



Pamela Colestock – Mayor  
William Steele – Mayor Pro Tem  
Deb Malewski – Council Member  
Rick Loftus – Council Member  
Ken Nicholas – Council Member

Yvonne Ridge – City Manager  
Larry Joe Weeks – Police Chief  
Roger McNutt – Fire Chief  
Leroy Hummel – Building Official  
Rob Pierce – Public Works/Utilities Director  
Genny Allen – Treasurer/Finance Director  
Robin Webb – City Clerk  
Corey Cagle – Director of Parks,  
Recreation & Events  
Randy Jewell – City Assessor  
Cullen Harkness – City Attorney

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## CITY OF EATON RAPIDS WORK SESSION AGENDA

March 24, 2025  
5:00 pm  
200 S. Main Street

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This meeting will be streamed live for viewing only at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85394331944>

Meeting ID: 853 9433 1944

*Please note all public comments must be made in person.*

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### **Call to Order**

### **Public Comments**

### **Unfinished and Special Business**

1. PA95 Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Program
2. BS&A Storage Capacity/Budget Amendment

### **New Business**

1. Eaton County Parks Community Grant Applications
2. T-Mobile Downtown Grant Program

### **Board and Committee Reports**

### **Public Comments**

### **Adjourn**



MEETING DATE: 3/24/2025

FINANCIAL SPECIALIST - UTILITIES

To: Mayor and City Council

Work Session

From: Brooke Perkins, Genny Allen

Regular Meeting

Submitted: 3/20/2025

Subject: PA95/Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Program Recommendation

### SUMMARY

The City of Eaton Rapids is currently a non-participating utility in the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). By April 1, 2025, the City must notify the Michigan Public Safety Commission of its decision to opt in or opt out of collecting the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF) surcharge for the program year spanning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. If the City opts out, it must establish its own energy assistance program by October 1, 2025.

**Considerations:** Staff reviewed MEAP guidelines and consulted with three municipalities—Paw Paw, Portland, and Chelsea—that previously opted out but are now choosing to opt into the LIEAF program due to challenges in independently managing energy assistance programs.

A review of the City's customer assistance history from March to May 2024 showed that 25 individuals received aid through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). With year-round shutoffs now permitted for utilities, it is estimated that over 100 customers may request assistance annually.

### **Options Analysis**

#### **Opting Out – Establishing a City-Managed Assistance Program**

- Requires development and funding of a local program covering electricity and heating assistance.
- Eligibility rules and assistance limits must be created specifically for Eaton Rapids customers.
- Funds collected will exclusively benefit Eaton Rapids' customers.
- MDHHS assistance remains available, but MEAP funds will no longer be accessible.

- Uncertainty regarding possible increased demand for aid due to year-round shutoffs.
- Additional administrative and financial burdens for program implementation and compliance with annual reporting requirements.

### **Opting In – Participating in the LIEAF Program**

- Allows the City more time to develop a structured local assistance program for the 2026/2027 program year.
- Enables tracking of customer assistance requests following year-round shut-off policy changes.
- Customers remain eligible for MEAP funds.
- The State of Michigan manages all assistance requests, reducing local administrative burden.
- Funds collected are distributed statewide, not exclusively benefiting Eaton Rapids residents.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION/MOTION**

Staff recommends opting into the LIEAF program for the 2025/2026 program year. This decision will provide the necessary time and resources to develop a well-structured local program for future implementation while ensuring continued access to state assistance programs.

### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None



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MEETING DATE: 03/24/2025

DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS

To: Mayor and City Council

Work Session

From: Corey Cagle, Director of Parks, Recreation & Events

Regular Meeting

Submitted: 03/19/2025

Subject: Eaton County Parks Community Grant 2025

### SUMMARY

For the 2025 Eaton County Parks Community Grant, we intend to write for 3 projects. Attached are the resolutions needed for each.

2025-21: The purchase of Kayaks, Life Jackets, & Paddles for the Outdoor Recreation Center to replace broken kayaks and expand our fleet. This will also replace life jackets that are set to expire at the end of the 2025 season.

2025- : The replacement of all boards on the Pedestrian Bridge connecting Parking Lot #4 and Howe Memorial Park. This grant will also allow us to paint the bridge and general maintenance as well.

2025- : Grant funds to help with the relocation of the Dog Park to Howe Memorial Park.

The Pedestrian Bridge and Dog Park Resolution will be presented at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION/MOTION

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-21.

### LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Resolutions 2025-21



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MEETING DATE: 03/24/2025

DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & EVENTS

To: Mayor and City Council

Work Session

From: Corey Cagle, Director of Parks, Recreation & Events

Regular Meeting

Submitted: 03/19/2025

Subject: Eaton County Parks Community Grant 2025

### **SUMMARY**

We will be submitting a grant application for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant program for a Sound System to be installed on the light posts throughout Downtown Eaton Rapids. Resolution 2025-22 is attached indicating our intent to apply.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION/MOTION**

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-22.

### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Resolution 2025-22