

REGULAR meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: The Rev. Michael Childs, Kristen Koehler and Hornell High School student Thomas Burgess.

ABSENT: Alderman Carbone, who asked to be excused due to a conflict.

INVOCATION: The Rev. Mike Childs, pastor of First Baptist Church.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Alderman Lewis.

By Lewis/Sciotti:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Jan. 9, 2006, regular meeting be approved as read.

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

By Shepard/Flaitz:

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

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Jan. 19, 2006

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Audit Committee met and audited bills at 7:20 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006. Bills were audited and approved by members Jean Shepard, Glenn Hann and Christopher Koehler, Chairman.

Bills audited and approved:

CC	\$189,855.70
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CD	52,830.50
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PAYROLL	<u>93,145.09</u>
TOTAL	\$335,831.29

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Koehler
Chairman, Audit Committee

By Koehler/Flaitz:

RESOLVED, that the Reports of Committees be accepted and placed on file.
Carried – Ayes all (9)
Absent – Carbone (1)

RESOLUTIONS:

#1 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS – HN-06-12

By Testani/Foreman:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, N.Y., that \$10,000.00 be taken out of Account No. A9500.9 (Council Contingency), with \$5,000.00 transferred to Account No. A1010.46 and \$5,000.00 transferred to Account No. A1010.49 (both Legislative Board accounts).
Carried – Ayes all (9)
Absent – Carbone (1)

#2 – COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR REVALUATION OF PROPERTIES – HN-06-13

By Lewis/Flaitz:

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell has not undergone a revaluation since 1993-94;
WHEREAS, the City has lost a significant percentage of property valuations as shown by the decreased equalization rate;

WHEREAS, the State of New York will provide financial assistance to the City of Hornell for implementation of a system of real property administration which conforms to the standards established pursuant to Subdivision 1 of §1570 of the Real Property Tax Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, New York, that the City of Hornell hereby requests State assistance, specifically from the New York State Office of Real Property Services, to help complete an assessment update project to maintain a uniform standard of assessment in accordance with §305 of the Real Property Tax Law; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Hornell, Shawn D. Hogan, is hereby authorized and directed to expend the necessary funds for the completion of an assessment update project.

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

ON THE QUESTION: Mayor Hogan said this resolution would start the revaluation process. When the last revaluation was held, he noted, the City hired an individual to assist the City Assessor and the Board of Assessment Review, at a cost of \$40,000. This revaluation will be a total revaluation of all properties, including new photos and details on the property cards for each parcel – something the Mayor said has not been updated since the 1970s. The cost of this revaluation will be \$129,500, and the City said it would contract with New York State for assistance. The State will pay the City \$5 per parcel for each of its 4,000 parcels each year, so the City will be repaid over time. The City will have to provide the up-front money, which Mayor Hogan said could be done through a loan or, which the Mayor did not recommend, funded through the General Fund Budget. The matter of financing will be discussed with the Common Council in the near future. The timeline calls for the revaluation process to begin in April 2006 and, in response to a question from Alderman Lewis, the data may or may not be ready to be implemented into the finalized tax roll in January 2007. The revaluation entails field data work, updated property cards, setting values on property based on current data, and assisting in the first line of relief for grieving property owners. The revaluation is needed, the Mayor said, because New York State Office of Real Property Services says that current data indicates the City's equalization rate may be as low as the mid-70s percentile. "It shows that (home) sales have risen very quickly in the last few years," Mayor Hogan said. He quoted former Hornell School Superintendent Harold Paul's axiom that "the higher the equalization rate, the better off you are." The City Assessor's office will have to keep data current after the revaluation, the Mayor said, and there are computer programs available that could allow sampling to ensure assessment keeps pace with the housing market. "Everyone hears 'reval' and gets all nervous and shaky," Mayor Hogan said, "but it is something that needs to be done." The revaluation will not generate more revenue, he added; a general rule of thumb is that after the revaluation, one-third of properties will see increased assessment, one-third will see decreased assessment, and one-third will remain the same. Public hearings will be held when the process begins, Mayor Hogan said, and data-collection workers will carry identification so residents can see who they are.

#3 – TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR HARTSHORN STREET – HN-06-14

By Flaitz/Hann:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the City of Hornell, N.Y., and the same is hereby resolved, ordained and enacted that

§300-54 of the Traffic Ordinance of the City of Hornell, is hereby amended by the addition of the following:

- 1) That stop signs be installed on the north and south sides of Hartshorn Street, at the intersection with Ravine Street
- 2) This amendment is to take effect immediately and the same is to be published immediately.

Any ordinances heretofore adopted which are inconsistent with the foregoing, are hereby rescinded.

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

#4 – APPOINTMENTS TO HORNELL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS – HN-06-15

By Koehler/Shepard:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, N.Y., that the following appointments are made to the Hornell Public Library Board of Directors:

- Josephine J. Ciancaglini, of 10 Rural Ave., Hornell, for a term that expires Jan. 31, 2008
- Martha Davidson, of 21 Merrick Park Dr., Hornell, for a term that expires Jan. 31, 2009
- Suzanne Knapp, of 6268 Honey Run Road, Hornell, for a term that expires Jan. 31, 2009;
- Marybeth Smith, of 24 Riverside Place, Hornell, for a term that expires Jan. 31, 2009

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

#5 – APPROVING REVISED EXPIRATION TERM FOR LIBRARY DIRECTORS – HN-06-16

By Norton/Sciotti:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, N.Y., that the following expiration terms are approved for the Hornell Public Library:

- The seat held by Jon Cleveland, Jan. 31, 2007
- The seat held by David Hardy, Jan. 31, 2007
- The seat held by Frank Rizzutto, Jan. 31, 2007
- The seat held by Josephine J. Ciancaglini, Jan. 31, 2008
- The seat held by Joan Diehl, Jan. 31, 2008
- The seat held by Don Doster, Jan. 31, 2008

- The seat held by Martha Davidson, Jan. 31, 2009
- The seat held by Suzanne Knapp, Jan. 31, 2009;
- The seat held by Marybeth Smith, Jan. 31, 2009

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

PETITIONS: None.

CLAIMS:

By Koehler/Shepard:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$335,831.29, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, be approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$ 189,855.70
CD	\$ 52,830.50
Payrolls	<u>\$ 93,145.09</u>
TOTAL	\$ 335,831.29

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mayor Hogan reviewed the ongoing process of reviewing departmental goals and budget requests with department heads. He noted there are talks with the Hornell City School District on possibly joining to get a new garage and sharing fuel and overhead costs. Shawmut Park is undergoing a second appraisal, at the request of the State, before expansion and work can begin. Jane and Oak streets finally will have the underground cast-iron gas lines replaced by National Fuel, so the City will put in new water service and will reconstruct those surfaces. The East Avenue repair likely will be a 2007 project because of extensive preliminary work. The River Street Bridge replacement will begin later this year at a cost of up to \$2.7 million; Alderwoman Shepard wondered if the bridge would be out all winter, and Mayor Hogan noted there may be some time when the bridge will not be open to traffic before its completion in late summer 2007. Finally, Mayor Hogan noted he is completing contract talks with the union representing the City's water and wastewater plant workers and hopes to have a contract done soon with City Hall workers. Talks with the police and fire departments are to begin in February, he said.

By Flaitz/Shepard:

RESOLVED, that the Common Council adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

Carried – Ayes all (9)

Absent – Carbone (1)

Shawn D. Hogan
Mayor

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk