

City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting March 24, 2025

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on March 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 included City Manager Ridge, Public Works/Utilities Director Pierce, Treasurer/Finance Director Allen, Fire Chief McNutt, Police Chief Weeks, and City Attorney Harkness.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

1. PA95 Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Program

Finance Specialist Perkins reviewed the information she obtained information and opinions from other municipalities and researched the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). In April of last year, there were only 25 residents who used DHHS to get caught up on their utility bills. In doing her study, she recommends opting in for the current year to have time to create a program and gather information on how this would affect the shut-off process. A service charge will be added to every meter mandated by the State, ranging from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Treasurer /Financial Director Allen and City Manager Ridge feel that with the timetable given, it is best to opt in for now and monitor the process for next year. Discussion ensued.

2. BS&A Storage Capacity/Budget Amendment

Treasurer/Finance Director Allen presented the proposed budget amendment, explaining this was a short-term solution to increasing storage for the data from BS&A system to establish a long-term solution, possibly going to a cloud service. This budget item would be added to our capital outlay line item and spread across several departments. The amount of the item is 15,696.00. Discussion followed.

New Business

1. Eaton County Parks Community Grant Applications

Parks, Recreation, and Events Director Cagle presented the Eaton County Community grant application and explained that this grant for \$5,000.00 would be matched with \$5,000.00 to purchase Kayaks, life vests, and paddles for the Outdoor Recreation Center.

2. T-Mobile Downtown Grant Applications

Parks, Recreation, and Events Director Cagle presented the T-Mobile Downtown grant application to apply to install speakers in the Downtown area for a city sound system. This grant is for \$50,000, and the Parks department will match with \$40,000.00, the funds raised from Suzi Politza, former Council member, brick sales.

Board & Committee Reports:

Nicholas- The ZBA meeting focused on the project at 400 Dexter Road, home to Northwestern Elementary School. A variance was approved to allow for the construction of detached dwellings. Five of seven contingencies have been fulfilled, and the remaining ones will be addressed with the approval of this variance.

Loftus- He was unable to attend the Oakridge Park meeting. The Park, Recreation, and Events Board convened to discuss the many upcoming events that will be featured in the Newsletter and shared on Facebook. He proposed a wooden boat display to complement the June 7th fishing tournament. This boat show will commence on June 7th at the G.A.R. Island Park.

Malewski- Attended the Material Management Meeting to review bylaws.

Steele - Next month, the Planning Commission will focus on developing the 5-year Master Plan for the City. He plans to join the Early Risers breakfast at Foster's, where Nick, the owner of Foster's, will be the presenter for the meeting.

Mayor Colestock – DDA meeting focused on New Triathlon, Golf, Bowling and Cornhole. Parks, Recreation, and Events Director Cagle gave an update on the Community Market, discussed the Community and Economic Development Specialist position with 14 applications, and will narrow it down for first interviews. There was also discussion on Urban Air, the DDA budget, and Facade grants. Brownfield Development Authority will meet on April 8th.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, adjourning the meeting at 6:20 p.m. **Motion carried.**



Pamela Colestock, Mayor



Robin Webb, City Clerk