

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
March 09, 2026

11. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the February 2026 Investment and Fund Balance Reports. 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 616,557.36 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Coordinator/Deputy Treasurer Kersten shared that union contract negotiations with DPW and Water Renewal were off to a good start.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis stated he had a list of yards that have snow pile damage, and yard restoration can begin once there is no risk of snow. He sent out photos to Surf Net and 123Net showing things that will need to be corrected now that the snow has melted. He thanked the community for their support of his kids. He discussed tree stump grinding at Thurl Cook Park, stating that complete stump removal isn't possible as there are electric lines tangled in the tree roots.

Superintendent Keyzer reported the bearings on a pump has burned out and it needed to be repaired, and some piping needs to be replaced.

Director Callahan talked about accreditation for the DPS, happening in April. Public participation is encouraged. He discussed the gas leak in Wedgewood it was handled promptly and has been resolved.

Clerk Leonard stated she is preparing for Election season and will be reaching out to established Election workers and recruiting new workers beginning in April.

City Manager Lakamper discussed the demolition of Building 2, sharing that Darius had approached him to discuss purchasing building 2 as well, and remodeling it to remove the roof, fix the walls, and use it as additional storage space and outdoor space. Lakamper stated this is something that requires structural engineer review to see if it is possible. If it is possible, it might allow the City to keep some of the insurance money in the BRA account, which would be a bonus.

He gave an update on the river and dam project. This project has been ongoing for several years, with a goal of removing the three diversion dams and replacing them with fish ladders. The City has not been able to get permission to access the land by the dams from the property owners. Without owner permission, the project can't move forward. EGLE's safety division has conducted a study of the dams, which they will share at the 3/223/2026 Council Meeting. Basically, all 3 dams are in disrepair, and show evidence of undermining. If they fail, it is likely that contaminants will be released into the river. We have invited the property owners to this meeting, in hopes that they'll get a better idea of what will happen if the dams fail, and advantages of replacing them.

The City has received a court order allowing demolition of the remains of the burned residence on Mariette St. The update to IPMC code is still being worked on. The City also got a positive judgment against the house on Sherwood with the incomplete fence which will need to be removed.

Holiday Inn Express will be open for business later this month.

Lakamper shared that the new owners of the former Clark Gas Station have submitted site plans for demolition of the old building and construction of a new gas station, however, as this property is zoned CBD, gas stations are not an approved use. We are working with the City's Planning and Zoning firm on an Ordinance amendment that would allow them to construct a new gas station on the site. Lakamper congratulated Bob and his kids.

15. Council Comments:

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Steele congratulated Madison and Dylan and wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.
- B. Councilmember Keeney congratulated Bob and his kids.
- C. Councilmember Wisnaski congratulated Bob and his family.

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1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Scott Smail from Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Brad Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Lori Steele and Councilmembers Randy Wisnaski, and Roger Keeney.
Absent: Councilmember Cathy Green
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to excuse Councilmember Green from tonight's proceedings. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Meeting Minutes of the 02/23/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None
7. Presentation: Community Action of Allegan County.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, to approve the Agenda for the March 09, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed a purchase agreement with Plainwell Auto involving the sale of 1 acre of property on the Mill site for a new Plainwell Auto building. David has submitted concept plans for the new building, and those are part of this agreement. The City will pay for the survey
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, approving the sale of approximately 1 acre of real property of the parent parcel 55-030-076-01 to David Steffen for a price of \$40,000 per acre, subject to surveys, and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to enter into a purchase/sale agreement for the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute any documents or other agreements necessary to close on the sale of the property. Further authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to take any steps reasonably necessary to effectuate the sale of the property subject to this motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed the City's annual flower purchase from Zeinstra's Greenhouse. The DPW purchases flowers for display throughout the City in the warmer months, and has had great success working with Zeinstra's Greenhouse. They have provided Plainwell's flowers for the last several years. They begin growing flowers early, allowing the City to have larger, more mature plants with better blooms.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, approving the annual flower purchase from Zeinstra's Greenhouse in the amount of \$10,708.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis discussed lining a manhole on Naomi St. The City of Plainwell has an older sewer distribution system that needs reoccurring maintenance to stay operational. The manhole on Naomi Street has root intrusion that could impede the flow of the sewer. Lining this manhole will remove the existing roots and limit future root intrusion.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, authorizing Plummers Environmental Services to line one manhole on Naomi Street for a total cost of \$5,600.00.

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16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor.
Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 23, 2026



JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk