

**City Council Meeting  
November 27, 2023**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on November 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**Call To Order:**

Mayor Colestock called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

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

Roll call for the members of City Council:

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Patty Lankton.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Steele moved, Politza seconded, PASSED to approve the meeting agenda.

**Approval of the minutes from November 13, 2023, City Council Work Session Meeting:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the November 13, 2023, City Council Work Session meeting minutes with a correction in the City Manager Ridge report reads that "Eatran" Ridership continues to increase and are looking to expand.

**Approval of the minutes from November 13, 2023, City Council Meeting:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the November 13, 2023, City Council meeting minutes.

**Approval of check disbursements totaling \$470,966.86:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to approve the check disbursements totaling \$470,966.86.

**Citizen Comments and Questions:**

None

**Unfinished and Special Business:**

None

**Items of Business:**

1. **Reappointment of Parks & Recreation Sub Committee** – Appoint Michael Norton to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026.

Steele moved, Politza seconded to approve the appointment of Michael Norton to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026

2. **Reappointment of Parks & Recreation Sub Committee** – Appoint Patrick McNutt to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026.

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the appointment of Patrick McNutt to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026.

3. **Reappointment of Parks & Recreation Sub Committee** – Appoint Wayne Ash to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026.

Steele moved, Politza seconded to approve the appointment of Wayne Ash to the Parks and Recreation Sub Committee for the term ending December 31, 2026

4. **Reappointment of Arts Council** – Appoint Dustin Hemingway to the Arts Council for the term ending November 30, 2026.

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the appointment of Dustin Hemingway to the Arts Council for the term ending November 30, 2026.

5. **Reappointment of Arts Council** – Appoint Chris Sabastian to the Arts Council for the term ending November 30, 2026.

Steele moved, Politza seconded to approve the appointment of Chris Sabastian to the Arts Council for the term ending November 30, 2026.

6. **2024 Council Meeting Dates** – To approve 2024 Council Work Session and Meeting dates.

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the 2024 Council work session and meeting dates.

**Citizen Comments and Questions:**

None

### 13. Reports:

a. Fire Chief  
None

b. Police Chief:  
None

c. City Manager

Still waiting for Presidential Declaration for the August storm, should the request for FEMA relief denied the state has an appeal process, which would extend the review process by several months.

The Christmas decorations on the Island and in the Pocket Park have been put up. Downtown decoration will be put up this week. Thanks to all who participated in making this happen.

I have received 14 applications for the Community and Economic Development Specialist. Applications will be reviewed and scheduling initial interview will begin this week.

Employee open enrollment meetings are being scheduled for Monday December 4. The online Open Enrollment will go live on December 4. Fulltime employees will be eligible to enroll in Health, Denta and Vision Insurance, Flexible Spending for Medical and or Dependent Care and will be able to update Life Insurance Beneficiary's.

The Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA) Tax Increment Financing Plan Open House will be held on November 28, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Invitation have been distributed. This open house is to receive feedback for the LDFA's TIF Plan.

The DDA will be hosting a Special 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. Please invite anyone that owns a building or underutilized space, has deferred maintenance needs, or just wants information on the possibilities available.

I attended the Middle of the Mitt meeting on November 15. This meeting includes all local municipalities to discuss current governmental issues.

Mayor Colestock, Corey, and I met with Kerrin O'Brien at NextCycle to talk about next steps. Kerrin recommended we take part in Build To Scale Technical Assistance offered by NextCycle. We discussed seeking assistance on Building design.

Historical Brick picked up another 30,600 bricks. Total sales \$22,860 and monthly storage of an additional \$3,250 for a grand total of \$26,110. Director Pierce is working with Historical Brick on a timeline to pick up the remainder of the bricks.

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

The final audit was filed with the state today. We will have the F-65m 5572 and ACT 51 later in the week for review.

d. Council Members

Nicholas - None

Politza – Thanked the Mayor for recognition and Congratulated elect Deb Malewski to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Steele – Thanked Chris Sebastian and Dustin Hemingway for their commitment to the Art Council. Also, Michael Norton, Patrick McNutt, and Wayne Ash for their commitment to the Parks and Recreation Sub-committee. Reminded everyone of the four City of Eaton Rapids Christmas Holiday contest: House Decorating, Christmas Tree Decorating, Elf on the Shelf, and Kids Holiday Coloring page contest. Submit to [parcs@cityofeatonrapids.gov](mailto:parcs@cityofeatonrapids.gov).

Reminded the citizens of the Hometown Family Christmas Parade on December 2, at 6:00pm, with the City Tree lighting afterwards at Hamlin Sq. Activities and Events throughout the day. Check the Flashes for details.

e. Mayor

Thanked Director Cagle, Director Pierce, intern Breezy, members of the GAR Museum, Deb Malewski, Rock Loftus, DDA member Mark McGee, Rachel Chagnon, and the DPW crew for getting the holiday decorations up on the Island. It looks great.

Thanked the city staff, Arts council, and volunteers for the wonderful decorations of Whoville, in the pocket park. What a great contribution to the Hometown Family Christmas.

I attended my first Michigan Mayor's Conference two weeks ago and had a great time meeting other Mayor's from around our state.

**Adjournment:**

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded, PASSED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

  
Pamela Colestock, Mayor

  
Robin Webb, City Clerk