

**December 9, 2019**  
**City Council Meeting**

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on December 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Malewski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Malewski and Councilpersons Wichman, Burke, Colestock, and Harri.

The invocation was given by Pastor Marty DeBow of First United Methodist Church.

Harri moved, Burke seconded, PASSED, to approve the agenda without items d and e under new business.

Wichman moved, Colestock seconded, PASSED, to approve the November 25<sup>th</sup> Worksession Minutes and the November 25<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes.

Burke moved, Harri seconded, PASSED, to approve the disbursements of \$195,546.81.

**Public Comments:**

Martin Vanek, 211 S. Main Street, appeared before Council regarding the Rental Ordinance. He thanked fellow Committee members Colestock, Hummel, McNutt and Desentz for their work on the ordinance.

Bonnie Valerio, 6772 Wilcox, appeared before Council regarding the rental ordinance.

Dan Babbitt, 305 Kerry, appeared before Council regarding the rental ordinance.

Melissa Dansereau, State of Michigan, appeared before Council regarding Project Rising Tides and to congratulate Project Rising Tide Fellow Heather Nugen.

**Unfinished and Special Business:** None

**New Business:**

- a. Quality of Life Director Zeller introduced Michelle Bennet, Planner with Beckett & Raeder, who presented the Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mayor Malewski opened the Public Hearing for the Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 7:33 p.m. There were no public comments. The Public Hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.
- b. Harri moved, Wichman seconded, to adopt Resolution 2019-16 To Adopt the Eaton Rapids Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan; ADOPTED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Burke, Wichman, Colestock, Harri, Malewski  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0
- c. Project Rising Tide Fellow Heather Nugen presented the Project Rising Tide End of Fellowship Presentation including a review of her work and outcomes of the PRT Technical Assistance Deliverables. Wichman and Colestock thanked Nugen for her work on the project. Mayor Malewski advised that she is a hard act to follow and will be missed.
- d. Removed

- e. Removed
- f. Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, for the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-09 to add Article VIII, Sections 190-201 of Chapter 12, Rental Property Registration; PASSED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Colestock, Harri, Wichman, Burke, Malewski  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Mayor Malewski commented that the ordinance is needed to continue with programs such as Project Rising Tide and Michigan Main Street. Colestock commented that a lot of hard work and research went into the creation of this ordinance. Wichman commented that the ordinance is needed to clean up some rentals.

**Public Comments:**

Martin Vanek, 1211 Main Street, appeared before Council regarding the 425 Agreement and its effect on the Master Plan.

**Reports:**

Councilman Wichman reported that he attended the Hometown Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Event. He also participated in the CCAG food and clothing drive. He believes these events showcase Eaton Rapids as America's Hometown. He thanked Councilman Harri for his service on Council and advised he has been a pleasure to work with.

Councilwoman Colestock reported that the Hometown Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Event was great. She thanked Council for adopting the Rental Ordinance. She thanked the Rental Ordinance Committee- Roger McNutt, LeRoy Hummel, Aaron Desentz, Martin Vanek for their work on the ordinance. She advised Councilman Harri will be missed and thanked him for his guidance when she was a new Council Member.

Councilman Burke reported that the rental ordinance was adopted to maintain a minimum standard of living for renters. He believes it is fair and reasonable. He thanked the Rental Ordinance Committee for their efforts to create the ordinance. He thanked Councilman Harri for his service on City Council. He considers Councilman Harri to be a great example of a Council Member with the voice of reason and the best intentions.

Councilman Harri reported that the rental ordinance is a way to ensure residents have a safe place to live. He reported that it has been a pleasure to serve the residents of Eaton Rapids. He hopes that others will participate on boards or commissions. He is proud of his work to rehab the Welcome Center and reduce legacy costs while maintaining benefits. During his tenure roads and infrastructure improvements were completed; the Outdoor Recreation Center was opened; parks have been improved; and there has been collaboration with the Townships. He was happy to share his IT expertise and serve on the personnel committee.

Mayor Malewski reported that the adoption of the rental ordinance wasn't taken lightly. Much research and work went into it. He thanked Councilman Harri for his service on Council. He considered Councilman Harri the "rudder" of Council.

Harri moved, Burke seconded, PASSED, that Council enter closed session to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider the personnel evaluation of, a public officer or employee.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Wichman, Burke, Harri, Colestock, Malewski

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Council went into closed session at 8:30 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:48 p.m.

Colestock moved, Harri seconded, PASSED, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

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Paul O. Malewski, Mayor

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Laura Boomer, City Clerk