

REGULAR meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, Nov. 8, 2004, at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Torok of The Evening Tribune; Bill Dubensky of WLEA radio station; Wayne Drescher of Drescher & Malecki CPA; the Rev. Phillip Kuhn of Christ Episcopal Church; Mill Street residents Bob and Carol Fiacco; Steve Demerantz; and Hornell High School students Nabila Chaundry and Katie O'Toole.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION: The Rev. Phillip Kuhn of Christ Episcopal Church.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: City Attorney Pelych.

By Smith/Shepard:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the last meeting, held Oct. 25, 2004, be approved as read.

Carried – Ayes all (10)

Absent – None

By Norton/Koehler:

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

Carried – Ayes all (10)

Absent – None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Nov. 8, 2004

TO: The Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor
And Members of the Common Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The P&D Committee met on Monday, Nov. 8, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the Mayor's Conference Room. Members present were Aldermen Foreman, Smith, Testani, Koehler, and Hogan. Others present were Mayor Hogan, Bill Dubensky of WLEA, and Kyle Torok of The Evening Tribune.

Items discussed and/or acted upon:

- 1) Mayor Hogan updated the committee on 8 Horton St. for the Eagles Club. Alstom has sent a letter that Alstom will not provide a right-of-way for parking. This has now become a legal issue. Mayor Hogan will provide any new updates on this issue. No action taken.
- 2) Mayor Hogan informed the Committee of various projects in the City. No action taken.
- 3) Mayor Hogan reviewed the Camelot Estates, located at Hartshorn Street. This would be for six townhouses, five accessed on Hartshorn Street and one from Adams Avenue. All units contain off-street parking. No action taken.
- 4) Mayor Hogan also reviewed the property at 29-33 Crosby St., bought through Community Development. Bernie Hults has proposed 29 Crosby St. be renovated by Spring 2005. He will also construct a two-family house at 33 Crosby St. with completion in Fall 2006. No action taken.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Koehler, seconded by Smith, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
William Hogan, Chairman
Planning & Development Committee

By Foreman/Flaitz:

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

Carried – Ayes all (10)

Absent – None

RESOLUTIONS: None

PETITIONS: None

CLAIMS: None

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Wayne Drescher, of Drescher & Malecki Certified Public Accountants, presented a review of the audit of city finances for the budget year ended

March 31, 2004. Some of the discussion centered on GASB-34 compliance and the costs of this; “A good thing is Hornell has been putting money into its infrastructure,” Mr. Drescher said. Both Mr. Drescher and Mayor Hogan noted the spiraling costs of paying for employee retirement pensions. The mayor said taxes probably will have to be increased to pay for these premium hikes, unless state officials can be convinced to provide relief to Hornell and five other cities with a budget year that begins on April 1. The City of Hornell may look at switching to a budget year that begins on Jan. 1 or June 1, Mayor Hogan said. If state relief is not forthcoming, Mayor Hogan said, “there will be a tax increase the next two years. And it won’t be a 2-percent tax increase.” Other municipalities also are dealing with the problem of increased contributions. Mr. Drescher then reviewed recommendations made by auditors. Alderman Foreman asked if a fund balance of more than \$2 million was too much, to which Mr. Drescher said that because of that is reserved, the actual fund balance is about \$946,000, “in a good and stable range” of the state’s preferred 10-percent of appropriations.

- Mayor Hogan reviewed a letter he wrote to state Transportation Commissioner Joseph Boardman, expressing the City of Hornell’s concern with the establishment of regional centers that may cost DOT jobs that have long been in Hornell.
- Mayor Hogan noted the City of Hornell and its sidewalk improvement program are featured in Empire State Magazine and that the city’s depot project is featured in the NYCOM Bulletin.
- Mayor Hogan announced the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our Nation’s precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees – be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians -- work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, SHAWN D. HOGAN, Mayor of the City of Hornell, do hereby proclaim November 14th ~ 20th as the 83rd annual observance of

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK
“Celebrating the American Dream”

- Mayor Hogan also announced the Hornell Educators Association has asked area residents to wear red and blue on Nov. 19 as an indication of local support for educators.
- Mill Street resident Bob Fiacco was recognized by Mayor Hogan. Mr. Fiacco praised the city for doing a “wonderful job” with the Gateway Project, and asked if the southern end of Maple City Drive will one day be improved in a similar manner. Mayor Hogan that the city fully intends to carry the Gateway theme south along the highway, especially as federal funds become available.

By Shepard/Flaitz:

RESOLVED, that the Common Council adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Carried – Ayes all (10)

Absent – None

Shawn D. Hogan
Mayor

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk