

**City Council Meeting
December 09, 2024**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on December 09, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, Councilpersons Malewski, Nicholas, and Loftus were present.

Invocation:

Mark Michalcewicz from Grace Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded approving December 09, 2024, Council meeting agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the November 25, 2024, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Nicholas moved, and Loftus seconded approving the November 25, 2024, City Council Work Session meeting minutes with the correction of the Attorney present (John Fowler). **Motion carried.**

Approval of the November 25, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved and Nicholas seconded approving the November 25, 2024, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditures totaling \$367,787.51:

Malewski moved and Nicholas seconded approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$367,787.51. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

Unfinished and Special Business: None

New Business

a. Approve the reappointment of William DeFrance to the Downtown Development Authority, term expiring 12/31/2027.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded to reappoint William DeFrance to the Downtown Development Authority, term expiring 12/31/2027.

b. Approve the reappointment of Larry Wicker to the Planning Commission, term expiring 01/31/2028.

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded to reappoint Larry Wicker to the Planning Commission, term expiring 01/31/2028

c. Adopt Resolution 2024-40 to establish Credit Card Policy and Procedures for the City of Eaton Rapids pursuant to Public Act 266 of 1995.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to establish Credit Card Policy and Procedures for the City of Eaton Rapids pursuant to Public Act 266 of 1995.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

d. Adopt Ordinance 2024-04 to rescind Section 2-105 of Division 2 of Article V of Chapter 2, member to hold no other municipal offices: exceptions: compensation, of the codified ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

Malewski moved, and Loftus seconded to rescind Section 2-105 of Division 2 of Article V of Chapter 2, member to hold no other municipal offices: exceptions: compensation, of the codified ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

e. First Reading of the Ordinance 2024-05 to amend Chapter 19 – Streets, Sidewalks and Public Grounds/Article II. – Sidewalks/Division 1. Generally/Section 19-25. – Owners to clear snow and ice: removal costs, of the codified ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

No action necessary

f. First Reading of Ordinance 2024-06 to amend Chapter 2 – Administration/Article VII. – Municipal Civil Infractions/Section 2-132 – Civil Penalties of the codified ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

No action necessary

Public Comments:

Commissioner Rogers provided copies of the Eaton County November newsletter to the Council. She announced her upcoming retirement and expressed that it had been a pleasure to work with everyone.

Rocco Buysse, 117 Frost Street, expressed his opposition to Senate Bill 549 regarding fees assessed on utilities.

Reports:

Fire Chief – No Report

Police Chief- No Report

City Manager - Ridge extended her congratulations and thanked Commissioner Rogers for her dedicated service as an Eaton County Commissioner. Ridge thanked the staff who helped make the Hometown Christmas Parade another success. She expressed gratitude to the Council and the Mayor for joining the downtown festivities. Additionally, she praised the incredible City Employees for their exceptional dedication and hard work, which significantly contributes to making the city a better place.

Council Members:

Loftus – Council Member Loftus reiterated what the other council members had said about the Hometown Christmas event. He recognized the amount of preparation that goes into these events and commended those who helped, including Raven Rawson who took the photos posted on

Facebook. Loftus reported that the Eaton Rapids Wine Walk went well. He also noted the Holiday Market located at Union Street School will take place on December 14. He also reported that the Miller Farm celebration of Christmas on the Farm will be on December 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Nicholas – No Report

Malewski – Council Member Malewski wished a Happy Birthday to Mayor Colestock, and congratulated Commission Rogers on her Retirement as an Eaton County Commissioner. She applauded Parks & Recreation Director Cagle on the hard work on the Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan and all staff for the work on the Hometown Christmas event. She commented that the event was incredible and the highest attendance she had ever seen. Malewski also thanked the city staff for getting all the cutouts installed, creating a unique experience to visit the Mylo Stewart pocket park and at the City Christmas Tree. She reported the English Inn was awarded the November Small Business of the Month for District 76 by State Representative Angela Witwer. She let everyone know that it doesn't have to be a special occasion to go to the English Inn, the pub downstairs is very casual and serves great food.


Steele – Mayor Pro Tem Steele commented that the events last weekend were the largest and most exciting he had ever seen. He also remarked that the City's decorations were outstanding. Steele also noted that this was the last year that the Mayor could say she was in her 50's.


Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock gave a shout out to Director Pierce and his team at ensuring the Christmas Tree was beautifully set up and decorated in time for Saturday's Hometown Christmas Event. She applauded the Eaton Rapids Area Chamber for their efforts in organizing yet another successful Hometown Christmas event. The Mayor also highlighted the success of the First Annual Wine Walk, hosted by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), extending special thanks to Rachel Chagnon and Harmony Lindsay for their assistance with registration. Mayor Colestock expressed her gratitude to Corey Cagle for his work on the 2024-2025 Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She congratulated Commissioner Rogers on her well-deserved retirement, thanking her for her contributions to the city and community. Mayor Colestock concluded her comments by sharing an email from a former downtown business owner. The email praised Building/Zoning Official Hummel for the thoughtful care she was provided throughout her years as a business owner in Eaton Rapids. The resident expressed her gratitude to Building/Zoning Inspector Hummel for his dedicated service to the residents of the city.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Robin Webb, City Clerk