

January 25, 2021
City Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the City Council was conducted by electronic remote means (online and/or by phone), on January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Due to public safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was conducted via Zoom Conferencing using Meeting ID 883 5527 4938.

Mayor Malewski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present were:

Mayor Malewski remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilwoman Colestock remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilwoman Politza remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilman Steele remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilman Wichman remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan

The invocation was given by Pastor Jim Riley of Eaton Rapids Assembly of God.

Colestock moved, Steele seconded, PASSED, to approve the agenda with the addition of the PFAS Attorney discussion under item 10. d. WSP Contract Addendum Approval.

Steele moved, Wichman seconded, PASSED, to approve the January 11th Worksession Minutes, the January 11th Council Meeting Minutes, and the January 18th Special Meeting Minutes.

Wichman moved, Steele seconded, PASSED, to approve the disbursements of \$610,440.13.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished and Special Business: None

New Business:

- a. Steele moved, Colestock seconded, PASSED, to approve the following board reappointments:
 - Eric Chagnon- LDFA for a term ending 5.23.2024.
 - Gerald Kopack- Board of Review for a term ending 1.31.2023
 - Bob Tubbs- Construction Board of Appeals for a term ending 1.31.24
 - Jill Skinner- Planning Commission for a term ending 1.31.24
 - Ron Parsons- Planning Commission for a term ending 1.31.24
 - Brian Ross- LDFA for a term ending 5.23.2025
 - Bill DeFrance- DDA for a term ending 12.27.2023
 - Don McNabb- DDA for a term ending 12.27.2023
 - Kyle Booher- DDA for a term ending 12.27.2023
- b. Wichman moved, Colestock seconded, to award the Riverwalk Project to Laux Contracting for \$2,684,634.90. PASSED by roll call vote:
 - Yeas: Politza, Colestock, Wichman, Steele, Malewski
 - Nays: 0
 - Absent: 0

- c. Steele moved, Colestock seconded, to approve the contract with C2AE for engineering services for the DWRP/CWRP projects for an amount not to exceed \$125,000. PASSED by roll call vote:
Yeas: Steele, Colestock, Wichman, Politza, Malewski
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
- d. Steele moved, Colestock seconded, to approve the WSP contract addendum for individual well testing in the amount of \$12,000. PASSED by roll call vote:
Yeas: Wichman, Steele, Politza, Colestock, Malewski
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
- City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed a proposal from Napoli Shkolnik Law Firm for representation in a class action suit related to PFAS. The firm would charge 25% of any amount recovered as a result of that lawsuit. City Attorney Harkness contributed to the discussion. Steele moved, Wichman seconded, to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement for Napoli Shkolnik to represent the City in a class action suit to recover costs associated with PFAS contaminates. PASSED by roll call vote:
Yeas: Malewski, Colestock, Politza, Wichman, Steele,
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Public Comments:

County Commissioner Rogers reported to Council that the Health Department is working with Eaton Rapids Medical Center on vaccines for the Police Department. She reported on the current COVID cases in Eaton County.

Reports:

Quality of Life Director Zeller thanked Council for their goals and objectives input.

City Manager Desentz reported that he is working on a lengthy Friday report for Council.

Police Chief Weeks reported that he has been working with the hospital to get the department vaccinated. About 1/3 of the staff has received the first shot.

Councilman Steele thanked Clerk Boomer for her assistance in providing a hard copy of the riverwalk contract.

Councilwoman Colestock reported that she has been appointed to the Michigan Municipal League Legislative Committee. They meet four times a year and weigh in on legislative action that affects municipal government. She commented that maybe a full time administrative assistant position should be considered for City Hall.

Mayor Malewski reported that he was contacted by the sister of former Officer Michael Seeley about a memorial for Mike. They discussed the possibility of an electronic sign at the Public Safety Building. He advised the Chiefs to contact Building Official Hummel for sign rules and regulations.

Colestock moved, Steele seconded, for Council to enter closed session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation as requested by Police Chief Weeks. PASSED by roll call vote:

Yeas: Wichman, Politza, Steele, Malewski, Colestock

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Council went into closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

Steele moved, Wichman seconded, to authorize a 3% cost of living increase to Chief Weeks' contract for the year 2021 retroactive to January 1, 2021. PASSED by roll call vote:

Yeas: Colestock, Steele, Politza, Wichman, Malewski

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Colestock moved, Steele seconded, PASSED, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Paul O. Malewski, Mayor

Laura Boomer, City Clerk