

**City Council Meeting
January 12, 2026**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on January 12, 2026, 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, Councilmembers Malewski, Loftus, and Nicholas were present.

Invocation:

Mayor Colestock provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, approving January 12, 2026, Council meeting agenda, with the amendment of item 10 I. Approval of Resolution 2026-05 for a Fire Department Grant Agreement. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the December 22, 2025, Closed Session Minutes, under MCL 15.268 (e) of the Open Meetings Act:

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, approving the December 22, 2025 Closed Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of December 22, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, approving December 22, 2025, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of December 22, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, approving December 22, 2025, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditures totaling \$456,230.90

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$456,230.90. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Commissioner Barber – Happy New Year. Attended the Organizational Meeting on January 5th, he was reappointed to many boards (Public Works, LDFA, EATRAN, and Health Department to name a few). The Health Department meeting presented shocking statistics of 9th and 11th-graders in Eaton County. 85% of those asked have not tried cigarettes, 88% have not vaped in 30 days, 85.3% do not buy at stores. He made a recommendation to tighten the requirements and process to remove commissioners from boards. If you miss meetings, there will be a process to remove commissioners.

Unfinished and Special Business:

New Business:

Adopt Resolution 2026-01 to establish Rental Inspections Fees for the City of Eaton Rapids.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-01 to establish Rental Inspection Fees for the City of Eaton Rapids.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2025-02 to establish a Solid Waste Collection License Fee for the City of Eaton Rapids.

Steele moved, Malewski seconded to approve Resolution 2026-02 to establish a Solid Waste Collection License Fee for the City of Eaton Rapids.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2025-03 to approve a revised fee schedule for the City of Eaton Rapids, effective January 12, 2026

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve Resolution 2026-03 to approve a revised fee schedule for the City of Eaton Rapids, effective January 12, 2026.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2025-04 to approve a Michigan Department of Transportation Contract Number 25-5602 for East Knight Street and South Center Street

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve Resolution 2026-04 to approve a Michigan Department of Transportation Contract Number 25-5602 for East Knight Street and South Center Street.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

To Approve the appointment of Ken Nicholas to the Fiscal Year 026/2027 Budget Committee

Steele moved, Malewski seconded to approve the appointment of Ken Nicholas to the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Committee.

To Approve the reappointment of Mike Baker to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/29

Steele moved, Loftus seconded to approve the reappointment of Mike Baker to the Planning

Commission for the term ending 1/31/29.

To Approve the reappointment of Darren Tanner to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/29

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the reappointment of Darren Tanner to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/29.

To Approve the reappointment of Paul Wegner to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/29

Steele moved, Malewski seconded to approve the reappointment of Paul Wegner to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/29.

To Approve the reappointment of Charles Millington to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/27

Loftus moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the reappointment of Charles Millington to the Planning Commission for the term ending 1/31/27.

To Approve the reappointment of Rob South to the Board of Review for the term ending 1/31/29

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve the reappointment of Rob South to the Board of Review for the term ending 1/31/29.

To Approve the reappointment of Cheryl Kapff to the Board of Review for the term ending 1/31/29

Steele moved, Malewski seconded to approve the reappointment of Cheryl Kapff to the Board of Review for the term ending 1/31/29.

Adopt Resolution 2025-05 to authorize the acceptance of a Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and approve the execution of a Grant Agreement for the 2026 Volunteer Fire Capacity Program

Steele moved, Nicholas seconded to approve Resolution 2026-05 to authorize the acceptance of a Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and approve the execution of a Grant Agreement for the 2026 Volunteer Fire Capacity Program.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Public Comments:

Reports:

City Manager – She would like to extend her gratitude to the Boards and Council members for their dedication, great job, and attendance at all meetings. Currently, Citizens Academy has 7 registrants and is set to start on January 29th. I will be out of the office January 20-23, but will have access via phone or email. CapCon Conference in Lansing will be March 10th and 11th. If any councilmember is interested in attending, let her know, and she will get you registered.

Council Members:

Malewski – Councilmember Malewski commented that the new Bakery in town will be opening soon and Arts Council is hosting a Cookie decorating event on February 10th.

Steele – Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked Lieutenant Creger and Chief Weeks for the tour of the new Secured Evidence Storage Unit. This unit had to be disassembled to get in the evidence room. He also learned there are types of evidence that must be retained for 110 years. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Nicholas – No Report

Loftus – Councilmember Loftus is preparing a letter to be sent out for participants for the upcoming Wooden Boat Show for 2026. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works for a fast response time for the recent power outage. Also expressed his appreciation for the DPW clearing the streets and picking up decorations on the G.A.R. Island and around the city. He gave an update on the Gold Thimble Quilt shop opening in March.

Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock commented on how some alumni from last year's Citizens Academy approached her to take the class again, she said most definitely. She reported that DDA has scheduled a Strategic Planning meeting for January 19 at 5 pm. She reported regular DDA meeting was robust, talking about the Social District and upcoming events. The COG meeting will be held at Eaton Rapids Township this month. She gave a special shout-out to the Eaton Rapids Police Department; she is proud of all they do, including Lieutenant Creger Officer Furgeson, Chief Weeks, and the entire staff.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Robin Webb, City Clerk

Invocation