

**VILLAGE OF NORTH UTICA**  
248 W. Canal St., North Utica, IL 61373

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**January 26, 2023**

[www.utica-il.gov](http://www.utica-il.gov)

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**AGENDA**

- I. **7:00 p.m. - Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Village Clerk
- V. Director of Village Affairs
  - 1.) Update on Utica Business Association
  - 2.) Update on upcoming Village Events
- VI. Village Treasurer
- VII. Police Department: Chief Damron
- VIII. Building / Zoning Enforcement Officer
- IX. Maintenance Department/ Public Works Director
  - 1.) Update - Ongoing / upcoming projects in the Village
- X. Village Engineer
  - 1.) Update – Upcoming / Ongoing Projects in the Village
  - 2.) Update – I & M Canal Re-Watering Project
- XI. Village Attorney
- XII. Village President
  - 1.) Discussion – T-Mobile Grant Application & Project Opportunities
  - 2.) Committee Assignments
- XIII. Committee / Trustee Reports
  - 1.) Trustee Reports
- XIV. Public Comment
- XV. Executive Session
  - 1.) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal for specific employees
  - 2.) Pending Litigation
  - 3.) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Property

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XVI. Possible Action regarding Executive Session items

- 1.) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal for specific employees
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XVII. Adjournment

**Posted: 01-23-2023**

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**MINUTES**

At 7:05 pm the Meeting was called to Order by Village President David Stewart who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Village Clerk Laurie Gbur recorded the meeting attendance. Present at the meeting were Trustees Debbie Krizel, Mary Pawlak, Jim Schrader, John Schweickert, Nate Holland and Kylie Mattioda. Also present were, Village Engineer Kevin Heitz, Police Chief Rodney Damron, Director of Village Affairs Jamie Turczyn and Village Treasurer Jill Margis.

Village Attorney Herb Klein and Public Works Director Curt Spayer were absent from the meeting.

Village Clerk: Clerk Gbur provided a brief update on the final 2023 Fireworks Contract as well as the dates tentatively scheduled for the 2024 & 2025 Fireworks; July 5, 2024 and July 5, 2025. The Contracts will be considered in the Fall of each year as they no longer offer a 3-year Contract.

Director of Village Affairs: Director Turczyn provided a brief update on the upcoming events being held in the Village.

Winter Wine Walk will be held on February 11, 2023. There are several wineries and several Utica businesses participating in the event.

The annual Mardi Gras Parade will be held on February 18th, and the annual St. Pat's Parade and event will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Village Treasurer: NONE

Police Department: NONE

Building / Zoning Enforcement Officer: NONE

Maintenance Department: NONE

Village Engineer: Engineer Heitz provided a summary of the plan for the I & M Canal Re-watering Project. The Village received a Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the project. The plan will need to be submitted to IDNR for final consideration and approval.

Engineer Heitz stated that the I & M Canal was proposed in 1836 and completed and opened in 1848. This year will mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historic Canal.

The plan Engineer Heitz is proposing is a Pilot Project that the Village can propose for within the Funds available. Engineer Heitz has surveyed the Canal including the current depth. The Village plan will include two temporary berms; approx. 1,450 ft of area (1.28 miles) that would include water. The depth of the water with no dredging could be approx. 4' for the length of this portion of the Canal. The area being proposed is an area that will work for the staging of materials and ease of access for equipment.

If the plan for the re-watering of this portion of the Canal is successful, the Village could then consider a much larger length of approx. 3,000 ft with the construction of permanent berms, which would include an area of the Canal from the west footbridge near Northwest St. and the east footbridge near Armstrong St.

Engineer Heitz will finalize the plan being proposed to IDNR and the Board will be kept updated regarding the status of the project. The Board all agreed that the I & M Canal Re-watering Project has been a long-term goal and would be a wonderful asset for the community.

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Village Attorney: NONE

Village President: Mayor Stewart provided a brief update on the following:

Vacant property located along Rt. 178 (Division St.) has had all of the utilities disconnected from the house and will be torn down in the very near future.

T-Mobile Grant- T-Mobile Grant awards are \$50,000 and the application for the next Grant is March 31, 2023. Mayor Stewart would like the Board to choose a project that the Village could submit with an application for the Grant. Some of the ideas discussed: Construction of an ADA Playground at one of the neighborhood parks; construction of a Tennis Court or Pickle Ball Court in the community; construction of a Stage at Carey Park for the Community to enjoy music or movies in the park.

Trustee Mattioda stated that although the ADA Playground would be a great addition to the community, the cost could easily exceed \$300,000 to \$500,000, whereas the construction of a Stage at Carey Park would be something that the community could enjoy and the cost would be much less.

Also discussed were the construction of a Tennis Court or the construction of the remainder of the Basketball Court in Burgess Park.

Trustee Krizel stated that a Tennis Court would be something additional that the Village could offer since there is an opportunity to play basketball at various parks in the community. Trustee Pawlak agreed.

Mayor Stewart asked the Board to further review the ideas; Consideration of a Project for the T-Mobile Grant Application will be on the February Board Agenda.

Committee Assignments- Mayor Stewart made the following Committee Assignments:

Trustees Holland and Schweickert will review the current Permitted and Special Uses in the three Commercial Zoning Districts in the Village.

Trustees Krizel and Schrader will work on events and activities that will promote the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the I & M Canal in the Village.

Trustees Pawlak and Mattioda will work on ideas for historic displays, landscaping and events that will help to define and promote the Business District located south of the Canal in the Village.

Note: Updates from Committees will be provided at the Committee Meetings each month. If help is needed, please contact the Village Clerk or Mayor Stewart directly.

Trustee Reports: NONE

Village Engineer informed the Board that the City of LaSalle will be repaving their portion of Hallet Rd. and they have discussed additional lighting in the area as well.

Public Comment: NONE

Executive Session: At 7:49 pm, it was motioned by Trustee Schrader, seconded by Trustee Krizel to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:

- 1.) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal for specific employees
- 2.) Pending Litigation
- 3.) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Property

All in Favor

Motion Carried

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At 7:57 pm, it was motioned by Trustee Krizel, seconded by Trustee Pawlak to reconvene the meeting.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm. Motioned by Trustee Schweickert, seconded by Trustee Krizel.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Gbur

Village Clerk