City Council Meeting
January 13, 2024

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on January 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Call To Order:

Mayor Colestock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, Councilpersons Malewski, Nicholas, and Loftus were present.

Invocation:

Pastor Jenny Rouble, from First Congregational Church provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded approving January 13, 2025, Council meeting agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the December 23, 2024, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded approving the December 23, 2024, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the December 23, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved and Nicholas seconded approving the December 23, 2024, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried**.

Approval of Expenditures totaling $1,002,312.01:

Steele moved and Loftus seconded approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling $1,002,312.01. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Keith Barber, newly elected Eaton County Commissioner, Commissioner Barber announced the many boards he will be serving. He plans to attend the first City of Eaton Rapids Council meeting every month.

Unfinished and Special Business: None

Public Hearing

Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mayor Colestock opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm to hear public comments on the 2025-2028 Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Jessica McCuen, 306 State Street, Parks, Recreation, and Events Board chair presented an overview of the Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan was developed based on community input through surveys and workshops, with goals set by Eaton Rapids Parks, Recreation & Events Department, and Board. The plan will be available for the public on our website and at City Hall.

Joshua Curtis, 1649 S. Canal Rd, expressed his concerns about the lack of football fields available for the Youth Football program and wants to make sure it is addressed in the Plan.

Additionally, he commented that after posting his concern online, someone reached out to assist in resolving his concerns.

City Manager Ridge stated that Director Cagle took on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and has done a fantastic job.

Public Hearing ended at 7:14 pm.

New Business

a. Approve the appointment of Councilmember Ken Nicholas to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Committee.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the appointment of Councilmember Ken Nicholas to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Committee.

b. Approve the reappointment of Chris Sebastian to the Parks, Recreation, and Events Board, term expiring 12/31/2027.

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded to approve the reappointment of Chris Sebastian to the Parks, Recreation, and Events Board, term expiring 12/31/2027.

c. Approve the reappointment of Mary Burleson to the Parks, Recreation and Events Committee, term expiring 12/31/2027.

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded to approve the reappointment of Mary Burleson to the Parks, Recreation and Events Committee, term expiring 12/31/2027.

d. Approve the reappointment of Joseph Bennett to the Construction Board of Appeals, term expiring 1/31/2028.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded to approve the reappointment of Joseph Bennett to the Construction Board of Appeals, term expiring 1/31/2028.

e. Adopt Resolution 2025-01 to adopt the 2025-2029 Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded to adopt the 2025-2029 Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
Councilman Loftus echoed City Manager Ridge in praising Director Cagle's effort on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as well as special thanks to all participants who gave feedback, especially former Mayor Davidson.
Mayor Colestock spoke about the hard work put into the plan and is happy the city is showing the desires of the city and how they can come to fruition if funds and resources become available.

Roll call vote:
Yeas: 5 – Steele, Malewski, Loftus, Nicholas and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

f. Adopt Resolution 2025-02 to approve Grant Agreement for Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery, 2024/2025 Solid Waste Alternative Grant.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the Grant Agreement for Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery, 2024/2025 Solid Waste Alternative Grant.

Roll call vote:
Yeas: 5 – Malewski, Loftus, Nicholas, Steele and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

g. A Resolution 2025-03 to approve Grant Agreement for Michigan Department of Natural Resource/Forest Resources Division, 2025 Volunteer Fire Capacity Project Agreement Grant..

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve Grant Agreement for Michigan Department of Natural Resource/ Forest Resources Division, 2025 Volunteer Fire Capacity Project Agreement Grant.

Chief McNutt provided details on the equipment that the grant will purchase for the firefighters. He also commented that the Fire Department budget has funds allocated for the grant match.

Roll call vote:
Yeas: 5 – Loftus, Nicholas, Steele, Malewski and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Public Comments: None

Reports:

Fire Chief –The Federal Legislature had recommended 2.2 million dollars for the new aerial fire truck; however, since the federal budget has not been passed, he is exploring other funding options.

Police Chief- Not Present

City Manager –

- The City Crews have been clearing snow and ice, taking down Christmas decorations and the Water Department worked on Sunday repairing a main water break near Union Street School. Waste Water Plant project (CWSRF) is 85% completed. The work on the Lift Stations will continue in the spring.
- Mark Lease and Director Pierce are working with C2AE Engineering and on task for the engineering for the DWSRF project. Genny Allen and I are working with the bonding agent. You will see some resolutions at our upcoming meeting.
- We currently have an Electrician, DPW worker, and Community and Economic Development Specialist position open.
- The city is looking to hire a part-time person to work with Eaton County on a start date for weekly recycling. Chief Weeks has a person who may be interested and provided his contact information.
- The city is back up for consideration for Category B Road Funding.
- City Manager Ridge was voted in as the Treasurer for EATRAN.
- The MME Early Career Outreach Meeting discussed the approval of the Winter Institute Session. She will be attending the conference, January 28-31, but will be unable to attend the Early Career Outreach Dinner, due to returning for the Citizens Academy.
- The kickoff meeting for the Source Water Protection Grant is this Thursday.
- She attended the VFW 100th Anniversary Celebration with Mayor Colestock. Mayor and Mayor Pro tem Steele both gave comments at the event.
- The CEO of MPPA will attend our February meeting to talk about Green Energy compliance.

- Citizens Academy has 11 registrations plus four Council members.

Council Members:

Loftus –
Parks and Recreation – No Report
Oakridge Park – No Report

- Councilman Loftus expressed his appreciation for the Public Works department, for taking down the Christmas decorations.
- VFW Event was exceptional.
- Citizens Academy's deadline to register is January 20th, and the 30th is the first class.
- Glad the recycling will be available every week.

Nicholas –
ZBA - No Report
Councilman Nicholas thanked the council for the opportunity to serve on the Budget Committee.

Malewski –
Arts Council – No Report
Parks and Rec Sub Committee – No Report

- Councilwoman Malewski expressed her appreciation to Director Cagle for the Parks and Rec Master Plan and for multi-tasking very well.
- Also attended the VFW Event.
- Thanked Chief Weeks and Chief McNutt for the reports that keep the Council informed

Steele –

- Josh, great composition letter, appreciated his concerns. He recognizes the needs and appreciates him taking the time to send the letter and all his efforts with the youth football program to better prepare the kids for being successful in the future.
- Appreciate the year-end reports from Chief Weeks and Chief McNutt
- Thanked Councilwoman Malewski's efforts with the Resource Recovery Board.
- Three things come to mind: Water, Energy, and eliminating Waste. As long as we are working on these things we will move forward in the city.

Mayor Colestock –

- Mayor Colestock attended the VFW Event, what a great celebration. They made our Councilmember feel honored at this event.
- Congressman Barrett reached out to set up a meeting to meet and discuss our needs. City Manager Ridge and I will meet with him to discuss the need for a Fire truck and water filters.
- Reminded Council that the Council of Government meeting has been canceled for January 16th.
- Also reminded Council and Citizens, the Work Session meeting on January 27, will be at 5:30.

Adjournment

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded adjourning the Council meeting. **Motion carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Pamela Colestock, Mayor

Robin Webb, City Clerk