

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
May 13, 2024

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was given by Peter Dams 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 04/22/2024 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the Agenda for the May 13, 2024 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler offered condolences to the family of Jim Higgs, saying Jim will be sorely missed.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Community Development Manager Siegel introduced Larry Gonzalez, who discussed events and activities planned for the 2024 Island City Festival.
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve Special Event Permit 24-13 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Community Development Manager Siegel discussed a Special Event Permit 24-05 for the Memorial Day Parade.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve Special Event Permit 24-05 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open a Public Hearing at 7:12pm to allow comment on Old Orchard Special Assessment District 2024-01. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

City Manager Justin Lakamper and City Attorney Blake Conklin discussed Old Orchard Special Assessment District 24-01. A presentation was given with information on the \$7,500 proposed assessment amount, including how to object to the assessment, the annual payment amount, due date, interest rate and terms of repayment.

 1. Bob Munch of 114 Russet- Thanked Utility Billing Specialist Penny Soper for noticing a change in his water usage for the month and calling to let him know. He asked about redundant sewer lines, and how the plans had been reviewed, stating that 1.1 million seemed high for service to 57 homes. He asked if anyone had looked at the prints, and knew the per foot cost of sewer line installation.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

2. Gary Harris of 130 Glenview- Stated that he understands it's an improvement. He asked why funds weren't raised prior to the project to cover more of the cost, as opposed to making Old Orchard residents cover it. He stated that planning and foresight are lacking, and asked Council if they had experience running a project of this size. He asked about the 10% assessment change, and if that would require a Public Hearing. He asked if the public right of way began 35ft from the center of the street, and if his septic system or drain field would incur damage during construction. He asked if his driveway would be repaired. He objected to the assessment, preserving his right to appeal.
3. Linda Carribino of 115 Russet- Asked if she will be notified of when digging will begin on Russet Drive.
4. Marla Curtiss of 729 Glenview- Asked if she could work with the contractor and discuss placement of the lateral in her right of way. She shared that connection to city sewer from Cherrywood may be a more cost-effective option for her property.
5. Jim Bowers of 727 Glenview- Stated there is a manhole cover in front of his driveway, and asked if the system dead-ended there.
6. Cris Macklin of 808 Thomas St.- Asked if he could work with the contractor on lateral placement for his property.
7. Lauren Wilgenhof of 721 Thomas- Asked if she could move her lateral placement.
8. George Austin of 834 Thomas St- Asked why the project is happening now, and where tax money has gone. He stated he is an engineer who works on capital projects, and would like improved communication. He is concerned about the safety of kids and pets in the construction area. He objected to the assessment, preserving his right to appeal.
9. Bonnie Fowler of 710 Glenview- Asked if the City had applied for any grants and if so, which ones. She asked if lawns will be reseeded and repaired. She asked if a payment schedule will be mailed out, and if the interest rate is fixed. She asked where money for the new water lines was coming from.
10. Lori Steele of 324 S. Sherwood- Shared that she is a bus driver, and understands that construction is an inconvenience for everyone in the neighborhood.
11. Kyle Vankammen of 774 Glenview- Asked if Thurl Cook park will remain closed during construction. He asked if routine septic system maintenance and repair was permitted, and who, buyer or seller, would be responsible for the assessment fee if he were to sell his home.

City Manager Justin Lakamper, City Attorney Blake Conklin, Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineer Jeff Wingard, and Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis discussed Special Assessment District 24-01, answering property owners' questions when possible.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to close the Public Hearing at 8:18pm. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adopt Resolution 2024-12 (Resolution No. 5), to confirm the special assessment roll; specify that the Special Assessment constitutes a lien; and provide for the payment and collection of Special Assessments for the Old Orchard Special Assessment District 24-01. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- D. City Manager Lakamper discussed USA Earthworks LLC Pay Application #1 for work done on the Old Orchard Project.

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, approving USA Earthworks Pay Application #1 in the amount of \$173,898.72. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

- E. Director Callahan discussed necessary repairs to the generator and electrical and lighting systems on the 1997 HME Fire Apparatus.

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve repairs to the 1997 HME Fire Apparatus in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

11. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the April 2024 Investment and Fund Balance reports and the April Water Renewal report. 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 \$321,405.46 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley stated that he is working on the budget.

Personnel Coordinator Kersten had nothing to report.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis said that City flowers and hanging baskets were being put out over the next week.

Community Development Manager Siegel talked about the Farmer's Market and shared that Taplin was doing a great job on the lead abatement project on the Old Mill buildings.

Director Callahan stated that Public Safety had made the transition from Sig Saur pistols to Glocks.

Clerk Leonard shared that the May school election went well, stating that it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Election Staff and the community as a whole.

Manager Lakamper provided an update on the closing of the sale of the William Crispe House. He shared that the City had hired a Wastewater Deputy who will start soon and train with Superintendent Pond.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele offered condolences to the Higgs family, sharing that Jim was a wealth of historical information. She reminded everyone about the PHS pictures that currently are hanging in the Council Chambers.

Council member Overhuel offered condolences to the Higgs family, sharing a personal story about how Jim inspired him to work in radio by giving him his first radio job, and stating that he will be missed. He also shared that he feels for the residents in the Old Orchard during construction.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
May 28, 2024


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk