

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**October 28, 2019**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Scott Fenner from 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 Keeney, Councilmember Overhuel, and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 10/14/2019 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comments:  
David O'Bryant from 902 106<sup>th</sup> Ave. spoke to Council asking them to make permanent the marihuana opt-out.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:  
Mayor Keeler reminded everyone that the Mill was 18% of the city's tax base when closed and that Council has not raised taxes, nor substantially cut services, to offset that revenue loss. He also welcomed Island City Coffee.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. City Manager Wilson reported that the Planning Commission had a public hearing on October 16, 2019 to discuss options for marihuana ordinances. Several members of the area community spoke, mostly in opposition to the city "opting-in" to allow recreational marihuana establishments in Plainwell. After public and commissioner comments, the Planning Commission recommends the city continue to opt out of marihuana establishments in the city. The City Attorney opined that the city could repeal Section 57-4 of Ordinance 381 which asked the Planning Commission to come up with an ordinance if the city chose to opt in, as an action item to effectively opt out. There was much discussion that the action before Council applied to recreational marihuana establishments and was silent to medical marihuana, for which the city would have to affirmatively opt-in.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to approve Ordinance 384 continuing the city's opt-out for recreational marihuana until November 1, 2020. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
  - B. On behalf of Director Bomar, City Manager Wilson presented a report outlining an emergency repair to fire apparatus Truck E-11, which caused that unit to be out of service. The repair company, B&B Fire Service was able to repair the vehicle on-site and return it to service. The repair was authorized under the emergency provisions of the Purchasing Ordinance and, as such, requires Council confirmation.

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to confirm emergency repairs to the brake system for Truck E-11 from B&B Fire Service at a cost of \$5,598.17. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

- C. City Manager Wilson reported structural repairs needed in Mill Building #2 related to beam support of the roof. The repairs are still being scoped and priced, but are needed before any heavy snow load. The city believes the cost should not exceed \$12,540.00 and anticipates the cost could be included in the grant being applied for through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.**

**A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to approve a project to repair trusses in Mill Building 2 in an amount not to exceed \$12,540.00 and to amend the budget accordingly. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

- D. City Manager Wilson reminded Council that Well 5 was taken out of service in April 2018 as a result of state testing having shown trace levels of chemicals, well below state thresholds. Since this well was used only for backup and has not caused any water-flow challenges since being taken offline, the city recommends abandonment and decommissioning this well. Peerless Midwest has offered a quote of \$10,000.00, with other bids being sought.**

**A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Overhuel, to approve a project to decommission Well 5 at an anticipated cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**11. Communications:**

- A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the September 2019 Public Safety and Water Renewal Reports and the draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from 10/16/2019. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**12. Accounts Payable:**

**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$215,691.13 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

**13. Public Comments: None**

**14. Staff Comments:**

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the city has received approval for grant funding for repairs to the West Bridge Street bridge in the amount of \$262,510 and to the North Main bridge in the amount of \$295,900, with a 5% city match plus engineering. The work will update the façade of the bridges, as both are structurally sound. The work should be done during the 2022 construction season, but there is a possibility of the work being done in 2021. He also report that the final walk-through for the Sherwood Avenue project noted several items to be corrected by the contractor, mostly related to curb and storm drain work.

Community Development Manager Siegel gave a recap on recent weekend events and a report on upcoming events. She also identified a November 6 Public Hearing at the Planning Commission to discuss changes to the approval process for certain site plans.

Superintendent Pond reported the state having sampled effluent for PFCs. Two compounds were found to have extremely low levels of ng/l. These compounds are not regulated and, therefore, have no regulated limits. The findings appear immaterial given the 30 compounds tested.

Clerk Kelley reminded Council and the public that Election Day is November 5, 2019 and that polls will be open in City Hall Council Chambers from 7am until 8pm.

City Manager Wilson updated the Council on the grant application for the mill demolition given SHPO requests.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele asked that more gravel be placed on South Sherwood during construction.

Council Member Wisnaski reported a great turnout for Pumpkins in the Park.

16. Adjournment:

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Brian Kelley  
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

November 11, 2019



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Brian Kelley, City Clerk