

City of Eaton Rapids Work Session Meeting March 10, 2025

The Work Session of the Eaton Rapids City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on March 10, 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, Fire Chief McNutt, and City Attorney Harkness.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business: None

New Business

1. MSHDA Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – LionBear Ventures Scope of Work

City Manager Ridge provided details about working with LionBear Ventures to pursue grant funding to enhance Eaton Rapids' community development. LionBear Ventures, a reputable organization for its expertise in community development projects, would write the letter of intent, due March 17, and complete the grant application for the City. The total cost to the City for creating the letter of intent and completing the grant application will be \$3,500.00.

The primary objective of utilizing the grant funds is to enhance housing options for low-to-moderate-income families and to improve public infrastructure. \$400,000 is available for residential improvements and 1.6 million for general projects.

2. North and West Substation Recloser Project Bid

Resolutions 2025-19 and 2025-20 will be presented to City Council for projects that are recommended to avoid loss of electric service to all North and West Substation customers. The existing reclosers are aged electronics in need of replacement. If the reclosure fails, the substation transformer fuse(s) could cause outages to all downline customers.

Staff recommended accepting the bid from and awarding the contract to U&I Products for the West Substation Recloser Replacement Project, a 2024 priority project in the Five-Year Plan, for \$119,244.00.

Staff recommended accepting the bid from and awarding the contract to U&I Products for the North Substation Recloser Replacement Project, a 2025 priority project in the Five-Year Plan, for \$110,825.00.

3. PA95/Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Program

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF) provides energy assistance for those

households that meet income qualifications. This fund generates funds to help households that qualify by adding a surcharge to retail electric billings throughout Michigan.

By April 1, 2025, for the 2025 program, Utilities with fewer than 45,000 residential customers must notify the Michigan Public Safety Commission regarding intent to opt in to, or opt out of, collecting the LIEAF surcharge. If the utility opts out of the state program, it must create its own program and have it in place by October 1, 2025.

Staff is researching the pros and cons of both opting in to the state program and creating and administering our own program. A report will be provided to the City Council at the March 24, 2025, meeting.

4. BS&A Storage Capacity

The BS&A programs have reached their storage capacity. Staff is currently exploring several options, each with additional costs. One of the options is upgrading the SQL Server Standard Core License, which costs \$15,696. Alternatively, staff is considering upgrading BS&A to the Cloud, with an estimate in progress. We are also researching other storage alternatives that could be maintained on the City's servers. City staff are collaborating with BS&A and Dewpoint to determine the best option for the City. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

5. MFA – Storage Capacity

The City currently maintains 29 DUO licenses, each costing \$3 per month per user. Dewpoint recently informed staff that Microsoft plans to increase the license fee by \$6 per month per user for DUO users, bringing the total cost to \$9 per user per month.

To avoid this price increase, the City can switch to Microsoft Authenticator. This decision requires careful consideration to balance cost efficiency with departmental needs.

The Police Department specifically requires DUO licenses for their Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) implementation. Therefore, their needs must be prioritized in the decision-making process.

Staff are working with Dewpoint to determine the best solution.

6. Congressionally Directed Spending Update – Senator Peters

Senator Peters provided the following advice for fiscal year 2025 project submissions currently funded in House or Senate appropriation bills:

The "*Aerial Platform Fire Truck*" and the "*Water Treatment Plant Pressure Filter Replacement*" are currently slated in the drafted bills to receive FY25 budget funding is still under negotiation in Congress. Senator Peters advised the City to hold off on submitting the projects for FY 26. If Congress fails to pass the FY25 budget, Senator Peters' office will proactively contact the City to provide an opportunity to re-submit the project for FY26.

Closed Session under MCL 15.268 (d) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded to go into Closed Session at 6:09 p.m. to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

Board & Committee Reports: The reports were presented during the regular City Council meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded adjourning the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Motion carried.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Pamela Colestock' and the signature on the right is 'Robin Webb'. Both signatures are written over a horizontal line.

Pamela Colestock, Mayor

Robin Webb, City Clerk