

City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting

February 24, 2025

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on February 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Call To Order:

Mayor Colestock called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Colestock, Mayor Pro-Tem Steele, Councilmembers Malewski, Nicholas, and Loftus.

Administrative Staff present were City Manager Ridge, City Clerk Webb, Treasurer/Finance Director Allen, Public Works/Utilities Director Pierce, Parks and Recreation Director Cagle, Fire Chief McNutt, Police Chief Weeks and City Attorney Harkness.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

1. Renewable Energy Plan – Patrick Bowland, CEO & General Manager, MPPA

Patrick Bowland, CEO & General Manager, MPPA and Yvonne Newborn, Controller, MPPA provided an overview of the services Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) provides to the City of Eaton Rapids and answered Council questions.

New Business:

1. Employee Handbook, Michigan Earned Sick Time and other updates.

City Manager Ridge provided proposed amendments to the Employee Handbook to include implementing the Earned Sick Time Act that went into effect on February 21, 2025, as well as some other clean up language. Discussion ensued.

2. Dave Hendon, Employee Agreement, second Amended

City Manager Ridge presented proposed changes to Dave Hendon's contract to include implementing the Earned Sick Time Act that went into effect on February 21, 2025, as well as some other clean up language. Discussion ensued.

3. Server Consolidation Statement of Work

City Manager Ridge explained the Server Consolidation Statement of Work and the estimated monthly savings. Discussion ensued.

4. Land Bank/Mill Street Proposed Amendment to the Settlement Agreement

City Attorney Harkness provided an update on the Land Bank/Mill Street Settlement Agreement. He indicated the new closing date is March 28, 2025. Discussion ensued.

5. Violation Notice-Monitoring and Reporting for Water Quality Parameters (WQP)

Public Works/Utilities Director Pierce provided an update on the Violation Notice the City of Eaton Rapids received from EGLE. Director Pierce made it clear that the violation is not from neglect on the city, it is a result of EGLE not performing the correct test promptly and requesting new samples after the testing period window had expired. The City has one year to comply with notification requirements. Discussion ensued.

6. Senator Gary C. Peters Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

City Manager Ridge provided an update on Senator Peter's FY 2026 Appropriations and discussed the City applying for funding for the Aerial Firetruck and the Water Pressure Filters that were slated for 2025. Discussion ensued.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to go into Closed Session at 6:10 pm to consider periodic personnel evaluation of an employee.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Board & Committee Reports:

Deb Malewski - Councilmember Malewski attended the Material Management Planning Commission meeting and was appointed secretary. She attended the Arts Council and reported that the Arts Council is working on Eaton Rapids coloring books and placemat design to educate the community on the well-head protection program. Malewski also participated in the Food Distribution at the Eaton Rapids Alumni Stadium.

Rick Loftus – Councilmember Loftus reported that he was not able to attend the Oakridge Park meeting due to his Citizens Academy commitment. Loftus attended the Parks, Recreation and Events Board and reported the Parks & Recreation Master Plan is submitted and awaiting approval. He also talked about the discussion that took place regarding the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and that the Board reviewed the city sports offerings for 2025. Loftus also reported that there are two (2) openings on the Art's Council.

William Steele – Mayor Pro-Tem Steele attended the Planning Commission meeting where the main agenda item was the 400 Dexter Development. Steele also reported that the Dexter project needed a variance, and the developer would be completing an application for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock report that the DDA is planning a fundraiser event for May. It is a form of a triathlon with golf, bowling, and cornhole. Mayor Colestock reported that the Community Market will operate from June 7th – September 27. She indicated that 62 vendors were invited to return to the Community Market.

Mayor Colestock was unable to attend the LDFA meeting.

City Manager Ridge reported LDFA was working on several projects and that she had received 14 applications for the open Community and Economic Development Specialist position.

City Attorney Harkness reported that the response to Hamlin Township will be filed next week.

Public Comment:

Patrick McNutt, 751 Island Court, inquired about when the Urban Air Committee meets.

Adjournment:

Steele moved and Malewski seconded adjourning the Meeting at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Robin Webb, City Clerk