

**City Council Meeting
April 14, 2025**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on April 14, 2025, 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, Councilpersons Malewski, Nicholas, and Loftus were present.

Invocation:

Mayor Colestock, provided the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda:

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, approving the April 14, 2025, Council meeting agenda with the date correction on Item 10a to May 1st instead of May 7th. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the March 24, 2025, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:

Malewski moved, and Nicholas seconded approving the March 24, 2025, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the March 24, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes:

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded approving the March 24, 2025, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the March 28 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded approving the March 28, 2025, City Council Special meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the April 9, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes:

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, approving April 9, 2025, Special meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditures totaling \$982,016.31:

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$982,016.31. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Steve Benkovsky, 10511 Petrieville Rd, thanked City Manager Ridge for making the Eaton County Community Grant application more appealing and assisting with the process.

Keith Barber, County Commissioner provided an update regarding the implications if the Millage fails in the upcoming May election. He shared a handout outlining the necessary cuts and their potential impacts. He emphasized that if the millage fails, the patrol services will be permanently eliminated. When asked about the possibility of selling Crandall Lake, he investigated this option and found that the funding conditions would require purchasing additional property with the proceeds; the funds could not be used to help balance the budget. Additionally, he announced the County Clean-up Day for electronics and hazardous waste collection, scheduled for May 10, 2025, from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Russ Hicks, Eaton Rapids Township, He took part in the Water Shed Meetings and shared that one of the watershed districts has designated \$5,000 to fund buoys and signage for the Grand River. He found that contamination levels in the Grand River are at an all-time high for this area, with various hazardous pollutants detected in the water. He suggested that a representative from the City should participate in these informative meetings.

Unfinished and Special Business: None

Proclamation Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Colestock declared April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Eaton Rapids by presenting a proclamation to Xavier DeGroat. Xavier shared his upcoming plans and events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the sensory board at the Playground of Dreams Park scheduled for August 8, 2025.

New Business

a. Approve event application for the Day of Prayer on May 1st, 2025.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to approve the event application for the Day of Prayer on May 1st, 2025. **Motion carried.**

b. Approve event application for Dowding Industries, Inc. Corporate 60th Anniversary Open House on June 19, 2025.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to approve the event application for Dowding Industries, Inc Corporate 60th Anniversary Open House on June 19th, 2025.

c. Approve the appointment of Vicki Overla as an alternate to the Arts Council, term ending December 31, 2027.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve the appointment of Vicki Overla as an alternate to the Arts Council, term ending December 31, 2027.

d. Adopt Resolution 2025-27 to approve the Second Addendum to the employment agreement for City Manager Ridge effective July 1, 2025.

Malewski moved, and Loftus seconded, approving the Second Addendum to the employment agreement for City Manager Ridge effective July 1, 2025.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

e. Adopt Resolution 2025-28 to accept bid and award contract to Resco for the City of Eaton Rapids, Jackson and Knight Street Line Reclosers 15kV Recloser with Controller project, part of the 2024-2028 Electric System Projects in the amount of \$65,946.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to accept bid and award contract to Resco for the City of Eaton Rapids, Jackson and Knight Street Line Reclosers 15kV Recloser with Controller Project, part of the 2024-2028 electric System Projects in the amount of \$65,946.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

f. Adopt Resolution 2025-29 to accept bid and award contract to ML Chartier Excavating, Inc for the City of Eaton Rapids, Community Technical, Management, and Financial (TMF) Support for Lead Line Replacement Grant for Water Service Material Investigations in the amount of \$128,646.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to accept bid and award contract to ML Chartier Excavating, Inc for the City of Eaton Rapids, Community Technical, Management, and Financial (TMF) Support for Lead Line Replacement Grant for Water Service Material Investigations in the amount of \$128,646.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

g. Adopt Resolution 2025-30 to approve Eaton County Community Grant Application for the Pedestrian Bridge Board Replacement and Structure Painting in the amount of \$28,269 with a City in-kind match of \$3,269 and Grant Request of \$25,000.

Loftus moved, and Steele seconded to approve Eaton County Community Grant Application for the Pedestrian Bridge Board Replacement and Structure Painting in the amount of \$28,269 with a City in-kind match of \$3,269 and Grant Request of \$25,000.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

h. Adopt Resolution 2025-31 to approve Eaton County Community Grant Application for Dog Park Relocation and Fencing in the amount of \$53,445 with a City in-kind match of \$11,445 and Grant request of \$42,000.

Malewski moved, and Steele seconded to approve Eaton County Community Grant Application for Dog Park Relocation and Fencing in the amount of \$53,445 with a City in-kind match of \$11,445 and Grant Request of \$42,000.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

i. Adopt Resolution 2025-32 to support Eaton Rapids Township, Eaton County Community Grant Application for Gazebo and Picnic Tables at Oakridge Park in the amount of \$10,410 with an in-kind match of \$1,500, Cash Match of \$510 and Grant Request of \$8,400.

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to support Eaton Rapids Township, Eaton County Community Grant Application for Gazebo and Picnic Tables at Oakridge Park in the amount of

\$10,410 with an in-kind match of \$1,500, Cash Match of \$510 and Grant Request of \$8,400.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5 – Nicholas, Steele, Malewski, Loftus, and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

- j. Adopt Resolution 2025-33 supporting the Eaton County Land Bank's request of the State of Michigan for an appropriation for the demolition and remediation of the Horner Mill Property located at the Corner of North Main Street and Canal Street.**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded to support the Eaton County Land Bank's request of the State of Michigan for an appropriation for the demolition and remediation of the Horner Mill Property located at the Corner of North Main Street and Canal Street.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: 5 – Malewski, Loftus, Nicholas, Steele, and Mayor Colestock
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

- k. First Reading of an Ordinance 2025-01 to add Section 14-4 of Article I of Chapter 14, Operating a Motor Vehicle without security, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.**

Mayor Colestock presented the First Read of Ordinance 2025-01 to add Section 14-4 of Article I Chapter 14, Operating a Motor Vehicle without security, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

- l. First Reading of an Ordinance 2025-02 to add Section 15-15 of Article I, Chapter 15, Defrauding an Innkeeper, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.**

Mayor Colestock presented the First Read of Ordinance 2025-02 to add Section 15-15 of Article I, Chapter 15, Defrauding an Innkeeper, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

Public Comments: None

Reports:

Fire Chief – No Report

Police Chief- No Report

City Manager – She reports that the Nealy statue has been replaced with extra patrols around the park. Director Pierce will be installing more cameras. She gave updates on grants that will be submitted soon, as well as many, many projects that are currently underway or coming up throughout the city. June 14th will be the hazardous waste collection in the city.

Council Members:

Malewski – She found a new business inside Horner House Interiors named Crafty Vintage Vibes. She participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Teen Center. Robbin United Methodist Church is organizing a prom dress giveaway every weekend of April. She is eagerly anticipating the upcoming Urban Air event festivities. Many groups with food, music and fun activities for all ages. On April 29th, the next food distribution will take place at Alumni Stadium, where over 700 people were served during the last event.

Steele – At the end of March, he shared breakfast with Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich and Undersheriff Jeff Cook, thanked Sheriff Reich for buying my breakfast. He also participated in the Planning Commission meeting, where they are updating the Master Plan and revising the Bylaws. Additionally, he attended the Strut Your Stuff fundraiser for the new Teen Center, along with the groundbreaking ceremony. The event saw a wonderful turnout, with numerous dignitaries present. Furthermore, five thousand Easter eggs were distributed for the Easter Egg Hunt. He thanked the City Staff for the Birthday wishes.

Nicholas – No Report


Loftus – He expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Barber for the economic report on Eaton County and to Russ Hicks for the Watershed report. The celebration on April 5th marked the 159th anniversary of the Grand Army Republic and was a fantastic event with high attendance. He also participated in the City's budget meeting and attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Teen Center. The Strut Your Stuff fundraiser raised approximately \$40,000. This week, he will be present at both the Park, Recreation, and Events Board meeting and the Oakridge Parks Board meeting. Finally, the GAR museum has commenced the promotion of the Civil War Camp. He is looking forward to the Council of Government meeting, applauded the City's proclamation for Autism, and gave a plug for the "Portraits of Poppy", directed by Eaton Rapids, Thomas Streed.

Mayor Colestock – She participated in the Urban Air meeting, where there are currently 90 campers registered out of a total capacity of 101. The DDA Triathlon fundraiser is scheduled for May 3rd, featuring 9 holes of golf, 3 games of bowling, and a cornhole tournament. She also attended the Eaton Rapids Township meeting, where she discussed the city's needs and upcoming events. The Easter Egg Hunt was a tremendous success. Additionally, she took part in the Strut Your Stuff fundraiser. She will join a meeting via phone with City Manager Ridge, County Treasurer Reynart, and Representative Anthony. Please note that City Hall will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.


Pamela Colestock, Mayor


Robin Webb, City Clerk