

**City of Eaton Rapids  
Work Session  
September 25, 2023**

A Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street on September 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Call To Order:** Mayor Colestock called the work session meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, and Councilpersons Politza, Robison, and Nicholas.

Administrative Staff Present were City Manager Ridge, DPW Director Pierce, Building and Zoning Official Hummel, Police Chief Weeks, Fire Chief McNutt, Treasurer Allen, and City Attorney Cullen Harkness.

**Public Comments:** none

**New Business:**

1. MDOT Road Safety Audit – Pedestrian Island/Bump Out

In May, Director Pierce conveyed to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) that the City of Eaton Rapids was not interested in exploring a pedestrian refuge island on M-50 due to conflicts with emergency vehicles, parades, and other events.

MDOT has presented a second option. A bump-out concept is being explored. This is similar to the existing bump-outs in our downtown. This option would not take up space in the center turn lanes and would still provide a shorter crossing distance for pedestrians. It would likely take out a couple parking spaces, depending on where it is placed mid-block.

Mayor Colestock, City Manager Ridge, and Public Works/Utilities Director Pierce met with MDOT to discuss the second option. As discussed previously, electronic devices (flashers) for a pedestrian crossing cannot be part of this project and will need to be explored separately outside of this project. MDOT was asked to explore safety options for Hamlin and M50.

City Manager Ridge and Director Pierce will set up another meeting with MDOT, including Fire Chief McNutt and Police Chief Weeks. The City Council appreciates the project, but other areas on Main Street need more attention, for example, the Hamlin Street or the Knight Street intersections.

MDOT wants to start design work in October.

2. Sale of City Property Update – 520 S. River Street

Building Official Hummel received information from the assessor for a starting bid for the parcel. For the sale to take place, the following things must occur:

- Create a legal description for the parcel being sold.
- Update the legal description of McArthur Park.

- The City Council approves a resolution to sell the parcel.
- Once the sale is authorized, the parcel is posted as "up for bid" for 28 days.
- The City Council votes on the sale of the parcel.

City Manager Ridge recommended Mr. Williams work with Building Official Hummel to ensure everything is in place for the sale to happen as quickly as possible.

### 3. Ambulance Update

Mayor Colestock and City Manager Ridge met with Eaton Area EMS to provide them with feedback on the proposed contract. Eaton Area EMS is willing to return to the current contract details. They will add back quarterly meetings and reports. Chief McNutt provided some insight and suggestions for the contract.

A revised contract will be available soon.

**Special Business: none**

**Old Business:** Review of Council Policies and Procedures

The City Council continued its review of the Council Policies and Procedures Manual.

City Manager Ridge will provide the City Council with a red-line version after the initial reading of the manual.

**Public Comments:**


Rick Loftus, 236 Hamlin Street, was glad to hear the discussion about pedestrian safety on Main Street, particularly around Hamlin and Main. With more pedestrians attending the Farmers' Market and going to the G.A.R. Island Park, there is a greater need for a safe crossing at Hamlin and Main. Mr. Loftus suggested a speed bump or a red button for the pedestrian crossing. Traffic turning right from Hamlin onto Main Street is an issue as well.

Dale Erion, 1015 Hall Street, is also concerned about pedestrians crossing Main Street, especially around the Methodist Church.

**Adjournment:**

Steele moved, Robison seconded, the motion PASSED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
Pamela Colestock, Mayor

  
Yvonne Ridge, Interim City Clerk