

PUBLIC HEARING on proposed Restore New York application and its Property Assessment List was held on Monday, Sept. 24, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT:
Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor; Aldermen Flaitz, Koehler, Norton, Sciotti, Shepard, Hann, Lewis, and Carbone; and City Clerk Robert J. Roberts.

AND FROM THE MEDIA: Jen Carpenter of The Evening Tribune and Ted Fioraliso of WENY-TV.

ALSO PRESENT: Heather Kaszynski of the Mayor's Planning Office, Federation Building owner John Lyng, and Hornell High School student Brian Burdell.

ABSENT: Aldermen Foreman, due to a work conflict, and Testani, due to a family obligation.

Mayor Hogan opened the hearing

by discussing the history of the Federation Building, which was the first steel-girder building in Hornell and served as St. Ann's High School until the 1940s. The building housed a number of commercial and governmental enterprises on its four floors until it was mostly vacant by the time John Lyng purchased on the foreclosed building.

The proposal is to convert the unused second through fourth floors into up to 18 apartments. The estimated cost is \$3.2 million, of which \$2.5 million would be funded through a Restore New York grant, if successful. Mayor Hogan considered the City's application to be "very strong." Restoration of the Federation Building into a viable mix of commercial and residential space is one of the aspects of the City's Downtown and Master Plans, which have been followed for redevelopment.

The New York State Historic Preservation Office is concerned, however, about converting the second- and third-floor auditorium into apartments. Mayor Hogan and Heather Kaszynski said they would work with SHPO to alleviate their concerns, possibly changing the present design plans if necessary.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:54 p.m.

Shawn D. Hogan
Mayor

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk