

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
August 28, 2023

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Scott Fenner 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 Wisnaski and Councilmember Keeney.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment:
 1. Rob Ruimveld of 220 E Chart St. discussed the need for a designated student crossing at Hill St.
 2. Todd Smith, a city resident, discussed putting in a splash pad by the basketball courts at Dean's Park. He also noted an ordinance issue with a property near his residence.
7. County Commissioner Report: Gale Dugan gave an update on the remodeling of the Allegan County Courthouse, and noted some staff would be shifted to the Dumont Lake location. He stated that he spoke with Allegan County Clerk Bob Genetski concerning the nine days of early voting, and grant money that may be available to municipalities to offset some of the costs associated with implementation. He stated that Allegan County had set it's 2024 budget.
8. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve the Agenda for the August 28, 2023 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler offered condolences to the Harrington/Buxton families.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Water Renewal Superintendent Pond discussed the need for three new check valves at the Cushman Lift Station.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the purchase of three valves from JGM Valve GA Industries for the Cushman Street Lift Station for \$8,589.00. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Mayor Pro-Tem Steele asked Council to consider accepting photographs from The Foundation for the Preservation of the Plainwell High School Pictures for the years 1926-1968, as the Foundation had been dissolved.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, agreeing to retain, store and display the photographs from the Foundation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis informed Council of three pieces of equipment no longer in use, and asked permission to sell these items.

A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Keeney, to approve the sale of three pieces of unused equipment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

D. City Manager Lakamper discussed the need for a new vendor to complete the Paper Mill lead abatement project. The current company has stopped work, and quotes were solicited from two other companies.

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Keeney, to approve the contract with Taplin Group LLC to complete the lead abatement work on the mill buildings for \$116,264. 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 draft August 16, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, and the draft August 17, 2023 Parks & Trees 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 \$881,893.43 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments:

1. Rob Ruimveld thanked Community Development Manager Siegel for moving the Farmer's Market back to the parking lot in front of the old Paper Mill. He stated that attendance is up, and that he enjoys the food trucks being onsite.

14. Staff Comments:

Finance Director Kelley spoke about meetings he has attended with the 5 districts of Allegan County to discuss early voting implementation. He shared that Plainwell will need an additional tabulator, and that grant money may be available through Allegan County to help with costs. He shared that a Resolution covering early voting is being drafted. He offered condolences to the family of Nancy Lyons on behalf of the Election Committee of Plainwell.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis shared that a study had been done several years ago concerning a pedestrian crossing at Hill Street, and offered to share the study results with Rob Ruimveld. He thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and sharing their views.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported working on the lead abatement and dam projects, and waiting on funding for the fitness court.

Public Safety Director Callahan thanked the public for their input at the meeting.

City Clerk Leonard stated that she and Finance Director/Deputy Clerk Kelley are attending an all-day training event focused on early voting in Mount Pleasant on Wednesday, August 30th.

City Manager Lakamper shared that Williams & Works are handling the RFQ, and that it is moving forward. He stated that City Hall regular hours begin Labor Day, hours being Monday through Friday, 8am till 4pm. He noted that DPS received a free generator through a military surplus plan, and that string lights are going to be hung in Brook's Plaza. A downtown Social District is still under consideration.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Overhuel said that he is happy that the old jail is being discussed, and that the Frisbee Golf area is overgrown.


Mayor Pro-Tem Steele reminded everyone that school is in session, and reminded all that yellow bus lights mean caution/slow, while red lights mean stop.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
Ginger J Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
September 11, 2023


Ginger J Leonard, City Clerk