

**City Council Meeting
February 24, 2025**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on February 24, 2025, 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:

Pastor Steve Laginess, from Thrive Church, provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded approving the February 24, 2025, Council meeting agenda with amended item 10.p. to designate Mayor Colestock and City Manager Ridge to negotiate and to approve filings on behalf of the City in the matter of Hamlin v City of Eaton Rapids. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 10, 2025, Closed Session Meeting Minutes under MCL 15.268 (e):

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded approving the February 10, 2025, closed session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 10, 2025, Closed Session Meeting Minutes under MCL 15.268(d):

Nicholas moved, and Steele seconded approving the February 10, 2025, closed session's meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 10, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded approving the February 10, 2025, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 10, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Malewski moved and Steele seconded approving the February 10, 2025, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 12, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes:

Malewski moved and Steele seconded approving the February 12, 2025, Special meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditures totaling \$244,301.76:

Steele moved and Loftus seconded approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$244,301.76. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

1. **Proclamation Recognizing Paramedic David Hendon and Emergency Medical Technician Scott Milam.**

Mayor Colestock presented Dave Hendon with a proclamation recognizing his heroic efforts on a call that involved a pregnant woman giving birth. Emergency Medical Technician Scott Milam was unable to attend.

2. State of the City – Mayor Colestock.

Mayor Colestock presented the State of the City recognizing highlights of the past year and events to come. She recognized the accomplishments of staffing (full police staff), bridge repairs, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grants, and appreciation of the County helping us bring recycling back to the city. Other accomplishments are the Community Market, Cemetery project, the second year getting our audit completed and filed timely, staff training, and special thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department, and City Hall staff.

3. 2024 Police Department Annual Report – Chief Weeks

Chief Weeks presented the 2024 Police Department Annual Report, highlighting sections such as staff, statistics, internal investigation, and use of force. He recognized that his current staff is the best he has ever had. He appreciates their flexibility in difficult times this past year.

New Business

a. Approve event application for the 2025 Easter Egg Hunt on April 12, 2025.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve the 2025 Easter Egg Hunt Special Event Application. **Motion carried.**

b. Approve event application for the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2025.

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded to approve the 2025 Memorial Day Parade Special Event Application. **Motion carried.**

c. Approve event application for the 2025 Art in the Park on June 7, 2025.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the 2025 Art in the Park Special Event Application. **Motion carried.**

d. Approve event application for the Community Market on Saturday beginning June 7 through September 27, 2025.

Loftus moved, and Nicholas seconded to approve the Community Market on Saturday beginning June 7 through September 27, 2025, Event Application. **Motion carried.**

e. Approve event application for the 2025 4th of July Celebration on July 3 through July 4, 2025.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the 2025 Eaton Rapids 4th of July Celebration Event Application. **Motion carried.**

f. Approve event application for the Civil War Discovery Camp on August 12, 2025.

Loftus moved, and Nicholas seconded to approve the Civil War Discovery Camp Event Application. **Motion carried.**

- g. Approve event application for the 5th Annual Grand River Color Tour Triathlon and 5K on October 4, 2025.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the 5th Annual Grand River Color Tour Triathlon Event Application. **Motion carried.**

- h. Approve event application for the 2025 Downtown Trick or Treat on October 29, 2025.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to approve the 2025 Main Street Trick or Treat Event Application. **Motion carried.**

- i. Approve the reappointment of Marty Backofen to the Construction Board of Appeals, term expiring 1/31/2028.**

Nicholas moved, and Steele seconded to approve the reappointment of Marty Backofen to the Construction Board of Appeals, term expiring 1/31/2028. **Motion carried.**

- j. Adopt Resolution 2025-11 to approve Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.**

Nicholas moved, and Steele seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-11 to approve Bylaws and Administrative procedures of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5 – Steele, Malewski, Loftus, Nicholas and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

- k. Adopt Resolution 2025-12 to approve the 2025-2045 /Renewable Energy Plan to comply with Public Act 235.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-12 to approve the 2025-2045 Renewable Energy Plan to comply with Public Act 235.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5 – Malewski, Loftus, Nicholas, Steele, and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

