

City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting May 28, 2025

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on May 28, 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, Clerk Webb, Fire Chief McNutt, Police Chief Weeks, Building/ Zoning Official Hummel, and City Attorney Harkness.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

1. Utility Rate Communication

City Manager Ridge updated the communication regarding the new water and sewer rates effective July 1, 2025. The communication and explanation for the rate increase will be published on Facebook, our website, and in the newsletter included with the utility bills.

New Business

1. Conditional Use 117 E. Knight Street

Building /Zoning Official Hummel presented a Conditional use permit request for 117 E. Knight Street to the Council for a Tattoo Studio. Mickela Clifford requested to open a tattoo studio that would operate by appointment only. Discussion ensued.

2. COP Hiring Program Grant

Chief Weeks presented a grant program that would supplement funds for wages for community policing. Discussion ensued.

3. Eaton Rapids Police Department Procedures for Mutual Aid Request Discussion

Chief Weeks presented the Police Department procedures for Mutual Aid Requests. He gave an overview of the procedures and processes that apply to our Police Department. Discussion ensued.

4. Elimination of Eaton County Animal Control Discussion

Chief Weeks gave an update and the possible difficulties the City and other Municipalities may experience if the Eaton County Animal Control Facility closes. Discussion ensued.

Board & Committee Reports:

Ken Nicholas – Councilmember Nicholas reported that he had received 3 different people commenting on the blight on Broad Street.

Rick Loftus – Councilmember Loftus attended the Parks, Recreation and Events Board, discussed upcoming events such as Wooden Boat Show, June 7, Art in the Park, and the July 4th celebration with the possibility of an increase in attendance due to other

municipalities not offering fireworks this year. The reappointment of Jessica McCuen for Chair and Patrick McNutt for Vice Chair. Also, Oakridge Park is clearing up invasive species and replacing them with wildflowers, as well as discussing their budget. The Oakridge Park Board had spent \$440 worth of landscaping tools have been purchased.

Deb Malewski – Councilmember Malewski attended the Arts Council with discussions on upcoming events such as Art in the Park, Wellhead protection education, the Color tour Triathlon.

William Steele – No Report

Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock attended ZBA where the Hospital applied for a variance for a new sign, they are waiting for approval from MDOT for the sign. There was a suggestion to go to the Planning Commission to have the area rezoned to General Business in order to make it less difficult to receive a variance for items like a new sign. She also attended DDA in which the discussion on the Community Market starting June 7, and the revenue netted from the Squishman Event was \$2400.00. Lastly, she attended the LDFA meeting where the discussion centered around the road construction for Hollow Ridge in our North Industrial Park.

Public Comment:

Finance Director/ Treasurer amended the 2025-2026 Budget. The addition of the revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department of \$25,000 for summer camps was added as well as a \$25,000 exp for the camps, which still left a balanced budget. Also, the Millage rate decreased from .7085 to .1450 due to unexpected revenue from the State of Michigan received by the City in May.

Patrick McNutt, 751 Island Court, confirmed Planting and Seed Exchange was May 4, and he congratulated Steve Fuller on his retirement.

Adjourn

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, adjourning the meeting at 6:43 p.m. **Motion carried.**



Pamela Colestock, Mayor



Robin Webb, City Clerk