

**MINUTES**  
**Plainwell City Council**  
**May 24, 2021**

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Plainwell City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Shawn from Lighthouse Baptist Church gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: Councilmember Overhuel.  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to excuse Councilmember Overhuel with prior notification. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
5. Approval of Minutes:  
**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 05/10/2021 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None
9. Mayor's Report: Mayor Keeler shared that he and others were able to go visit Councilmember Overhuel recently, and that he looked really well.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
  - A. Community Development Manager Siegel reported receipt of a special event permit application for the Island City Festival on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and introduced Tracee Dunlop as the main organizer behind the event. The day will have numerous events taking place throughout downtown, and the request for several street closures, including North Main Street. With less revenue this year since the festival is unable to have a carnival, Tracee is requesting that Public Safety donates one police officer's time throughout the day, a cost that we usually bill the festival for.  
**A motion by Keeney, seconded by Steele, to approve both the Special Event Permit Application and the request to donate Public Safety's time for the Island City Festival. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**
11. Communications:
  - A. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to accept and place on file the April 2021 Public Safety Report. 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 \$27,975.16 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.**

13. Public Comments: None

14. Staff Comments:

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported continuing work with the new paving equipment this week. Flower planting is nearly complete. Most of the roofs throughout the city have been redone, including the airport, Public Works, Band Shell and others. The City Hall/mill roof is currently delayed as they found problems after removing the existing roof.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported working on a map of the downtown businesses that will go in a kiosk downtown. Concerts in the Park start at the Band Shell on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm and go throughout the summer.

Superintendent Pond reported on an issue with one of the three pumps at the Cushman Street lift station.

Public Safety Deputy Director Varley reported that crime is picking up as the weather gets warmer and COVID restrictions are loosened. We have put out advertisements for a part-time police officer and paid on-call firefighters, and have not received any applications for either. He is actively working on recruiting and finding potential candidates for both positions.

City Manager Wilson reported on several traffic concerns in Plainwell: completing the bike lanes on South Main Street while preserving street parking for the downtown business located on that block, residents' concerns about the 35mph speed limit on South Main that is in a residential area, and the safety of students crossing busy streets near the schools. With multiple concerns in the same area of town, Manager Wilson will seek prices for a traffic study. He also briefed Council on an issue with excess sediment in the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Dam being drained a year ago, as this may affect Plainwell in the future. He elaborated on the roof issue over City Hall and Building 11. These issues have nothing to do with the mill demolition or grant funding we have. We are submitting the unexpected roofing issues to insurance but do not know about coverage yet. Lastly, he brought up the news about the William Crispe House closing in June. Council members expressed disappointment about the closure and residents needing to move out. The City has heard from entities interested in the house, but commented that the City isn't in the position to make decisions about the future of the house until possession changes over in June.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Steele wished everyone a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

16. Adjournment:

**A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Minutes respectfully  
Submitted by,  
Julie Saukas  
Deputy City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

June 14, 2021



Brian Kelley, City Clerk