

A regular meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:05 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, Bassage, Davis, and Carbone, Stenographer Ellen Kerr, and City Clerk Heather Lisi.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland, City Chamberlain Michele Smith, Chief Ted Murray, HPG Chairwoman Michelle Pogue, and 8 students from Hornell High School and/or members of the public.

FROM THE MEDIA: None

ABSENT: Alderman Valentine

INVOCATION: Mayor John Buckley

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Buckley

BY: Warriner/Brown

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Common Council meeting of January 26 ,2026 be approved as read.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – Valentine

BY: Davis/Sutfin

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

REPORTS FILED:

Gen Fund Rev.- 1/2026; Water Fund Rev.- 1/2026; Gen Fund Exp.- 1/2026; Water Fund Exp.- 1/2026; City Clerk- 1/2026; BPS Minutes –1/2026; Fire/Amb - 1/2026; Codes/Codes Log- 1/2026; Police- 1/2026; BPW Minutes –1/2026; DPW/Sewer –1/2026; WTP – 1/2026; WPCP – 1/2026; Petro – 1/2026; Library - 1/2026; Humane Society 1/2026; HAT Commission - 1/2026

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – Valentine

BY: Peck/Hancock

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

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – Valentine

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Audit Committee**

February 23, 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	\$292,550.01
CD	\$50.50
<u>PAYROLL</u>	<u>\$104,944.27</u>
TOTAL	\$ 397,544.78

Respectfully submitted,
John Carbone, Chairman
Audit Committee

Finance Committee

February 23, 2026

To the Honorable John J. Buckley, Mayor

And Members of the Common Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Finance Committee met on 2/23/26 in the mayor's conference room. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. Members in attendance were Joe McKay, John Carbone, Dan Warriner, Steve Peck, and Shannon Davis. Also in attendance were Mayor John Buckley, Chamberlain Michele Smith, and Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland.

The Committee reviewed the preliminary 2026/2027 General Fund and Water Budgets. Work is ongoing by the Chamberlain and Mayor as well as waiting for the Board of Assessment Review to meet next week.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet and review the final budgets at 5:30pm on March 16th. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7pm. Motion by, Steve Peck, second by Shannon Davis. Ayes all.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Warriner, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS:

HN 26-09 Re-appoint Buckley to St. Co. Land Bank Corp

BY: Carbone/Brown

WHEREAS, the County of Steuben appointed John Buckley, Hornell City Mayor, to the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation as a municipal representative, and

WHEREAS, the by-laws of the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation require that the Common Council for the City of Hornell approve said appointment/reappointment, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council for the City of Hornell finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Hornell to have Mayor Buckley re-appointed to the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation.

NOW, therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED:

The Common Council for the City of Hornell approves the re-appointment of Mayor John Buckley, to the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation for a term of two years commencing on January 1, 2026 and expiring on December 31, 2027.

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – Valentine

HN 26-10 Sale of Maple City Park Sports Complex

BY: Peck/Sutfin

WHEREAS, the Hornell City School District has since 1961 leased the parcel of land known as Maple City Park, Steuben County tax map 151.10-2-10.1 generally known as the “Sports complex” at the Hornell High School, and

WHEREAS, the School District has made numerous improvements of the parcel relying on the lease, and

WHEREAS, the School District is desirous of purchasing Maple City Park for the refund of taxes payable on behalf of the City and Hornell Partners for Growth, \$52,324.00 to other parties, and

WHEREAS, the School District and City recognize that the sale of Maple City Park will need to be approved by the State Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the City owns four parcels of land used for municipal/water purposes and have been exempt by the School District from taxation; and

WHEREAS, the School District will continue to exempt the water parcels located in the Town of Hornellsville, and

WHEREAS, the parties have drafted an agreement that sets forth the terms the parties have agreed to encompassing all the terms of the sale and continued exemptions, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Hornell City Council approves said agreement between the Hornell City School District setting forth the terms of the sale and the exemptions to be provided and continue to be granted to the City by the School District as well as the other conditions to the sale and the exemptions.

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – Valentine

HN 26-11 Approve HPG Contract Renewal

BY: Warriner/Sutfin

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT, RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby approves the contract renewal with Hornell Partners for Growth to help promote businesses located within the City of Hornell, within the business improvement district, for a twelve (12) month term, beginning April 1, 2026 and expiring March 31, 2027. A copy of the contract is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – Valentine

HN 26-12 Governor Hochul's Proposed Increase Temporary Municipal Aid

BY: Carbone/Davis

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul has released her 30-day amendments to the Executive Budget, which include an additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA) to be allocated in the same manner as in the previous two years; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across New York State, including the City of Hornell, continue to face significant fiscal pressures due to rising costs associated with energy, employee wages and benefits, construction materials, equipment, and essential supplies; and

WHEREAS, these increased costs place substantial strain on municipal budgets and, absent additional state support, risk shifting further financial burdens onto local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increase in Temporary Municipal Assistance represents a meaningful investment in New York's cities and villages, helping to stabilize municipal finances, protect essential services, maintain infrastructure, and lessen the burden on property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the state-local partnership is critical to ensuring municipalities can continue to deliver high-quality public safety, public works, and community services that residents rely upon; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) has expressed strong support for this proposal and has called upon the State Legislature to preserve this increased funding in the adopted State Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Hornell Common Council hereby expresses its strong support for Governor Hochul’s proposed \$100 million increase in Temporary Municipal Assistance, as well as the additional funding for distressed municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council recognizes this proposal as an important step toward providing fiscal relief to municipalities facing mounting financial challenges and to protecting local taxpayers from additional economic strain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Hornell Common Council, the Mayor of the City of Hornell, and the City Chamberlain stand united in support of this increased state investment in local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, members of the New York State Legislature representing the City of Hornell, and appropriate state officials, urging that this increased funding be preserved in the final adopted State Budget.

DULY ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Hornell at a regular meeting thereof held on February 23, 2026.

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – Valentine

CLAIMS:

BY: Peck/Warriner

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$397,544.78, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, are approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$292,550.01
Community Development	\$50.50
Payrolls	\$104,944.27
TOTAL	\$397,544.78

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – Valentine

MISCELLANEOUS: Hornell Partners For Growth Chairwoman, Michelle Pogue gave the organization's yearly update, providing a Compilation Report to the Council and outlining events planned for 2026. HPG recently celebrated 30 years of operation and is accepting donations, sponsors and is also seeking volunteers to help at various events planned throughout the year. High School Students are encouraged to volunteer to fulfill community service requirements for their Government classes.

BY: Warriner/Peck

RESOLVED, that there being no further business the Common Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – Valentine

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lisi

Heather Lisi

City Clerk