A regular meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: John J. Buckley Mayor; City Attorney Timothy Rosell, Council members, Sutfin, Hancock, McKay, Peck, Warriner, Brown, Valentine, Davis, and Carbone, Stenographer Ellen Kerr, and City Clerk Heather Lisi.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland, Assessor Cindy Burdell, Kim Gilbert, and 9 students from Hornell High School and/or members of the public.

FROM THE MEDIA: Brian O'Neal

ABSENT: Alderman James Bassage, Chamberlain Michele Smith

INVOCATION: Mayor Buckley

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Buckley

BY: Warriner/Valentine

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Common Council meeting of October 19, 2026 be approved as read.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

BY: Peck/Davis

RESOLVED that the Reports of Officers be and hereby are approved and placed on file.

REPORTS FILED:

Gen Fund Rev.- 10/2026; Water Fund Rev.- 10/2026; Gen Fund Exp.- 10/2026; Water Fund Exp.- 10/2026; City Clerk- 10/2026; BPS Minutes –10/2026; Fire/Amb-10/2026; Codes/Codes Log- 10/2026; Police- 10/2026; BPW Minutes – 10/2026; DPW/Sewer - 10/2026; WTP – 10/2026; WPCP – 10/2026; Petro – 10/2026; Library - 10/2026; Humane Society 10/2026; HAT Commission – N/A

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

BY: Brown/Sutfin

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

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee
November 16, 2026

To the Honorable John J. Buckley, Mayor
And Members of the Common Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bills were audited and approved by Audit Committee Members, Jim Bassage, Kevin Valentine, Steven Peck, Christina Hancock and Audit Committee Chairman John Carbone.

Bills audited and approved:

CC	$286,441.09
CD	$ 45,267.75
PAYROLL	$ 164,548.76
TOTAL	**$ 496,257.60**

Respectfully submitted,
John Carbone, Chairman
Audit Committee

RESOLUTIONS:

HN 26-56 Local Law amending Senior Tax Exemption
BY: Carbone/Peck

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2025, the Common Council of the City of Hornell adopted Local Law No. 3 of 2025, designated HN-25-78, establishing an income-based sliding-scale real property tax exemption for qualified persons sixty-five (65) years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell was subsequently notified by the Steuben County Real Property Tax Service Agency that the income brackets contained in said Local Law require correction to conform with the sliding-scale provisions of Section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, it remains the intent of the Common Council to establish a maximum income eligibility level of Eighteen Thousand Dollars ($18,000) for the fifty percent (50%) base exemption and to provide reduced exemptions through the ten percent (10%) exemption level, as permitted by New York State Real Property Tax Law §467; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to correct the income brackets and corresponding maximum income limitation to ensure compliance with New York State law and proper administration of the exemption by the City Assessor and Steuben County Real Property Tax Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed amending local law has been duly noticed and held in accordance with applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby adopts Local Law No. 3 of 2026, amending Local Law No. 3 of 2025 (HN-25-78), as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2026

A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2025, Entitled "City of Hornell Over 65 Real Property Tax Exemption Law," to Correct the Income-Based Sliding-Scale Exemption in Accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law §467.

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 — REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION.

Section 4 of Local Law No. 3 of 2025 is hereby amended by deleting the existing income-based sliding-scale exemption schedule and replacing it with the following:

The maximum income eligibility level for the base exemption of fifty percent (50%) of assessed value shall be Eighteen Thousand Dollars ($18,000).

For qualified applicants whose income exceeds Eighteen Thousand Dollars ($18,000), the following sliding-scale exemptions shall apply:

Annual Income	Percentage of Exemption
$18,000 or less	50%
More than $18,000 but less than $19,000	45%
$19,000 or more but less than $20,000	40%
$20,000 or more but less than $21,000	35%
$21,000 or more but less than $21,900	30%
$21,900 or more but less than $22,800	25%
$22,800 or more but less than $23,700	20%
$23,700 or more but less than $24,600	15%
$24,600 or more but less than $25,500	10%

The foregoing schedule is adopted pursuant to the sliding-scale provisions of New York State Real Property Tax Law §467.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5(a) — LIMITATIONS ON EXEMPTIONS.

Section 5(a) of Local Law No. 3 of 2025 is hereby amended by replacing the existing maximum income limitation of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) with Twenty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($25,500), such that no exemption shall be granted where the applicable income equals or exceeds Twenty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($25,500).

All remaining provisions of Section 5(a) shall remain unchanged, except to the extent otherwise required by applicable New York State law.

SECTION 3. CONTINUATION OF EXISTING LAW.

