

## **City Council Meeting April 28 2025**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on April 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

### **Call To Order:**

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

### **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 April 28, 2025, Council meeting agenda with one change, removing item 9b, Rocking Chair Deserters, Inc Annual Report. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the April 14, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:**

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded approving the April 14, 2025, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the April 14, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes:**

Loftus moved, and Steele seconded approving the April 14, 2025, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of Expenditures totaling \$419,536.74:**

Nicholas moved, and Malewski seconded approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$419,536.74. **Motion carried.**

### **Public Comment:**

Brian Wixson, 209 S. River St., needs some dirt to fix his yard from when the Utilities department came to do repairs, and also needs the Utilities Department to come and remove wire from the top of his barn, so he can get his roof replaced.

Rocco Buysse, 117 Frost St., thanked the city for the Recycling trailer and appreciates this service.

### **Unfinished and Special Business:**

#### **a. Monarch Pledge Proclamation**

Mayor Colestock presented the Monarch Pledge Proclamation, officially designating May 2025 as Monarch Education and Awareness Month. Amelia Emerson highlighted the significance of this pledge and the vital role pollinating insects play in our ecosystem, expressing gratitude for the City of Eaton Rapids' dedication to preserving the Monarch habitat.

#### **b. Item Removed**

#### **c. Eaton Rapids Community Alliance, Inc. (ERCA) – Annual Report**

Dave Ballard and Rob Gruesbeck presented updates and statistics for the Eaton Rapids Community Alliance, Inc. (ERCA). Also gave an update on the new facility and progress being made, as well as a timeline of completion, barring any complications.

## **New Business**

**a. Adopt Resolution 2025-34 to adopt policies and procedures necessary to obtain a camp programming license through the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to adopt policies and procedures necessary to obtain a camp programming license through the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**b. Adopt Resolution 2025-35 to authorize the city to obtain a camp programming license through the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).**

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to authorize the city to obtain a camp programming license through the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**c. Approve the appointment of Hunter Wyble to the Local Development Finance Authority for a term ending January 18, 2027.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve the appointment of Hunter Wyble to the Local Development Finance Authority for a term ending January 18, 2027.

**d. First Read of Ordinance 2025-03 to amend Section 16-36 of Chapter 16, Article II, Division 2, Subcommittees Created, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.**

No Action required by City Council at this time.

**e. Adopt Ordinance 2025-01 to add Section 14-4 of Article I, of Chapter 14, Operating a Motor Vehicle without security, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.**

Loftus moved, Steele seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 to add Section 14-4 of Article I, of Chapter 14, Operating a Motor Vehicle without security, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**f. Adopt Ordinance 2025-02 to add Section 15-15 of Article I, Chapter 15, Defrauding an Innkeeper, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.**

Steele moved, Malewski seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 to add Section 15-15 of Article I, Chapter 15, Defrauding an Innkeeper, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Public Comments: None**

**Reports:**

**Fire Chief – No Report**

**Police Chief-** He extended an invitation to the Councilmembers for the Crime Stoppers breakfast held last week. Councilmember Malewski and Mayor Pro Tem Steele were in attendance at this event. The Fast \$50 cash incentive program for crime tips, led by Officer Ferguson and implemented at Eaton Rapids High School, was a key highlight of the breakfast. Karina Doermyer received a \$2,500 college scholarship from the Michigan Association of Chief of Police and will attend the MACP summer conference to accept it. SRO Ferguson will represent us at the upcoming awards banquet. Additionally, officers will be engaging in speed training at the MIS speedway.

**City Manager –** She provided the Council with an overview of all the grant applications finalized in recent days through the offices of Alissa Slotkin, Angela Whitwer, Sara Anthony, and Tom Barrett. All necessary documents have been submitted, with applications focused on acquiring a new fire truck and/or supporting the Horner Mill project. Additionally, she reported that the new weekly recycling program is progressing well, with increasing participation. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has welcomed two new employees in light of Steve Fuller's retirement and an existing vacancy. Marshall Meter and Cameron Summer will be joining the team shortly. The Community and Economic Development Specialist position is currently in its second round of interviews this week, and we anticipate filling this role by next week. Lastly, City Attorney Harkness will be unavailable next week.

**Council Members:**

**Malewski—**Graze Craze, a charcuterie franchise owned and operated by an ERHS graduate was selected as a 2025 Micro Business of the Year through Michigan Celebrates Small Business and Micro Business. She attended the Crime Stoppers breakfast hosted by Sheri Jones of WLNS. Thank you, Chief Weeks, for the invitation. Councilmember Loftus will have an author talk and book signing at the library on Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Through the Parks and Recreation department, she applied for a \$1000.00 grant for historical signs for downtown businesses from the Eaton County Historical Commission. Lastly, Brian Droscha, from the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, will be updating the Eaton County Historical Commission about the relocation of the Hall Street Depot. I will have more information on that at the next meeting.

**Steele** – Councilmember Steele thanked Chief Weeks for the invite to the Crime Stoppers breakfast. He attended the Early Riser Foster's Coffee ribbon cutting. Welcomed Hunter Wyble to the LDFA board, and this fills all of our boards, committees, and commissions. Reminder of the Public Service Millage election on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the second-grade tour of the City Hall on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the river cleanup on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Nicholas** – No Report

**Loftus**—Councilmember Loftus attended the Parks, Recreation, and Events Board. Preparation for the June 7th Wooden Boat event, which will take place at Howe Park, is coming along. He wrote three support letters for the upcoming park projects.

Attended the Oakridge Park Board, did a tour of the North trail, and observed the area that will be cleared for a meadow. Amelia Emerson will be heading up this project. Attended the Foster Coffee, Council of Government (COG) meeting on the topic of Master Plan discussions.

He commended the DPW department for the quick repair on the water main break at Hamlin and S. River Street. He also provided a support letter for the demolition of the Horner Mill complex.

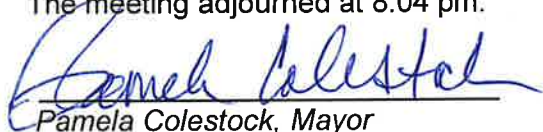
**Mayor Colestock** – She participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Foster's Coffee and attended the Chamber's Early Risers meeting. The marketing and sponsorship subcommittees of Urban Aire will convene to finalize the sponsorship forms that will be distributed. The Eaton County Health Alliance is seeking individuals interested in joining a committee focused on refrigerated food lockers. A survey regarding food lockers will be released soon, as Eaton Rapids could benefit from this initiative, but further information is needed.


On Thursday, she and the City Manager will be engaged all day in mediation concerning the Hamlin Township lawsuit.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

  
Pamela Colestock, Mayor

  
Robin Webb, City Clerk