

**March 8, 2021**  
**City Council Worksession**

A Worksession of the City Council was conducted by electronic remote means (online and/or by phone), on March 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Due to public safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was conducted via Zoom Conferencing using Meeting ID 879 6703 4961.

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

Also in attendance via audio/video were City Manager Desentz, Clerk Boomer, Treasurer Carr, Police Chief Weeks, City Attorney Harkness, and Quality of Life Director Zeller.

Purpose of the meeting was a worksession. Notice of the meeting was duly given.

Mayor Malewski called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, to switch the placement of agenda item 5. Marijuana Ordinance Discussion with agenda item 1. 2019, 2020 Annual PD Reports. PASSED by roll call vote:

Yeas: Colestock, Wichman, Steele, Politza, Malewski

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Public Comments:**

Jason Lezell introduced himself and commented that he is interested in operating a marijuana business in the City.

**Unfinished and Special Business Topics of Discussion were: None**

**New Business Topics of Discussion were:**

1. City Manager Desentz opened the marijuana ordinance discussion. Council inquired about odor from facilities. City Attorney Harkness advised that the ordinance has language addressing odor. He advised that the law and administration rules are constantly evolving, and that litigation should be expected. Chief Weeks inquired about the staff time that will be required for processing applications. City Manager Desentz advised that there could be potential for electric service revenues. He requested that Council direct questions to him, Chief Weeks, and Chief McNutt and that he would provide information so that Council can decide if they would like to move forward with the ordinance.
2. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council a cemetery cost consideration to update cemetery rates to reflect 34% funding from cemetery charges and 66% funding from the General Fund.
3. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council a proposal to replace security cameras at City Parks, City Hall and the Welcome Center and add a camera at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Police Chief Weeks and City Attorney Harkness contributed. This is not a budgeted expense but will be split between several cost centers. It is on the formal agenda for approval.

4. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council the three (3) year contract renewal with The Harkness Law Firm. City Attorney Harkness contributed to the discussion and introduced his staff. It is on the formal agenda for approval.
5. Police Chief Weeks presented and reviewed with Council the 2019 and 2020 Annual Police Department Reports.
6. Police Chief Weeks presented and reviewed with Council a request from Eaton County Central Dispatch Director Armitage for a resolution in opposition to the FCC's move towards removing the ability for state and local governments to collect surcharge fees from cell phones. The resolution is on the formal agenda for adoption.

**Public Comments:**

Jason Lezell commented on marijuana growing/manufacturing and water contamination.

**Training Attendance Update:** None

**Staff Reports:** None

Steele moved, Wichman seconded, PASSED, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

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Paul Malewski, Mayor

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Laura Boomer, City Clerk