

**February 22, 2021  
City Council Meeting**

A regular meeting of the City Council was conducted by electronic remote means (online and/or by phone), on February 22, 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 895 7140 8007.

Mayor Malewski called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Katie Lance of Thrive Church.

Steele moved, Colestock seconded, PASSED, to approve the agenda with the addition of 10. e. Utility Billing Ordinance Update Discussion.

Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, PASSED, to approve the February 8<sup>th</sup> Worksession Minutes and the February 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes.

Wichman moved, Steele seconded, PASSED, to approve the disbursements of \$1,120,566.69.

**Public Comments:** None

**Unfinished and Special Business:**

- a. Colestock moved, Steele seconded to approve the three (3) year contract with Eaton Area Ambulance. PASSED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Politza, Colestock, Steele, Wichman, Malewski  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0

**New Business:**

- a. Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, PASSED, to appoint Emelia Emerson to the Quality of Life Board for a term ending March 31, 2024.
- b. Wichman moved, Steele seconded, to approve the tournament pricing schedule for athletic facility rentals. PASSED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Steele, Wichman, Colestock, Politza, Malewski  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0
- c. Wichman moved, Steele seconded, to approve Goose Busters proposal for goose control including bird harassment and round-up. PASSED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Wichman, Politza, Steele  
Nays: Colestock, Malewski  
Absent: 0

- d. Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, to approve the special event application submitted by the Quality of Life Board for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. PASSED by roll call vote:  
Yeas: Steele, Wichman, Colestock, Politza, Malewski  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0
- e. Clerk Boomer presented and reviewed with Council the draft amended utility billing ordinances and accompanying resolutions for utility rates and utility billing charges.

**Public Comments:**

County Commissioner Barbara Rogers reported on COVID-19 statistics in Eaton County and provided an update on the distribution of the vaccine in the County.

Patrick McNutt, 751 Island Ct., appeared before Council and thanked them for the opportunity to serve on the Quality of Life Board and Parks Development Sub-Committee.

Emelia Emerson, 509 McArthur River Dr., appeared before Council and thanked them for appointing her to the Quality of Life Board.

**Reports:**

City Manager Desentz reported that the Riverwalk Project construction has begun. The target completion date is September 1<sup>st</sup>. He reviewed the construction timeline. He advised that a groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled when weather permits. He reported that he is meeting with Main Street/DDA Director Smith and Quality of Life Director Zeller to discuss the City's branding efforts.

City Clerk Boomer reported that the November 2020 General Election has been certified and that she can move forward with election retention activities. She reported that she is working on the annual Federal EIA 861 Report.

Quality of Life Director Zeller thanked Patrick McNutt and Emelia Emerson for attending tonight's meetings and for their dedication to the City of Eaton Rapids. She reported that she is launching the Mayor Monarch Pledge, a free program to preserve monarch butterfly habitat. She advised that the USDA Trial Study Grant application is almost ready for submission. She participated in a MSHDA meeting for Round Six (6) of their grant program. The City will receive a \$40,000 award for the NE area of the City. The City does not seek administration costs for the grant program so work can begin earlier.

Fire Chief McNutt reported that the new fire engine is about ready to go.

Councilman Wichman reported that he participated in three branding meetings. He reported that the consultant commented on the involvement of Council in the process. He commented that he liked the proposal.

Councilman Steele reported that he is attending training this weekend. He commended the ordinance work that is happening. He recognizes staff's time and efforts. He reported that he has a milkweed

patch that attracts a lot of monarchs. He is excited for the program. He thought that the branding presentation went well. He wishes there had more in attendance at the presentation.

Councilwoman Colestock reported that she also sat in on some of the branding meetings. She commented that she is impressed with the consultant and the proposal. She is very encouraged and looks forward to seeing the branding efforts implemented. She reported that the riverwalk project notice was well received.

Councilwoman Politza thanked everyone for their efforts on branding and grants. She commented that the City is moving in the right direction.

Mayor Malewski commented that he echoes Council's thoughts on the branding presentation. He advised that the City is the marketing ambassadors for the community. He reported that he is looking forward to the monarch butterfly program. He reported that he checked out the riverwalk project start with City Manager Desentz. The contractor installed vibration monitors in nearby businesses and residences. They are also providing daily updates.

Steele moved, Colestock seconded, PASSED, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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Paul O. Malewski, Mayor

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Laura Boomer, City Clerk