

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
August 24, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Invocation: Given by Peter Dams of 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 Cathy Green.
Absent: Councilmember Roger Keeney
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to excuse Councilmember Keeney 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 08/10/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Dugan gave an update on happenings throughout Allegan County.
8. Agenda approval:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve the Agenda for the August 24, 2026 meeting as presented. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
9. Mayor's Report: It's nice to see progress on the Mill after all these years. Darius is putting a lot of work into it, and it looks nice. I'll be curious to see what it looks like a year from now.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Lakamper discussed Special Event Permit application 2026-19 – Joe's Labor Day Bash.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve SEP 2026-19 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. City Manager Lakamper discussed Special Event Permit application 2026-20 – Plainwell Paper Mill Car Show.
A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve SEP 2026-20 as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - C. ^{The} Superintendent Keyzer discussed the purchase of a new 15HP Wilo pump for use at the Cushman Lift Station.
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Green, approving the purchase of a new Wilo pump from Jett Pump for the Cushman Lift Station at a cost of \$20,090.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - D. Superintendent Keyzer discussed electrical work needed on the stand-alone generator and the lift station panels to allow the generator to provide back up power at all five Lift Stations. The work will be performed by Esper Electric.
A motion by Green, seconded by Steele, approving electrical work on the stand-alone generator and pump station panels by Esper Electric at a cost of \$12,005.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - E. City Manager Lakamper discussed the proposed Concrete Redi-Mix Special Use Permit application and site plan for 830 Miller Road in Industrial Park. He stated that tonight would be a discussion only. This item has been tabled until the next Council meeting, which is on September 14, 2026. He then opened the floor for public comment.
 1. William McNair of 449 8th St. – spoke in opposition.
 2. Scott Sabin of 750 Miller Rd. – spoke in opposition.
 3. Robert Hollin of 777 Miller Rd. – spoke in opposition
 4. Jacob Mahoney of 789 Miller Rd. – spoke in opposition
 5. Stephanie Sabin of 750 Miller Rd. – spoke in opposition.
 6. Aaron Brazier of 325 8th St. – spoke in opposition
 7. Elizabeth Vanbruggen of 455 8th St. – spoke in opposition
 8. James Wheaton of 443 8th St. – spoke in opposition
 9. Beth Raich of 231 Gilkey – sought to address public concerns about the project
 10. Michelle Brazier of 235 8th St. – spoke in opposition
 11. Madison Topp of 341 8th St. – spoke in opposition
 12. Lori Steele of 324 S Sherwood – asked if traffic concerns had been shared with Gun Plain Township
 13. Matthew Bradley of 115 Walnut Woods – discussed rezoning the property to residential
 14. Louise Hondert of 386 8th St. – spoke in opposition

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15. Brad Keeler of 325 W First Ave. – discussed routing truck traffic through the Industrial Park
16. James Wheaton of 443 8th St. – discussed moving the location of the plant on the parcel
17. Terry Pickett of 124 Floral St. - encouraged Council to listen to the concerns brought up by Township residents.
18. Matthew Bradley of 115 Walnut Woods – noted that the time listed for the Parks & Tree meeting on 9/9/2026 was incorrect. The meeting begins at 5pm, not 4pm.

11. Communications:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the July 2026 Department of Public Safety Report, and the 07/14/2026 DDA/BRA/TIFA meeting minutes and the 7/14/2026 Parks & Trees meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Steele, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$1,162,182.87 for payment of the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Finance Director/Treasurer Wilcox stated that the outgoing payment amount was high because of property taxes being dispersed.

Deputy Superintendent Keyzer had nothing to report.

Clerk Leonard had nothing to report..

City Manager Lakamper shared that the sale of the Mill buildings to Classic Auto Mill was complete. Closing paperwork was signed on August 18, 2026.

He noted that the new playground equipment had been installed at Thurl Cook Park

He discussed an upcoming volunteer tree planting event being held on Saturday, October 10th, 2026. Consumer's Energy has donated 40 trees to Plainwell to replace some of trees lost in the storm in April.

He noted that the building sale to Mill 17 from GHD should be finalized mid-September.

15. Council Comments:

- A. Councilmember Wisnaski thanked the public for coming and commenting. He stated the concerns had been noted, and he is here to listen.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked DPW and WR for removing the diseased plants. She stated that the Council was here to listen. She noted that it is an Industrial Park, and any decision made would be a business decision, and is not personal.
- C. Councilmember Green thanked everyone who came to the meeting and expressed their opinion. That's what she thinks should be listened to when decisions are made. She shared her appreciation for them coming.

16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk