

**City Council Meeting  
December 11, 2023**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**Call To Order:**

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

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, and Councilpersons Nicholas and Robison were present. Councilperson Politza was absent and excused.

Roll call for the members of City Council:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Suzanne Politza	Absent
Ken Nicholas	X
Mayor Pro Tem William Steele	X
Stacey Robison	X
Mayor Pam Colestock	X

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Mayor Colestock

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Steele moved, Robison seconded, PASSED to approve the meeting agenda taking out the Oakridge Park Interlocal Agreement and moving this item to the next meeting.

**Approval of the minutes from November 27, 2023, City Council Work Session Meeting:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the November 27, 2023, City Council Work Session meeting minutes.

**Approval of the minutes from November 27, 2023, City Council Meeting:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the November 27, 2023, City Council meeting minutes.

**Approval of check disbursements totaling \$399,781.88:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the check disbursements totaling \$399,781.88.

**Citizen Comments and Questions:**

Rocco Buysse, 117 Frost St expressed deep concerns of the danger crossing Main Street with no crosswalks. Also, wanted to know the progress for the destruction of Old Mill buildings.

**Unfinished and Special Business:**

**1. 2023 Audit Presentation** – Steve Bryer presents the 2022-2023 Audit  
 Steve Bryer presented the 2022-2023 Audit Report of an Unmodified Opinion, which is the best opinion for an audit.

**2. December 11-17, 2023, Water and Wastewater Professionals Workforce Week Proclamation.**

Mayor Colestock presented the Water and Wastewater Professionals Workforce Week Proclamation.

**Items of Business:**

**a. Adoption of Resolution 2023-31.** To Adopt Resolution 2023-31, to Authorize the Sale of a .05 Acre Parcel of McArthur River Park to Richard S and Cheryl A Williams for \$520.00. Steele moved, Robison seconded to adopt Resolution 2023-31, to Authorize the Sales of a .05 Acre Parcel of McArthur River Park.

Roll call vote

Name	Vote
Ken Nicholas	X
Mayor Pro Tem William Steele	X
Stacey Robison	X
Suzanne Politza	Absent
Mayor Pam Colestock	X

**b. Reappointment of Construction Building Board of Appeals (BOA)** – To Appoint Bob Tubbs to the Construction Building BOA for the term ending January 31, 2027. Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the appointment of Bob Tubbs to the Construction Building Board of Appeals (BOA) term ending January 31, 2027.

**c. Adoption of Resolution 2023-32.** To Adopt Resolution 2023-32 to authorize the Close and Abandonment of Cowan Street  
 Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to adopt Resolution 2023-32 to authorize the Close and Abandonment of Cowan Street.

Roll Call Vote

Name	Vote
Mayor Pro Tem William Steele	X
Stacey Robison	X
Suzanne Politza	Absent
Ken Nicholas	X
Mayor Pam Colestock	X

**d. Adoption of Resolution 2023-33.** To Adopt Resolution 2023-33 to authorize Michigan CLASS as an Investment Option for the City of Eaton Rapids. Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to adopt Resolution 2023-33 to authorize Michigan CLASS as an Investment Option for the City of Eaton Rapids.

Roll call vote

Name	Vote
Stacee Robison	X
Suzanne Politza	Absent
Ken Nicholas	X
Mayor Pro Tem William Steele	X
Mayor Pam Colestock	X

**Citizen Comments and Questions:**

Commissioner Rogers reported on the number of meeting Commissioners attend as well as committees they are on. The 2024 elections, Commissioners terms will be 4 years. Rocco Buysse, 117 Frost St., commented on the Family Christmas Parade that it was a great turnout.

**13. Reports:**

a. Fire Chief

Chief McNutt announced he had rehired a retirement firefighter.

b. Police Chief:

None

c. City Manager

**Hometown Christmas** -- Amazing event. Thank you to Director Cagle, Director, Director Pierce, Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and all who made the event such a success.

**Community and Economic Development Specialist** – I have received 20 applications for the position and am scheduling the first round of interviews this week.

**Open Enrollment** – We had a majority of employees attend open enrollment meetings. Treasurer/Finance Director Allen is following up to make sure all employees have enrolled. Employees that attended were appreciative of the information.

**Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA) Tax Increment Financing Plan** – The Open House was held on Tuesday, November 28 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Open House was well attended. The LDFA will present the results at the December 15 LDFA meeting.

**Downtown Renovation** – The DDA hosted a Presentation on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. for building owners, developers, and interested parties regarding programs and incentives that are available to assist in the redevelopment of building/properties within or adjacent to the Eaton Rapids Downtown Development Authority (DDA) area. The event was well attended and the DDA is looking forward to projects being presented in the future.

**Bricks** – Historical Brick picked up another 69,300 bricks. This brings our brick sales to \$36,720 and the monthly storage amount to \$3,500 for a grand total of \$40,220. Director Pierce is working with Historical Brick on the remaining bricks and cleanup.

**Year End Party** – Thursday, December 14, will be our Year End Party for all City of Eaton Rapids staff.

**Ambulance Meeting** – Mayor Colestock and I attend the November 30, 2023, Ambulance Meeting. There are several municipalities that need to sign the contract. Tiffany Friar will continue to keep us posted with updates on the contract signing.

**Eaton Rapids Medical Center Foundation Donor Reception** – I attended the event and look forward to future collaboration between the City and the Hospital.

**Orientation Meeting with newly elected Council Member Deb Malewski** – Mayor Colestock and I met with Deb Malewski and provided several documents for her review prior to her taking office on January 1.

**Union Negotiations Union Operating Engineers 324** – Director Pierce, Attorney Wolfe and I met with the union today to start the Negotiation process. I will continue to keep you updated.

d. Council Members

Nicholas – none

Robison – Thanked Director Cagle for putting together the Christmas event. Favorite time of the year. Business participation and all of the events that took place that day were wonderful.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele – Thanked Chief McNutt for the invitation to the Firemen’s dinner, reported great turnout to the Miller Christmas on the farm. Pleased about the good report from the auditors. Echoed Councilmember Robison’s comments about the Family Christmas events.

e. Mayor

Thank Finance Director/Treasurer, Allen and City Manager Ridge for a great job and hard work done to get the Audit files on time. I appreciate their efforts to get this done.

DDA presentation well attended, with the hope of more interest. DDA Facade grant paid out 3 participants totaling \$9,500.00, with an additional 3 participants unable to complete their project so the \$10,500.00 will roll over to next year, totaling \$30,500.00 to be awarded for the 2024 grant program.

Great Job Chamber of Commerce and all who participated for the Hometown Family Christmas. The whole day was busy with the different craft shows, then the parade and tree lighting. It was a wonderful event, and everyone LOVES Whoville!

I want to wish Council and everyone a Merry Christmas. We will meet on Wed, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.

**Adjournment:**

Robison moved, Steele seconded, PASSED to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7.48 p.m.

  
Pamela Colestock, Mayor

  
Robin Webb, City Clerk