

**City Council Meeting  
March 23, 2026**

A regular Eaton Rapids City Council meeting was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on March 23, 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 23, 2026, Council meeting agenda, with the addition of item 10 i. To Approve Utility Waiver for 309 Hale St. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of March 9, 2026, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes:**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, approving the March 9, 2026, City Council Work Session meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of March 9, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes:**

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, approving the March 9, 2026, City Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Expenditures totaling \$304,873.50**

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, approving expenditures of the City of Eaton Rapids, totaling \$304,873.50. **Motion carried.**

**Public Comment:**

**Commissioner Barber** – spoke on the upcoming Road Commission Millage of 1.5 mills that will take effect in 2027 as the 0829 mills is complete for the Nursing Home and DNR Trust Fund. The county is working on a grant for a walking path from the granary on M-50 to Crandall Lake Park. This will include using the non-working railroad track to construct a walking path from Charlotte to the park eventually. It will end at the new entrance of Crandall Lake Park on Flanders Rd. This grant will require a 25 percent match from the county.

**Unfinished and Special Business:**

**Citizen's Academy Graduation** – Mayor Colestock presented all of the attendants of the Citizen's Academy with Graduation Certificates from the City and Certificates from State Representative Angela Witwer and State Senator Sarah Anthony office.

**New Business:**

**First Reading of Ordinance 2026-03** to Amend Section 8.5-82 of Article V of Chapter 8.5, billing information, and to amend Section 22-16 of Article I of Chapter 22, Administrative Fines, of the Codified Ordinances of City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton County, Michigan.

No Action Required

**Adopt 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.

Steele moved, and Loftus seconded, to adopt 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.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt 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.

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to adopt 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.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt Resolution 2026-22 to Revise Fee Schedule For the City of Eaton Rapids**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-22 to Revise Fee Schedule for the City of Eaton Rapids.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt Resolution 2026-23 to support W. Knight Street Bridge Rehabilitation (STR-2444) Local Bridge Program Application with the Michigan Department of Transportation**

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to support W. Knight Street Bridge Rehabilitation (STR-2444) Local Bridge Program Application with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt Resolution 2026-24 to support State Street Bridge Replacement (STR-2444) Local Bridge Program Application with the Michigan Department of Transportation**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-24 to support State Street Bridge Replacement (STR-2444) Local Bridge Program Application with the Michigan Department of Transportation

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt Resolution 2026-25 to award Leavitt & Starck Excavating the Bid for MDOT Category B project for pavement removal and replacement of Grandview Drive, Industrial Drive, Hollow Ridge Drive, and JP Sullivan Drive**

Steele moved, and Nicholas seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-25 to award Leavitt & Starck Excavating the Bid for MDOT Category B project for pavement removal and replacement of Grandview Drive, Industrial Drive, Hollow Ridge Drive, and JP Sullivan Drive.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Adopt Resolution 2026-26 to approve Fireworks contract with Night Magic Displays for the 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**

Steele moved, and Malewski seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-18 to approve Fireworks contract with Night Magic Displays for the 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

**Roll call vote:**

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Approve Utility Waiver for 309 Hale Street**

Steele moved, Loftus seconded, to approve Utility Waiver for 309 Hale Street.

**Public Comments: None**

**Reports:**

**Police Chief –**

Chief Weeks congratulated the Citizens' Academy students. He stated it was a pleasure to have them in class. He announced the Final Assessment for Accreditation would be May 28-29, and would appreciate the Mayor stopping by to meet the Assessment team. There will be a mock Assessment in April, date TBD. Lastly, he thanked Councilmember Malewski for the article giving the history of the Police Department. It was a great article, and he appreciated the time and great effort, including pictures.

### **Fire Chief –**

Chief McNutt reported one of his firefighters had a house fire over the weekend. The Fire Department gave \$1000 to the family for incidentals. They are currently staying in a hotel. Anyone who wants to donate can give it to the fire department.

### **City Manager –**

City Manager thanked the council, city staff, and guests who participated in the Master Plan activity in the work session. She encouraged others to fill out the survey on the website or Facebook. She spoke of the grants that Director Cagle has been working on for the parks and the community center. Road Plan from the Pazar Ratings is in the development stage. This project hinges on the Bridge projects. She is also involved with the Parking Lot evaluations, rating them from most important to least important.

### **Council Members:**

**Malewski** – Councilmember Malewski reported Art Council grant application for a mural was not submitted due to the ADA regulation policy needed to be eligible. She presented opportunities for sponsorships for the Urban Air Event or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. Program ads are due by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was also asked to write an article on the history of the Police department, back to 1888, for their accreditation application, including photos of Daniel Hamman (1910) and the mayor's grandfather Arthur (1950's). She was unable to include much of the information due to space limitations. Hopes to include it in the book that is being written and hopes to finish it this year for the Eaton County Historical Commission, titled "Crime in the County". Lastly, she welcomed councilmember Loftus to the GAR board and congratulated the Citizen Academy graduates.

**Steele** – Mayor Pro Tem Steele wanted to honor Ron Byerly. He was a firefighter on the City of Eaton Rapids and Hamlin Township fire departments from 1964-1987, served as Fire Chief in Hamlin Township from 1988-2003, then was a school bus driver and then Supervisor of Transportation for the Eaton Rapids Public Schools. He was 93 and will be greatly missed.

**Nicholas** – Councilmember Nicholas thanked Citizen Academy participants and thanked Commissioner Barber for bringing great context to the last session.

**Loftus** – Councilmember Loftus reported that the Parks, Rec, and Events board met and discussed the Easter Egg hunt on March 28, and all upcoming events for the year, such as Urban Air, the summer kickoff on June 6, with the boat show, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He reported that the Oakridge Board met and there has been some park cleanup, and discussed Dave Wilson's construction of the pavilion, the purchase of new benches, and are considering a design for the new portable toilet enclosure. Board Treasurer Benkovsky continues discussions with City Treasurer and City Manager Ridge to balance their accounts and apply for grants. He reports that he has joined the GAR board, and the GAR Museum is open on the first and third Saturdays of the month to host events. He and Mayor Colestock will visit the Jean Bradford Kline Senior Center on April 9<sup>th</sup> for a lunch conversation. This will be open to the public. Lastly, he congratulated the Citizens' Academy graduates and stated he enjoyed each session and appreciated the information shared and the expertise of the city staff presenters.

**Mayor Colestock** – Mayor Colestock also thanked the graduates for their dedication for 2 hours or more, for 8 weeks of classes to learn the processes of the city. She encouraged them

to tell others. She mentioned the water construction project and that it will present temporary inconveniences but will benefit the city for many years to come. Budget meetings have begun. The next meeting will be on April 2. She urged everyone to complete the Master Plan survey using QR code either on the website or on Facebook. She also announced the Community Exchange location. City of Eaton Rapids will be working with the City of Lowell as we discover our similarities and differences. Lastly, LDFA approved the Hollow Ridge road project, including JP Sullivan with Leavitt & Starck to be completed by 09/30/2026 and voted to donate \$500 to Urban Air Event.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

  
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Pamela Colestock, Mayor

  
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Robin Webb, City Clerk