

**City Council Meeting
August 26, 2024**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on August 26, 2024, 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, Councilpersons Malewski, Nicholas, and Loftus were present.

Invocation:

Pastor Steve Laginess with Thrive Church provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved and Malewski seconded approving the meeting agenda for the August 26, 2024, Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the minutes from the August 12, 2024, City Council Work Session Meeting:

Steele moved and Nicholas seconded approving the August 12, 2024, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the minutes from August 12, 2024, City Council Meeting:

Steele moved and Nicholas seconded approving the August 12, 2024, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of check disbursements totaling \$994,424.81:

Steele moved and Loftus seconded approving check disbursements totaling \$994,424.81. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Amy Cozzie, 215 Dutton Street, expressed concerns regarding property maintenance code violations in her neighborhood.

Russ Hicks, Columbia Highway, presented an idea to construct a bridge to connect the small island to Mill Pointe Park, adding to the river walk. Mr. Hicks provided Council with copies of Blue magazine.

Jerry Mohler, 602 Cohalben Street, supported Amy Cozzie's concerns regarding property maintenance code violations.

Linda Gillentine, 603 Cumberland Drive, expressed her concerns regarding property maintenance code violations in her neighborhood.

Unfinished and Special Business:

a. Eaton County Tax Limitation Alteration Proposal

Jim Mott, Chairman of Eaton County Board of Commissioners, and Doug Lloyd, Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney, provided information on the Eaton County Tax Limitation Alteration

Proposal that will be on the ballot November 5, 2024. Elected officials and Eaton County Controller's Office staff were present to answer any questions following the meeting.

New Business:

- a. Adopt Resolution 2024-31 to approve professional services agreement to update the city electric fund cash reserve policy and development of the PILOT Program.

Steele moved and Nicholas seconded the adoption of Resolution 2024-31 to approve professional services agreement to update the city electric fund cash reserve policy and development of the PILOT Program. **Motion carried.**

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5, Steele, Malewski, Nicholas, Loftus, and Mayor Colestock

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Public Comments:

Commissioner Frank Holmes spoke in support of the Eaton County Tax Limitation Alteration Proposal.

Reports:

- a. **Fire Chief – None**

- b. **Police Chief** - Reported on the approval of a state grant for cadet training. Chief stated approximately 26 bikes were taken to auction and added if you are missing a bike contact the Police department.

- c. **City Manager** – Provided updates on the following: Enterprise Fleet, Multi-Factor Authentication, Urban Air, Eaton Rapids Youth Basketball Association (ERYBA), Bridge Closures, Eaton Area EMS Municipalities Meeting, Eco Cell Phone Solar Charging Station, Well Head Protection Plan, and the Local Development Financing Authority (LDFA). She reported attending the Chamber Early Rise-ERS breakfast and networking event. City Manager Ridge reported on a successful Community Exchange with the City of Goose Pointe, thanked Miller Farms for lunch and tour, as well as thanking Breezy, CEDAM employee, for event photos, and Department Heads for presentations and tours.

- d. **Council Members:**

Loftus – Commented on the Mayor Exchange, Farmer's Market, and completing the Governing Essentials Training through Michigan State University Extension Services. He congratulated Charles Millington as a new addition to the Planning Commission Board. He attended the Oakridge Park meeting and the Parks and Recreation and Event Board meeting. Reminded everyone of events such as Eaton Rapids Fire Department 150 Year Celebration, Annual Grand River Color Tour Triathlon, Main Street Trick or Treat night, and the Arts Council annual Scarecrow competition.

Nicholas –Commented on the successful Mayor Exchange day with the City of Grosse Pointe and the revitalization of the Citizens Academy program.

Malewski – Attended the Eaton County Public Works meeting. Reported the Michigan Central Depot on Hall Street has been donated to Eaton County and the County may move to Crandall

Lake. Congratulated Hastay's Green House for being recognized by Senator Sarah Anthony for entrepreneurial excellence in Eaton Rapids. Shared a resident's suggestion for installing duck crossing signs around town and incorporating ducks/geese into the city theme or mascot. Another suggestion brought by a resident is having a monarch festival in conjunction with the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Steele – Congratulated City departments for their presentations during the Mayor Exchange. Also thanked Miller Farm for the lunch and tour. In addition, he thanked Councilmember Loftus and Malewski for the history lessons and Chris Allen for the tour of the G.A.R. museum. He also announced that the State Street Bridge is closed but the Smithville bridge is open. Lastly, he expressed appreciation to Ron Peters, who walks around town every Monday to pick up trash, helping to keep our city clean.

Mayor Colestock – Thanked the residents attending the meeting who spoke out to voice their concerns. She thanked Eaton County elected officials and staff for the presentation and for taking the time to stay after and answer questions. Mayor Colestock commented on the Mayor Exchange with the City of Grosse Pointe and thanked the staff. She also thanked Councilmember Nicholas for his great suggestion to use Miller Farm for the Mayor Exchange. She attended the Chamber's Early RisER's breakfast and networking event and the Eaton Area EMS quarterly meeting with City Manager Ridge. She wished everyone a great and safe Labor Day weekend.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Robin Webb, City Clerk