



Village of Northport
Village Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 2, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. | Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting

A. Call to Order / Roll Call:

President Christopher McCann called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. with the following members present: Trustees Cook, Cavendish, Harper, Dean, and Trustee Ruble attended via Zoom.

Absent: Trustees Ager

Staff present: Village Clerk Joni Scott, Village Manager Jered Ottenwess, Treasurer Elizabeth Rutila

B. Approval of Agenda:

The Council agreed by Consensus to approve the agenda as presented.

C. Public Comment:

Ruth Butler thanked the council for the recent community event and expressed concerns regarding the Seventh Street development proposals.

Vicky Slot requested clarification on village priorities, including the recreational plan and spot zoning.

Eric Potes praised the Village Council's work on the housing rubric and progress toward attainable housing. He recommended smaller, appropriately scaled homes for Seventh Street, supported protections for existing forest and wetlands, encouraged collaboration with the Township on other housing opportunities, and emphasized that existing assets such as Buster Dame Park and the driving range should be preserved.

Randy Koch raised concerns about fiduciary responsibility and the potential impact of new developments on the village's sewer system.

D. Liaison Reports

a. Waterfront & Marina

- Trustee Cook provided updates on ongoing waterfront and marina projects, including maintenance and infrastructure needs.

b. Infrastructure

- Trustee Cavendish reported on waterline replacements and hydrant installations, emphasizing integration with Planning Commission priorities.

c. Planning Commission

- Trustee Cavendish noted the village-owned properties rubric progress, categorizing properties by area and parcel number. Further analysis may be needed for some properties.

d. NLTUA

- No updates reported.

5. Discussion Items (Final Action Not Anticipated at this Meeting)

a. Village-Owned Properties Rubric The council reviewed the draft rubric ranking village-owned properties into tiers based on their suitability for attainable housing. West Street, Seventh Street, and the northern portion of the Children’s Center property were identified as the most suitable, while most other properties have impediments to development. Discussion focused on prioritizing the properties for further analysis and considering potential site evaluations for the Children’s Center property on S. High Street, Northport.

b. Seventh Street Property – Future Use The council discussed a proposal for attainable housing that preserves open space and fits the existing neighborhood character. The concept includes single-family detached units and passive recreation areas. Council members emphasized the need for careful planning, community input, and partnering with an appropriate developer. The council agreed to split the parcel into two sections, dedicating the wooded area as parkland, and directed staff to continue analysis to inform future actionable steps. A resolution will be drafted for the Council to consider at their next October 16, 2025 regular meeting.

c. Capital Projects Council members reviewed ongoing and planned infrastructure and capital projects, including waterline replacements, hydrant installations, sidewalks, and marina improvements. Discussion emphasized prioritizing projects over the next 5–10 years, integrating Planning Commission and DPW efforts, and budgeting for anticipated costs. The council reviewed the marina water filling station project and authorized proceeding with a \$10,000 installation near the Farmers Market site (parking lot).

d. Christmas Tree Lighting Proposal The council reviewed a proposal from Scott Cain to provide services for installing and decorating the Christmas tree at The Mitten, with an estimated cost of \$8,616, funded through the General Fund – Community Promotions line item and donations. Council members agreed to move forward with the project, with formal action scheduled for the next Regular Council meeting.

6. Public Comment (Second Period)

- Pam Steffens asked about sidewalk plans along Shabwasung Street; Trustee Cavendish confirmed it as a high-priority project.
- Randy Koch emphasized the importance of community engagement for park and development projects.
- Vicky Slot highlighted appreciation for online meeting information and video accessibility.

7. Council Comment

- Trustee Harper encouraged the public to contact council members for additional information and engagement.
- Trustee Cavendish suggested considering a revised meeting schedule with work sessions at night and regular meetings during the day.
- Trustee Harper supported daytime work session meetings.
- President McCann thanked attendees for their participation.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm, a motion by Trustee Harper, seconded by President McCann. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Joni L. Scott, Village Clerk