Except as specifically amended herein, all other sections, provisions, terms and conditions of Local Law No. 3 of 2025 shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.
This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York, in accordance with applicable law.
The corrected income-based sliding-scale exemption shall be administered in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law §467 and shall apply to City of Hornell real property tax levies beginning with the tax year commencing April 1, 2026, and thereafter, to the extent permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to complete all necessary filings, certifications and publication requirements in accordance with applicable law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution and the adopted amending Local Law shall be forwarded to the City Assessor, the Director of the Steuben County Real Property Tax Service Agency, the City Chamberlain, and the Steuben County Office of Aging.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

HN 26-57 Data Collection Services Agreement
BY: Davis/Valentine

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Hornell, Steuben County, New York, is hereby authorized as the official representative of the City of Hornell to execute a Joint Services Agreement for Data Collection Services with the County of Steuben for data collection services pursuant to section 1537 of the Real Property Tax Law and Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this agreement will be for a five-year period, commencing on January 1, 2027 and ending on December 31, 2032.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

HN 26-58 Spencer Creek Culvert Design
BY: Brown/Warriner

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell has been awarded a grant from Bridge NY funds for the replacement of Canisteo Street over Spencer Creek Culvert (OSC Contract #D041518), City of Hornell, Steuben County, P.I.N. 6755.88. The estimated cost of the design phase is $255,000.00 of which, $255,000.00 is expected to be received from state aid with no local share to the city. Instead of incurring costs to finance the design phase of said project, the city will use its own funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, NY that the City Chamberlain is hereby authorized to transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to pay said design costs for the replacement of Canisteo Street over Spencer Creek Culvert.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Chamberlain shall reimburse the General Fund with all state aid received for said project.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

HN 26-59 Budget Amendment General Fund - 2 Nissan Kicks
BY: Sutfin/Peck

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is necessary to amend the 2026-2027 General Fund budget to purchase two 2026 Nissan Kicks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, NY, that the 2026-2027 City of Hornell General Fund budget now reflects the following adjustments:

Increase Assigned General Fund Balance by: $51,973.42

Increase Expenditure:
A 3410.2 – Fire Equipment by $25,986.71
A 1989.2 – General Government Support Equipment by $25,986.71

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

HN 26-60 NYCOM Dignity Resolution
BY: Brown/McKay

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING DIGNITY, CIVILITY, AND RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell recognizes that disagreement is an essential part of local government and that healthy debate, the exchange of ideas, and the consideration of differing perspectives are vital to making informed decisions and developing effective solutions for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, the increasing divisiveness of public discourse is being felt at the local level, affecting relationships among elected and appointed officials, municipal employees, and residents, potentially eroding public trust and making the collaborative work of governing more difficult; and

WHEREAS, personal attacks, ridicule, and expressions of contempt in public communication, whether during Common Council meetings, public hearings, community interactions, or online, can deepen divisions, discourage constructive participation, and hinder the City's ability to conduct the public's business effectively; and

WHEREAS, dignity and mutual respect are fundamental to constructive engagement, allowing individuals with differing opinions and perspectives to recognize one another's worth, engage in meaningful dialogue, and continue working toward solutions that serve the best interests of the City of Hornell and its residents; and

WHEREAS, elected and appointed officials, municipal employees, and community leaders have an important opportunity and responsibility to model civility, professionalism, and respect in their public service and interactions with others, recognizing that these principles strengthen public confidence and contribute to a more productive and welcoming community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby affirms dignity, civility, and mutual respect as fundamental principles for constructive engagement in local government, public service, and community life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council affirms its commitment to fostering dignity, civility, professionalism, and meaningful dialogue in its meetings, deliberations, official communications, and interactions with residents, municipal employees, fellow elected officials, and all others who engage with the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council encourages all individuals participating in Common Council meetings, public hearings, City-sponsored events, and other civic interactions to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these principles, while recognizing the right of every individual to express disagreement, raise concerns, question decisions, and hold public officials accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council encourages all members of the Hornell community to recognize that respectful disagreement and a shared commitment to the well-being of the City can coexist, and that the strength of our community depends in part on our ability to work together despite our differences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution expresses the City of Hornell Common Council's commitment to these principles as a statement of shared values and does not create new legal obligations or restrict any individual's lawful rights to free speech, public participation, or criticism of municipal government.

ADOPTED this 16th day of November, 2026, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, New York.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

CLAIMS:
BY: Valentine/Warriner

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of $496,257.60, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, are approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	$ 286,441.09
Community Development	$ 45,267.75
Payrolls	$ 164,548.76
TOTAL	$ 496,257.60

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage)

MISCELLANEOUS:
Mayor Buckley wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The DPW is busy putting Christmas decorations up throughout the City as we prepare for the annual Hornell for the Holidays celebration on Saturday, November 28th at 5:00 p.m. The 4th Annual Christmas at the Square will be held December 5th from 3 – 6 p.m. at Union Square Park. Multiple choirs from the Hornell School District will perform, various vendors will be on site. Mayor Buckley invited everyone to have a cup of hot cocoa from Brandy's Cup of Joe, who he sponsors to provide a free cup to all attendees. He encourages everyone to take a step back this holiday season and focus on their families, faith and enjoy our community.

Enter Executive Session: 7:34 p.m.
BY: Valentine/Warriner
Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage

Enter Regular Session: 8:23 p.m.
BY: Valentine/Warriner
Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage

BY: Brown/Hancock
RESOLVED, that there being no further business the Common Council adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Bassage

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Lisi
Heather Lisi
City Clerk