May 22, 2023
City Council Worksession

A Worksession of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on May 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Colestock called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. Present were Mayor Colestock and Councilpersons Steele, and Nicholas. Robison and Politza were absent and excused.

Administrative Staff Present were City Manager Ridge, Clerk Boomer, Fire Chief McNutt, DPW Director Pierce, Police Chief Weeks, Building Official Hummel, and City Attorney Harkness.

Purpose of the meeting was a worksession. Notice of the meeting was duly given.

Mayor Colestock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comments:
Paul Malewski commented on water safety (CFS) gauge no longer in service. USGS is not replacing the equipment. He is reaching out to Rep. Slotkin to ask that the equipment be replaced. He may need City support for the request.

Unfinished and Special Business: None

New Business:
1. Building Official Hummel reviewed with Council a proposal to transfer land back to Hamlin Township. City Attorney Harkness advised the 425 Agreement would need to be amended. He will consult with Hamlin Township Attorney. Consensus was to proceed with proposal.
2. City Manager Ridge presented and reviewed with Council the 2023 Curb-Side Grant Program proposal. There has been some interest in the program. Discussed eliminating tier 1 and increasing tier 2 and 3 amounts to $1500 and $1000. Ridge and Hummel will administer the program.
3. City Manager Ridge provided Council with an update on various grants. CWSRF was approved. Others are in progress.
4. City Manager Ridge provided Council with an update on the Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget. The Finance Director is working on it. The Budget Public Hearing must be one week before adoption. Will have to schedule a special meeting on June 19th at 7:00 p.m.
5. City Manager Ridge provided Council with an update on the Treasurer/Finance Director. Rehmann work is going well. She interviewed one candidate today. Another withdrew.

Public Comments:

Ridge may be working more remotely due to family situation. She met with a new Downtown building owner to discuss grant opportunities.

Fire Chief McNutt thanked everyone for attending the award ceremony at Chamber of Commerce dinner.

Police Chief Weeks reported that he has been working with Greater Lansing Food Bank on a food distribution site in the City on a trial basis. They will hold food pick-up Saturday at Alumni Stadium parking lot.

Building Official Hummel provided an update on code enforcement, specifically RV parking enforcement.

City Attorney Harkness reported that he and Hummel are working on a draft noxious weeds/grass ordinance. He is also working on separating the water and sewer ordinances. He discussed shut off procedures with staff.

City Clerk Boomer provided an update on early voting implementation.

DPW/Utilities Director Pierce reported that tree trimming in the Downtown will resume tomorrow and then the lights will be installed.

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED, to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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Pamela Colestock, Mayor Laura Boomer, City Clerk