in their weight classes, Wrestler Aiden Young placed 6th in his weight class, Wrestler Madison Nieuwenhuis earned the State Championship in her weight class and Head Coach Rodd Leonard was named All State Coach of the Year for Division 2;

WHEREAS, Head Coach Rodd Leonard and the entire coaching staff, team member parents, faculty and student body at Plainwell High School were integral in guiding the team to victory through their unwavering support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Keeler, Mayor of the City of Plainwell, do hereby recognize and heartily congratulate Plainwell High School and the 2023 State Championship Wrestling Team, Individuals and Coaches on their outstanding accomplishments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Brad Keeler, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the City of Plainwell, Michigan, on this 13th day of March, 2023.

Mayor Keeler then read the following proclamation dedicated to City Manager Erik Wilson

WHEREAS, Erik J. Wilson as hired by the Plainwell City Council as the City Manager on March 25, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Erik Wilson has faithfully served the City of Plainwell as the City Manager for the past twenty-one (21) years; and

WHEREAS, Erik Wilson's trailblazing visions have been a valuable asset to the Citizens of the City of Plainwell, the Plainwell City Council and to the City of Plainwell; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in many community endeavors including Southwest Michigan City Manager's Association, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Downtown Development Authority and the Plainwell Rotary; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in the development of the Plainwell Paper Mill, the New Public Safety Building, the Riverwalk, many road and sidewalk improvements, intergovernmental cooperation and always progressing forward to see that Plainwell is recognized as a positive, safe, caring community to live and work in; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2023, Erik Wilson attended his last meeting as City Manager for the City of Plainwell; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Plainwell, as an expression of thanks on behalf of the citizens of this City, commend Erik Wilson for his loyal and extraordinary service to the City of Plainwell; and we wish him well on his next endeavor as the Superintendent of Texas Charter Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread in full on the minutes of the March 13, 2023, meeting of the Plainwell City Council and a copy of this resolution and a Key to the City be presented to Mr. Wilson.

7. Public Comment: None.

8. County Commissioner Report: None

9. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the Agenda for the March 13, 2023 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

10. Mayor's Report: None.

11. Recommendations and Reports:

A. City Manager Wilson introduced Gerald Bentley, owner of Dean's Ice Cream who requested Council consider his special event permit to close North Sherwood on Monday evenings from April through October for car shows. He reminded Council that the 2022 events were mostly successful. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that new signs had been installed that could be folded over when not needed to close the road. Resident Jeff Lyons shared his concerns about closing the road, which inconveniences the residents when the cars could park across the trestle bridge.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve Special Event Permit 23-05 for Dean's Ice Cream as presented. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

B. Community Development Manager Siegel reported that construction work is coming along nicely for the rental rehab grant for work at 112 North Main. She reported the invoice due to the contractor and the pay request to the State of Michigan for reimbursement of the grant's share of the invoice.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to approve the invoice to Russell Construction in the amount of \$137,060.00 and Grant Disbursement Request #2 in the amount of \$104,220.00 for work on the Rental Rehab Grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. Manager Wilson shared his recommendations for spreading the work during the city manager absence, including having Brian Kelley and Bob Nieuwenhuis share the operational duties and Denise Siegel taking over on some of the projects. Mayor Pro Tem Steele reported the city needs to ask Wilson to come back for four (4) months and recommended a side agreement with Wilson. City Manager Wilson reported he planned to take the March 23 meeting for the Plainwell Dam No 2 project. Councilmember Keeney asked Kelley and Nieuwenhuis if they wanted the assignment. Mayor Keeler asked how they plan to cooperate. Keeney asked if Nieuwenhuis would have an office area in City Hall. Manager Wilson noted that Kelley and Nieuwenhuis asked for additional leave times and Siegel asked for additional leave plus a stipend. A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to appoint Brian Kelley and Bob Nieuwenhuis to Interim City Managers effective March 17, 2023, until a new city manager is seated, with compensation packages adjusted as outlined. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve the concept to hire Erik Wilson as a consultant subject to an agreement to be confirmed at the March 27, 2023 Council Meeting. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the February 2023 Investment and Fund Balance reports. 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 \$237,344.10 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

14. Public Comments:

Sandy Lamorandier thanked City Manager Wilson for everything he has done.

15. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator Amanda Kersten reported that the Utility Billing Specialist position had been filled and the new person will start on March 27. She noted receipt of approximately 10 applications for City Clerk.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the Well 4 upgrades went well.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported that the sound system in Hicks Park had been successfully installed and sounds great.

Superintendent Pond reported that the Dystor tank cleaning started today and that residual monitor would be ongoing.

Finance Director/Clerk Kelley reported a successful 2022 tax settlement with County, noted preparing for the new hire, reviewing clerk applications and getting quotes for chores to improve operations.

All staff thanked Manager Wilson for everything.

Manager Wilson thanked Council and staff for a great 21 years.

16. Council Comments:

Each Councilmember congratulated the Plainwell Wrestlers and thanked Manager Wilson.

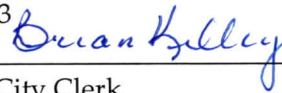
17. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

March 27, 2023



Brian Kelley, City Clerk