

PUBLIC HEARING

on the East Avenue Reconstruction Project was held on Monday, Oct. 23, 2006, at 6:45 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor; Aldermen Flaitz, Koehler, Norton, Foreman, Sciotti, Testani, Shepard, Hann, Lewis, and Carbone; City Attorney Joseph Pelych; Stenographer Karen Schu; City Clerk Robert J. Roberts; Scott Prior, David Tuttle, and Jim MacKencknie, all of Lu Engineers; and Jeff Carris of the NYS Department of Transportation.

AND FROM THE MEDIA: Rob Montana of The Evening Tribune and Brian O'Neal of radio station WLEA-AM.

ALSO PRESENT: Hornell High School students Cory Walter, Ali Chaudhry, Andrew Mitchell, Andrew Mitchell, Mike Nicoloff, Christopher Seigel, Everett Reffitt III, Matthew Wood, Trevor Hess, Ben Ellis, Rachel Salitsky, Emily Ramirez, Jimmy Giglio, Mitchell MacNaughton, Tyre Kepner, John Damrath, Kara Carbone, and Nicole Sciotti; Hornell residents John Buckley, Richard Rauber, and Natalie Weyand; and John Miles of Massachusetts.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Hogan opened the public hearing with a brief overview of the project and its \$2 million federal funding. "This allows us to immediately begin reconstructing the entire length of East Avenue, a street that actually needs it," he said.

Project Manager Prior then gave the main presentation. He said the project is now at the engineering reports stage, where the need for the project is documented. Previous street repairs have been "like a band-aid," he said, but the street faces serious issues, from substandard sub-base to poor sidewalks and outdated guardrails.

The purpose of the hearing is to gather comment from the public, Project Manager Prior said. As such, copies of reports and plans are available for review.

East Avenue is a link between two major roads, Project Manager Prior said. Lu Engineers has identified the issues that need to be addressed from Henry Street north to East Main Street. These issues include road drainage, variances in water-line sizes and their effect on water-pressure fluctuations, vertical alignment, and sidewalks and ramps at intersections.

There are three possible remedies, according to Project Manager Prior:

No-action maintenance, which he said does not address any of the identified needs;
Milling some of the sub-base and putting in a thicker pavement, which also does not address drainage and sub-base issues in their entirety; and,
Full addressing of the issues, which is Lu Engineers' recommendation.

Project Manager Prior went over some of the specific improvements that will result from the work on East Avenue, including elimination of substandard curves, improved traffic control at East Main Street, new pavement markings and signage, among others.

Approval from agencies like the state Department of Transportation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected, because there is “nothing controversial” in the work to be done, Project Manager Prior said. Construction is expected to start in May 2007 and end in November of that year. The biggest variable of expenses is pavement costs, he said. DOT Local Projects Liaison Carris noted the state typically picks up 75-percent of the local share; this means 80 percent of the project costs ultimately will be covered by the federal government, 15 percent by state government, and 5-percent by the City of Hornell.

The public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

Shawn D. Hogan
Mayor

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk