

**City Council Meeting
March 9, 2026**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on March 9, 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 the March 9, 2026, Council meeting agenda, as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of February 23, 2026, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, approving the February 23, 2026, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of February 23, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, approving the February 23, 2026, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditures totaling \$479,817.45

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$479,817.45. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

Unfinished and Special Business:

State of City – Mayor Pamela Colestock presented the State of the City address and requested that a copy be attached to these meeting minutes as part of the permanent record. The transcript is attached as Attachment One.

New Business:

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-01 to Amend Section 1.40 to Article I, Appendix A, and to amend Section 23.50 to Article XXIII, Appendix A, Zoning Ordinance of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan, to Protect the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare of the City of Eaton Rapids; and to Rescind a Commercial Medical Marihuana Facilities Overlay District.

NO Action needed for first reading.

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-02 to Amend Section 23-1, and to Rescind Sections 23-2 through 23-13 of Article I of Chapter 23, Medical Marihuana Facilities, and to Amend Section 23-15 and to Rescind Sections 23-16 through 23-27 of Article II of Chapter 23, Adult Use Marihuana Facilities, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

NO Action needed for first reading.

Adopt Resolution 2026-14 to approve amendment to proposal for Professional Services for the Plains Road Sewer Extension Project with C2AE Engineering

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-14 to approve the amendment to the proposal for Professional Services for the Plains Road Sewer Extension Project with C2AE Engineering.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-15 to approve amendment to proposal for Professional Services E. Knight St and Center St Category B Design

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-15 for the amendment to the proposal for Professional Services E. Knight St and Center St Category B Design.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-16 to approve Brownfield plan Agreement between the Eaton Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Swan WFH Inverness Home, LLC

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-16 for the Brownfield plan Agreement between the Eaton Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Swan WFH Inverness Home, LLC.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-17 to approve purchase of Wastewater Treatment Plant Auger

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-17 for the purchase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Auger.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-18 to approve Conditional Use for a Plant Nursery and Greenhouse for Property located on Michigan Road (Parcel No. 300-27-400-001-05), owner Caleb Brinson

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-18 for the Conditional Use for a Plant Nursery and Greenhouse for the property located at 2670 South Michigan Road (Parcel No. 300-27-400-001-05).

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-19 to Opt into the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to opt into the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for 2026.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-20 requesting Federal Congressional Directed Spending for the replacement of the City of Eaton Rapids Fire Department Aerial Fire Truck

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-20 requesting Federal Congressional Directed Spending for the replacement of the City of Eaton Rapids Fire Department Aerial Fire Truck.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Absent: 0

Adopt Resolution 2026-21 requesting Federal Congressional Directed Spending for the redevelopment of the City of Eaton Rapids Community Center

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-21 requesting Federal Congressional Directed Spending for the Redevelopment of the Eaton Rapids Community Center.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Approve appointment of Scott Paradis as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for the term expiring December 31, 2027

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve the appointment of Scott Paradis as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for the term expiring December 31, 2027. **Motion Carried.**

Public Comments:

Caleb Brinson, 2670 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids

Mr. Brinson spoke about the Flower Garden.

Scott Wilson, Eaton Rapids Township Supervisor, 2512 S. Canal Road, Eaton Rapids, talked about the 425 agreement.

Avery Binson, 2670 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids, spoke about the Flower Garden.

Reports:

Police Chief – no report

Fire Chief – no report

City Manager – City Manager Ridge thanked the Mayor for the State of the City address.

Council Members:

Malewski – Councilmember Malewski thanked Mayor Colestock for the State of the City report. It shows all that we are working on and have accomplished. We see constant improvements in our city. I am very proud of our city staff, who have done an amazing job and accomplished much. Thanks to Mayor Colestock for collecting all the information.

Thanks everyone for coming to the meeting. I discovered a long time ago that the only way to really know what's going on with the city is to attend meetings or get involved and be on a board.

Angela Whitwer's February Small Business of the Month winner, Eaton Rapids Auto Detailing! The owner Blair Moore is driven and provides for the community. He has given free details to veterans and families in need. They sponsor activities in Eaton Rapids and give back. He goes above and beyond for his customers and donates to different agencies in the community.

Meghann Barnett real estate with Keller Williams in downtown ER. Watch for a pink awning, she says, this spring.

I love that we're kind of in a business boom! New businesses, new excitement downtown. It's something we've been waiting for for years.

Steele – Mayor Pro Tem Steele thanked the Mayor for the State of the City report. There is a lot of activity around the City including infrastructure improvements. It will be busy for a while.

Nicholas – Councilmember Nicholas reported attending the ribbon cutting at the Golden Thimble in downtown Eaton Rapids.

Loftus – Councilmember Loftus attended the March 3rd and March 4th Teen Space open houses. Gold Thimble, Simply Stacy's Bakery & Deli, and Teen Space all had ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the previous two weeks. Fox47 ran a great video story about these activities. It included an upbeat interview with Councilmember Nicholas. Loftus noted the Library just launched a Library Refresh Project to upgrade the library interior. Loftus thanked the Council and city staff for their guidance during his first year on City Council.

Mayor Colestock – Mayor Colestock reported that it's been a busy few weeks, including grand openings for a few new businesses. She said she appreciates City Council and staff participating in the dedications and ribbon-cuttings. Welcoming these new businesses means a lot to the owners and shows how we appreciate them choosing Eaton Rapids.

Mayor Colestock attended the county's public safety meeting last week to talk about the lack of animal control and how we see a need for them to work with our municipalities on finding solutions to this critical issue. She has a meeting with Sheriff Reich this week that, hopefully, will result in a positive outcome for this issue.

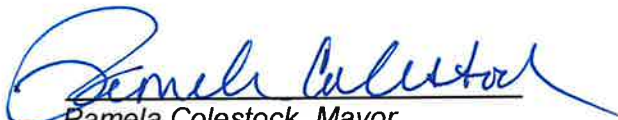
She participated in 2 local news interviews regarding our Water Project and have an article coming out in this week's Flashes. We all need to be ready to speak about this project and be proactive with the information to help our residents understand how it directly affects them.

Council member Nicholas and Mayor Colestock will be meeting with the City Manager and City Treasurer on Thursday for our first budget committee meeting.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Genny Allen, City Treasurer