- l. Adopt Resolution 2025-13 to approve an agreement with Night Magic Displays for the 4th of July Celebration.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-13 to approve an agreement with Night Magic Displays for the 4th of July Celebration.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5 – Loftus, Nicholas, Steele, Malewski, and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

m. Adopt Resolution 2025-14 to approve updates to the City of Eaton Rapids Employee Handbook, effective February 21, 2025, to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act and will amend once the Earned Sick Time Act is finalized.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-14 to approve updates to the City of Eaton Rapids Employee Handbook, effective February 21, 2025, to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act and will amend once the Earned Sick Time Act is finalized.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

n. Adopt Resolution 2025-15 to approve Dave Hendon’s Employee Agreement, second amended, effective February 21, 2025, to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act and will amend once the Earned Sick Time Act is finalized.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-15 to approve Dave Hendon’s Employee Agreement, second amended, effective February 21, 2025, to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act and will amend once the Earned Sick Time Act is finalized.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

o. Adopt Resolution 2025-16 to approve Statement of Work for server consolidation with Dewpoint.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-16 to approve the Statement of Work for server consolidation with Dewpoint.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

p. Adopt Resolution 2025-17 to designate Mayor Colestock and City Manager Ridge to negotiate and to approve filings on behalf of the City in the matter of Hamlin v City of Eaton Rapids.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-17 to designate Mayor Colestock and City Manager Ridge to negotiate and to approve filings on behalf of the City in the matter of Hamlin v City of Eaton Rapids.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Public Comments: None

Reports:

Fire Chief –No Report.

Police Chief-

Chief Weeks gave an update on the new programs that SRO Ferguson has implemented in the schools:

- Ok to say – for bullying, crime, etc. a system for students to report incidents in the school and feel safe doing so.
- Fast 50 Program, sponsored by Crime Stoppers. This program would be similar to crime stoppers, once you reported a lead on solving a crime, the person would receive \$50 for their tip, if it helps catch the criminal.

City Manager –

City Manager Ridge expressed appreciation for her great staff and that we all work together for the benefit of the city. She congratulated Dave Hendon and Scott Milam for their proclamation. Ridge reported the budget planning is underway, and Treasurer/Finance Director Allen is working with all departments.

Council Members:**Loftus –**

Councilmember Loftus expressed his appreciation of the Goals & Objectives meeting helping him to learn a lot. He reported that four sessions of Citizen's Academy were held, and each session was well-attended and enjoyable. He is looking forward to the next sessions of Citizens Academy. Loftus expressed his appreciation for Black Dog Coffee and looked forward to seeing Foster's community involvement. He will attend the Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Sarah Anthony's 2026 State Budget meeting on February 27.

Nicholas – No Report**Malewski –**

Councilmember Malewski echoed everything other councilmembers had said about what is going on in our city and congratulated Dave Hendon and Scott Milam.

Steele –

Mayor Pro Tem Steele congratulated Dave Hendon and Scott Milam. He stated that great things are happening in the community, the special programs for the children at school, and many special events coming up in the community. He appreciates the work in process to create a common calendar with all events located in one area including Chamber, Library, and City events. He also appreciates the large agenda, which means we are getting things done and he thanks the city staff for their efforts.

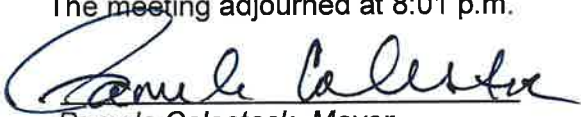
Mayor Colestock –

Mayor Colestock thanks Dave Hendon and Scott Milam, and all firefighters for their service. She is very proud of our public safety department. Mayor Colestock reported the great job Chief McNutt did with his presentation at the Citizens Academy and she said she now knows what "turn-out gear" is. She also expressed her appreciation to Parks, Recreation, and Events Director Cagle submitting that all special events applications were turned in and approved to plan the year's events. Representative Barrett visited the hospital and she and City Manager Ridge met with Representative Barrett at the City Hall and had a great discussion about the needs of the City.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor
Robin Webb, City Clerk