

REGULAR meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, May 23, 2005, at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor; Aldermen Flaitz, Koehler, Sciotti, Foreman, Shepard, Smith, Lewis and W. Hogan; City Attorney Joseph Pelych; and City Clerk Robert J. Roberts.

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Torok of The Evening Tribune; Jim Gentile of radio station WLEA; Bud Hazzard; Wendy Recktenwald, Kathy Dessena, Katrina Jefferds, and Cynthia Herbert of the Hornell Area Humane Society; and Hornell High School students Brian Willsey, Matt Stewart, Kirk Luvison, Kevin McHale, Josh Day, Shawn Hillman, Robert McTarnaghan, and Andy Foster.

ABSENT: Alderman Norton, due to work; Alderman Testani, due to an out-of-town meeting; Stenographer Karen Schu.

INVOCATION: Bud Hazzard of the Hornell Church of Church.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Alderman Koehler.

By: Shepard/Flaitz

RESOLVED, that minutes of the last meeting held May 9, 2005, be approved as read.

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

By: Lewis/Smith

RESOLVED, that the Reports of Officers be accepted and placed on file.

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

May 19, 2005

TO: Honorable Shawn D. Hogan
and Members of the Common Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Audit Committee met Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Jean Shepard, Dan Smith and Christopher Koehler, Chairman.

Bills audited and approved:

CC

\$465,409.61

CD	9,271.10
PAYROLL	<u>78,789.66</u>
TOTAL	\$553,470.37

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Koehler
Chairman, Audit Committee

By: Lewis/Koehler

RESOLVED, that the Reports of Committees be accepted and placed on file.

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

RESOLUTIONS:

#1 – AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM – HN-05-36

By: W. Hogan/Sciotti

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell has been approved for a grant of funds by the New York State Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 5311, Title 49, United States Code, for a project described as the purchase of one light-duty bus at an estimated cost of \$55,000;

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell and the State of New York are entering into an Agreement which authorizes the undertaking of the Project and payment of the Federal and State shares for the project;

RESOLVED, that Mayor Shawn D. Hogan is authorized to sign:

- 1) Any and all Agreements between the City of Hornell and the State of New York for the above-named Project;
- 2) Any and all Agreements between the City of Hornell and any third-party subcontractors necessary to complete the Project, if appropriate;
- 3) Any Municipality/Vendor Contracts for the purchase and/or installation of vehicles and/or equipment; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Hornell certifies through this resolution that the estimated local share of at least 10 percent of the total project cost, as described in the federal Section 5311 Project Application, is committed to this Project.

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

ON THE QUESTION: Mayor Hogan said the approval for the purchase of this third bus came in after the resolution to purchase the first two buses was approved at the May 9, 2005, meeting of the Common Council.

#2 – AMENDING 2005-06 CITY OF HORNELL BUDGET – HN-05-37

By: Koehler/Flaitz

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell has received approval and state aid for the purchase of a second light-duty bus, the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby amends the 2005-06 City Budget to reflect the addition of \$50,000 to Account No. A3594 (State Aid for Transportation) and the addition of \$50,000 to Account No. A5630.20 (Transportation Equipment Expenditure).

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

ON THE QUESTION: Alderman Foreman asked if this proposal should first go before the Finance Committee. Mayor Hogan said that was not necessary because it was a budget amendment and therefore was not changing the makeup of the city budget. Alderman Koehler asked if the purchase of three new buses would take a similar number of Hornell Area Transit buses off the road; Mayor Hogan said it would, and added that this was the first set of buses purchased in two years.

PETITIONS: None.

CLAIMS:

By: Koehler/Shepard

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$553,470.37, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, be approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$ 465,409.61
CD	\$ 9,271.10
Payrolls	<u>\$ 78,789.66</u>
TOTAL	\$ 553,470.37

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Wendy Recktenwald, Kathy Dessena, Katrina Jefferds, and Cynthia Herbert of the Hornell Area Humane Society gave a presentation on ways of dealing with the cat population in the City of Hornell. Ms. Recktenwald said there were three options: preventative education for the public on feral vs. domestic cats; legislation requiring cats to be licensed; and a trap-and-release program in which feral

cats would be released in colonies outside the city after being spayed or neutered. "We're here because we want to work with you," Ms. Recktenwald said.

Kathy Dessena, vice president of the Humane Society, said a cat education program could be paid through dedicated license fees. The license fees also could pay for part of a low-cost spay/neuter program to further reduce the cat population.

Mayor Hogan said the proposals sounded reasonable, but the biggest problem with legislation would be enforcement. Most responsible pet owners would license their animal, he said; irresponsible owners do not get licenses. Licensing also would not address the problem of feral cats, he added.

Ms. Dessena said she did not think there may not be much of a need for enforcement, and that there may not be that large of a feral cat population.

Alderman Smith asked if a cat census was needed. Ms. Dessena said the Society estimates there may be up to 6,000 cats in the City. "Our shelter is loaded right down," Ms. Recktenwald said. The Society is on-call around the clock to pick up sick and injured cats in the City, a service for which it is not paid.

Ms. Dessena said the Society receives many calls about cats on the loose, and Ms. Recktenwald said one of the goals of the Society is to get people to keep their cats indoors.

Mayor Hogan noted the City provides have-a-heart traps to residents. As an alternative, the Society representatives suggested a new organic substance that can be sprinkled on lawns and bushes to make cats stay away.

- Mayor Hogan noted correspondence in Council packets that indicates there are two new sales tax-free weeks this year, and that the state sales tax has reverted to previous levels, meaning total sales tax in Steuben County returns to 8 percent.
- Mayor Hogan said the new City of Hornell Compost Facility is temporarily out of compost, and Alderman Smith noted there were a dozen cars waiting at the facility when he went there this past weekend. Alderman Shepard asked about the piles behind the City garage, which the mayor explained was for City use only. More compost will be made this week. Alderman Hogan asked if the city should give mulch free to lawn-care businesses that use it to make a profit; Mayor Hogan said those with large loads are paid \$35 for City crews to load it. The mayor said the City would monitor who is getting the free mulch. As with anything new or innovative, it will take time for people to acclimate to the operation of this program, Mayor Hogan said. Some residents do not understand the plant has to be closed Monday-Wednesday in order for the mulch to be created. There have been no sales of brush tickets at the City Clerk's Office, while the Mayor has received complaints about the City now charging non-residents \$50 to rent pavilions at James Street Park. "It's not us versus them. It's business," said the mayor. "We can't continue to provide service for free to everyone in the valley."

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By: Shepard/Flaitz

RESOLVED, that the Common Council adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Carried – Ayes all (8)

Absent – Aldermen Norton, Testani (2)

Shawn D. Hogan
Mayor

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk