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PUBLIC HEARING on the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the redesignation of Empire Investment Zone was held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 14, 2005, at City Hall, 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Alderman-Elect Glenn Hann; Rob Montana of The Evening Tribune; Brian O'Neal of radio station WLEA; and Hornell High School students Allison Crowley, Tianne Armaly, and Libby Tsibulsky.

Mayor Hogan opened the meeting by noting changes in the physical description of the Empire Zone, affecting 95.158 acres. He explained that the City of Hornell was the original sponsor of the Empire Zone because it met the criteria for being a distressed census tract. The City of Corning helped fund the application and became a sub-zone, as the Town of Erwin did later in order to facilitate Corning Inc.'s diesel plant. Legislation changes have forced the city to redesignate its zone, he noted. Similar resolutions will be voted on in the City of Corning and the Town of Erwin, he noted.

Alderman Norton asked about boundary amendments. Mayor Hogan said previously, the City was allowed one boundary amendment a year, but now it is not. Alderman Koehler asked about the long-term future of economic development tools. "The Empire Zone is probably the most sought-after economic development tool in the US today," Mayor Hogan replied.

There being no further business, the public hearing adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk