

City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting June 09, 2025

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on June 09, 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:

Thomas Streed, 9330 Dearon Dr., presented a concern for the barn swallow living under the bridge that will be under construction soon. He made suggestions on how to avoid interrupting their nesting season.

Bryonna Barton, from the Eaton Rapids Area Library, presented the Program Guide for the library's summer activities. The theme for the summer activities is Art Around the World. She also informed the City Council that the Library received a \$20,000 grant to install lockers at the back of the building.

Unfinished and Special Business:

New Business

1. Transportation Economic Development fund Category B Program Grant – East Knight Street from East Street to Donegal Street and on South Center Street from East Knight Street to Hamlin Street

City Manager Ridge gave an update on the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program Grant that the City has applied for and what roads would be affected by these funds. Discussion ensued.

2. Police Department Storage Unit Purchase

Chief Weeks presented to invoices for new sheds for the Police Department to store evidence, and will meet the accreditation requirements. Discussion ensued.

3. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Acceptance and Adoption

City Manager Ridge presented the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and explained this has been approved by the state after over a year of collaboration. Discussion ensued.

4. Protecting MI Pension Grant Program Corrective Action Plan Monitoring

City Manager Ridge reiterated that this was a report necessary to remain compliant with the conditions of the grant the city received to help our pension fund to reach 60 percent funded. This report is due annually for five years. We are in our second year. Discussion ensued.

5. Planning Commission Recommendation to rezone Eaton Rapids Medical Center from RD1 to General Business District

Building Official Hummel, gave an update on rezoning the Eaton Rapids Medical Center

from RD1 to General Business District. This gave a few benefits to the Medical Center for expanding and signage. Discussion ensued.

6. Cash Reserve Policy Review

Treasurer/Finance Director Allen presented information on the upcoming new cash reserve policy and will incorporate into the ordinance update. The amended ordinance will be presented at a future council meeting.

7. Planning Commission Annual Report

Building Official Hummel presented the Planning Commission Annual Report that would be presented by Secretary Tanner at the City Council meeting.

Board & Committee Reports:

Ken Nicholas – No Meetings

Rick Loftus – Councilmember Loftus reported that the Wooden Boat Show was nice. A ninety-three-year-old man made a reservation for next year, and a man brought his own boat after coming to see the boat display. He also stated he observed Broad Street and is grateful that legal action has been taken. Lastly, he praised the invention and artistry of the crosswalk mural at West Hamlin and Hall Street.

Deb Malewski - Councilmember Malewski attended the County recycling collaboration meeting as they are working on a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. It will take months to complete. Weekend events were amazing. She would like to see more advertising.

William Steele – Mayor Pro Tem reported that during the Planning Commission meeting, the topics of discussion were Site Plan for 1401 S. Main Street, Taco Bell, the request for rezoning 1500 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids Medical Center, and review the 2024 Planning Commission Annual Plan. All approved the Taco Bell site plan with some modifications. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor Colestock – No Meetings

Public Comment:

Patrick McNutt, 751 Island Court, the Boat Show was great.

Chief Weeks – He spoke on the Animal Control issue, Tabletop Exercise on June 10th at 10 am. The State/ county patrol will not be available for help on the 4th of July. The department will have 2 openings shortly. The department has secured 4 AED units, making Eaton Rapids' public service available for primary response for heart attack victims. The Police Department will be hosting a meeting of area police agencies, with someone from the Michigan Commission On Law Enforcement (MCOLES) who spoke about auditing police department records. Also, he will be attending the Customer Appreciation Day on June 13 at LAFCU.

Chief McNutt – He also will be at the LAFCU event, announcing that there will be a new way for dispatching as of July 1st.

City Manager – City Manager Ridge reports that Century Construction will not be ready to present to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority at tomorrow's meeting. They will present at the July 8th meeting. DWSRF bids are due on June 23rd; therefore, we will have a special meeting for City Council on June 26th at 4:00 pm. The signatures for Eaton County Community Grants Program acceptance have been executed, and the funds are available for the Kayaks and the Bridge project.

City Clerk – City Clerk Webb reports that we have received our 2nd license for Pontem

and are diligently working on the cemetery every day. This is a tedious process as she has to walk the cemetery to make the corrections needed to the database.

Building Official Hummel reported the ongoing project, Taco Bell, more homes under construction, 400 Dexter, just to name a few.

Adjourn

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, adjourning the meeting at 6:18 p.m. **Motion carried.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Pamela Colestock", written over a horizontal line.

Pamela Colestock, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robin Webb", written over a horizontal line.

Robin Webb, City Clerk