

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
May 26, 2020

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 PM on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Application.
2. Invocation was given by Terry Steele.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel (arrived at 7.02pm), Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 05/11/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comments: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report:
Mayor Keeler asked about golf carts around the City. Deputy Director Varley spoke to being aware of the complaints and that Public Safety is handling them. The only known "cart" allowed on city streets is the Public Works Gator used to water flowers around town.

Mayor Keeler is worried about the local businesses during this Covid crisis after the city had filled most of the spaces downtown. He asked Community Development Manager Siegel for a report. Three local business are known to have closed permanently; Aubree's, Highland Ridge and Abundant Living. Siegel reported that as much as 90% of the local businesses are open in some fashion with some opening up on May 29 or June 1. She gave a report on most of the businesses individually. She reported that most of the businesses are satisfied with a slow opening. She identified Calico Rabbit and Dance Kraze as the businesses struggling the most because of the higher traffic and less options for appropriate distancing.

10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. City Manager Wilson reported progress related to the Mill Demolition Project. He noted since the city has a 10% match and that given the current economic times, he recommends financing the city's obligation through a loan provided by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). The loan would carry a low interest rate and no required payments for five years. Before the city's application would be reviewed, the governing body would have to acknowledge acceptance of the loan through resolution. The draft resolution has been reviewed by the city attorney.
A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to adopt Resolution 2020-12 approving acceptance of a Brownfield Redevelopment Loan through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy for the Mill Demolition Project. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

City Manager Wilson went on to report progress on the Mill Demolition Project, for which the city has done all it can to this point. There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) being reviewed by a Native American Tribe in Wisconsin which has the right to review the demolition site. The MOA is needed before the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will grant final approval for the demolition of certain historically significant buildings, which is necessary for the responsible bidder to finalize plans for the demolition. The Project must start by July 1.

11. Communications:

A. **A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to accept and place on file the April 2020 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all 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 \$57,568.44 for payment of same. On a roll-call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Personnel Manager Lamorandier reported working on the budget revisions, COVID-related issues and other normal tasks.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that flowers are planted and staff has plans for watering and weeding.

Superintendent Pond reported additional operational capacity went well after the recent rains; the additional tanks came online as planned.

Community Development Manager Siegel asked the community do anything it can to support the local businesses. She did report that none of the businesses have applied for the city's Business Revolving Loan Funds. She identified restaurants that must have a re-opening plan to be approved by the Allegan County Health Department and was tasked to find sample plans to assist the local restaurants.

Public Safety Deputy Director Varley reported that staff members who may have been exposed to the virus, all tested negative. He reported having ample supplies of personal protection equipment, most at no cost to the city. He also expressed the department's gratitude to the community for ongoing donations of food and goodies.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported having provided a full draft budget to the City Manager for review. He reported that Absent Voter Ballot Applications will be delivered to all permanent-list voters on Friday, May 29 and asked that ANY registered voter who wishes to vote absentee to contact our office for an application. He also reported that nominating packets were delivered to Todd and Lori, whose seats are up for election in November – nominating packets are available through the City Clerk's Office for any citizen who is interested in qualifying as a candidate for City Council – the nominations are due back to the Clerk's Office by 4pm on Tuesday, July 21.

15. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele and Council Member Overhuel thanked the city staff and noted the struggles the local businesses are facing.

Council Member Keeney brought forth a suggestion from Nancy's Kitchen about hosting a community event in July at Kenyon Park to celebrate Mayor Brooks' birthday with a picnic and some softball/baseball. Council was enthusiastic about the plans and hopes it will all work out.

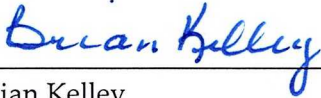
16. Adjournment:

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

June 8, 2020



Brian Kelley