

REGULAR meeting of the Common Council held Feb. 24.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Turok and Rob Montana of The Evening Tribune, and Bill Dubensky of WLEA; Brian Lilly, co-owner of Channel 36 TV station; the Rev. Mike Childs of the First Baptist Church; John Kernan of Canisteo; Steve Hoyt of North Hornell; Mary Ann Sullivan of Hornell; George Hooper and Nigel Perrott of the Zoning Board of Appeals; Bill Rokenbrod and Tom Sheedy of the Planning Board; John Lyng of Hornell; Codes Officer Tim Aiken; and 12 students from Hornell High School

ABSENT: Aldermen Flaitz and Testani, and City Attorney Joseph Pelych

INVOCATION: The Rev. Mike Childs

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Alderman Hogan

MINUTES APPROVED: By Shepard/Smith, carried 8-0

REPORTS OF OFFICERS: By Norton/Shepard, carried 8-0

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: (including one on Feb. 24 by Planning & Development Committee) By Smith/Flaitz, carried 8-0

RESOLUTIONS: 1) By Koehler/Shepard, carried 8-0

2) By Hogan/Sciotti, carried 8-0

3) By Koehler, Norton, carried 8-0

Motion to waive agenda, by Hogan/Smith, carried 8-0

4) SEQR for Front Street initiative, by Shepard/Sciotti, carried 8-0

PETITIONS: None

CLAIMS: By Norton/Koehler, carried 8-0

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Sidewalk snow removal charges were officially read into the minutes. Resident John Lyng said the city should not levy charges because the statute was unclear about what constitutes a “clean” sidewalk. Mayor Hogan said residents should use their discretion, and that the latest cleaning by the DPW was given advance publicity
- * Brian Lilly, co-owner of Elmira TV station Channel 36, presented his view about the ongoing cable problems in Hornell with his station and others from Elmira-Corning. Lilly said he has invested \$1 million into his station since October 1999,

And planned to spend another \$600,000 on fiber optic cable to improve the Picture quality in Hornell. Mayor Hogan noted the blackout on competing network affiliates imposed by Channel 36 and other stations in the Elmira Market may not be legal if their picture quality was poor. Alderman Koehler asked Lilly if he would lift the blackout until his picture reception improved in Hornell, but Lilly declined until he could speak to his engineers. Aldermen Koehler, Shepard and Hogan said they had heard from constituents who were so upset by the Elmira-Corning stations' blackout of other stations that they were not shopping at Elmira-area advertisers. Mayor Hogan said future discussions are planned on the topic, including one with Time-Warner Cable Vice President David Whalen.

ADJOURNMENT: By Norton/Koehler, at 8 p.m.