

REGULAR Common Council meeting of March 22, 2004, held 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.

FROM THE MEDIA: Bill Dubensky of WLEA; and Kyle Torok of the Evening Tribune.

ALSO PRESENT: Front Street resident David Dugo; Scott Street resident Joe Duffy; Ed Mehlenbacher; Vernon Prouty of Home Video Center; and 22 Hornell High School students.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION: Sister Elaine Hollis of St. James Mercy.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Alderman Chris Koehler.

MINUTES APPROVED: (*including Public Hearings of March 20 and two on March 22*) By Smith/Norton, carried ayes all (10)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS: By Shepard/Hogan, carried ayes all (10)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: (Audit of March 17; Youth & Recreation of March 16; Finance of March 22) By Koehler/Flaitz, carried ayes all (10)

RESOLUTIONS: attached. All carried, ayes all (10)

CLAIMS: By Koehler/Shepard, for \$266,171.48. Carried ayes all (10)

PEITIONS: One received on March 15, 2004, signed by 19 residents and merchants, asking for the city to help control unruly youths coming out of Hornell Area Concern for Youth.

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Discussion was held on the petition against Hornell Area Concern For Youth. Mayor Hogan said he has brought the matter to Police Chief Paul Crowe, and that increased police patrols will take place along the Seneca Street area. Mayor Hogan blamed the problem on the presence of older teens at Concern for Youth, and a lack of adequate supervision there. Vernon Prouty, of Home Video Center, said problems with the youths are growing, and include them riding bikes through stores and damaging vehicles. Resident Ed Mehlenbacher, who organized the petition, said that when he asked youths who were smoking cigarettes in the area to move, they cursed at him.
- Front Street resident David Dugo said the value of his property was “down the toilet” due to conditions in his neighborhood. Codes enforcement as been ineffective, he said, and called for a 100-percent legal effort by the city against landlords. “My neighborhood is in terrible, terrible shape – terrible,” he said. “Nine years, I have seen nothing.” Mayor Hogan noted that two Front Street property owners have agreed to major upgrades, and said there were other, less obvious steps being done to improve enforcement in the neighborhood. Front Street will continue to be a target area for improvement through programs and grants, the mayor said. City Attorney Joseph Pelych noted the city recently got an agreement with Cornerstone, which owns a number of properties throughout the city, including Front Street, that homes being sold on land contracts must require a certificate of occupancy in the future. Mayor Hogan also said the city will look into what Mr. Dugo said was a large hole in front of 69 Front Street.
- Alderman Dan Smith the status of a house at 11 Hill St. that was destroyed in a recent fire. According to Mayor

Hogan and City Attorney Pelych, a lien search is being done before the takes possession of the property through an agreement with the property owner on record. If the property is found to be clear of liens, and the city does take possession, what is left of the house will be torn down and then the property will be offered for sale, the mayor said.

ADJOURNMENT: By Flaitz/Shepard, at 8:15 p.m., carried ayes all (10).