City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting
July 13, 2026

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on July 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Call To Order:

Mayor Colestock called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, and Councilmembers Malewski, Loftus, and Nicholas.

Administrative Staff present included City Manager Ridge, Parks, Recreation, and Events Director Cagle, Treasurer/Finance Director Allen, Clerk Webb, Chief Weeks, Chief McNutt, Public Works/Utilities Director Pierce and City Attorney Harkness.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

New Business

1. DPW Updates

Director Pierce gave updates on some of the many projects in the city, such as, North Industrial Park, road project, Water Street, replacement of the lead lines, Center Street, and Sewer Project on Plains Road, just to name a few. He also gave updates on the new and upcoming project.

2. Urban Air Special Event Application

Director Cagle presented next year's Urban Air Special Event Application, with dates from April 29 through May 2, 2027. He presented a map of how the campers will be placed and location that are not permitted to have campers. Discussion Ensued.

3. Mayor/Community Exchange

City Manager Ridge presented the dates for the upcoming Mayor/Community Exchange, asking for attractions we would like to show Lowell and things we would like to see in Lowell. The City staff of Lowell will visit on September 15, 2026, and the city staff/Council will make the trip to Lowell on September 29, 2026. Discussion Ensued.

4. Body Camera Purchase

Chief Weeks presented a proposal for new body cameras. He explained the need to update the cameras and the importance of the new redaction service program. Discussion Ensued.

5. Police Department Vehicle Lease

City Manager Ridge presented the lease agreement for the New Police car that will be leased from Enterprise. The lease agreement will be for 5 years in the amount of 875.52 with an upfit of $19,416. Discussion Ensued.

6. Fire Department Vehicle Lease

City Manager Ridge presented the lease agreement for the New Truck for the Fire

Department that will be leased from Enterprise. The lease agreement will be for 5 years in the amount of 937.01 with an upfit of $5,000. Discussion Ensued.

7. Active Shooter/Violence Simulation – Upcoming August Event

Lieutenant Creger spoke on the upcoming Active Shooter/Violence Simulation training on August 13th. He asked if there was anyone in the Council who was interested in participating in the event or wanting to observe.

Public Comments :

Patrick McNutt – 751 Island Court, volunteered to be a part of the Active Shooter Event.

Lieutenant Creger announced his retirement as of the end of March, 2027.

Board & Committee Reports:

Loftus – Councilmember Loftus commended all who make the July 4th weekend events succeed. He enjoyed walking in the parade. He also stated the Farmers Market is thriving, Taco Bell is open, GAR museum is getting a revamp, and the museum will be open as usual, and the next speaker at the museum will speak on the Revolutionary War patriots of Jackson County.

Steele – Mayor Pro Tem Steele reported that 3 public hearings and a discussion on Site Plan for 313 Dexter, Rezone for 1409 Hall Street, and a Conditional Use request for 1410 Hall Street. He stated he mentioned the By-Laws update during Public Comment. He pointed out that Mayor Colestock would be abstaining from the vote for items 1409 and 1410 Hall St as a possible conflict of interest matter. He also updated the public on additional matters in the Planning Commission meeting regarding Edwin Allen Homes' progress, the Taco Bell opening, and many current projects in the city. He also added that a few Commissioners suggested topics to discuss in the next meeting.

Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock reported that there were not enough members for a quorum in the DDA meeting; no business was done. The date of the COG meeting has been changed to July 23rd, at 6 pm, at Hamlin Township. The ambulance meeting would also be on July 23 at 4:30.

City Manager Ridge - City Manager Ridge reported that we received a partial grant for the DWSRF. TMF grant will be the grant we use to do the Water Study. We will be attempting to get grants to fund the Zoning Ordinance Plan and the Wastewater Study. She also mentioned there is no Brownfield meeting, and 400 Dexter and Inverness are waiting for approval with MSHDA.

Director Cagle – He reported that kids' camps are wrapping up, and football and soccer registration ends at the end of the month. He also mentioned he is changing his focus to Triathlon and the upcoming trick-or-treat events.

Clerk Webb – She reported on the Certification Training for Election Inspectors through the County and the Election training through the city coming up soon. She mentioned the Public Accuracy Test held on July 15th at 9 am. She continues to learn the UB system.

Chief McNutt – Chief McNutt reported that the Air Trailer is out of services with an exhaust problem. Fire Department receive their match grant for equipment. They have placed an order for 3-4 firefighters' equipment. Also, celebrated 60-year anniversary for Chief Freer. Lastly, he reported that the AC unit for the squad room has failed.

Chief Weeks – Chief Weeks stated as he sent an email to Mayor and Council, there was an incident on the 4th of July with a gun. Proof that the city needs more bodies here for these type of events. He appreciated that the EMS were here for the fireworks. Also had a trailer with drone surveillance. The Michigan State Police will be using 400 Dexter for training, expanded on the Succession Plan for Lieutenant Creger's departure. He stated that he would not be attending the next council meeting.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Pamela Colestock, Mayor

Robin Webb, City Clerk