

A regular meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, March 16, 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, McKay, Peck, Warriner, Brown, Valentine, 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, and six students from Hornell High School and/or members of the public.

FROM THE MEDIA: Brian O'Neil

ABSENT: Christina Hancock

INVOCATION: Pastor Luke Bowman

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Buckley

BY: Brown/Peck

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Common Council meeting of February 23, 2026 be approved as read.

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

BY: Warriner/Davis

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

REPORTS FILED:

Gen Fund Rev.- 2/2026; Water Fund Rev.- 2/2026; Gen Fund Exp.- 2/2026; Water Fund Exp.- 2/2026; City Clerk- 2/2026; BPS Minutes –2/2026; Fire/Amb - 2/2026; Codes/Codes Log- 2/2026; Police- 2/2026; BPW Minutes –2/2026; DPW/Sewer –2/2026; WTP – 2/2026; WPCP – 2/2026; Petro – 2/2026; Library - 2/2026; Humane Society 2/2026; HAT Commission – N/A

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

BY: Peck/Sutfin

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

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee

March 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	\$ 371,383.89
CD	\$ 41,327.54
<u>PAYROLL</u>	<u>\$ 106,611.80</u>
TOTAL	\$ 519,323.23

Respectfully submitted,
John Carbone, Chairman Audit Committee

Finance Committee

March 16, 2026

To the honorable John J Buckley Mayor,
Members of the Common Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Finance Committee met on 3/16/26 in the mayor's conference room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Joe McKay, John Carbone, Steve Peck, Shannon Davis, and Dan Warriner. Also in attendance were Mayor John Buckley, Chamberlain Michele Smith, and Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland.

The Committee acted on the following:

1. The Committee reviewed and approved the 2026/2027 Water Budget with no tax increase at this time.
2. The Committee reviewed and approved the 2026/2027 General Fund Budget and reduced the tax by 12.89 percent
3. The Committee reviewed and approved the override of the 2026/2027 Tax Cap.
4. The Committee reviewed and approved salaries and hourly wages for the 2026/2027 fiscal year.
5. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Warriner, Chairman

Law and Ordinance Committee Report

The Law and Ordinance Committee met on February 24, 2026 in the 2rd Floor Conference room at City Hall.

In Attendance: David Sutfin, Christina Hancock, Shannon Davis, Mayor Buckley, Deputy Mayor Cleveland, and Chair Joe McKay

After a light informal discussion, the meeting is called to order at 6:15 PM

First item was to discuss:

E-Bike local law

Motion for approval was made by David Sutfin and second by Shannon Davis.

Ayes all, motion carried.

Second Item:

Tree Board

Highlighted items:

- Dismantle the formal tree board
- Items regarding trees, will resort to the codes office, where a letter will be issued identifying situation, and where necessary, a referral to tree service.

Motion for approval was made by Christina Hancock and second by David Sutfin.

Ayes all, motion carried.

Third Item:

Residency requirement for City Employees, For discussion. No motions currently. This item is tabled for further discussion later.

Being no further business; a motion to adjourn was made by Shannon Davis and second by Christina Hancock. Ayes all.

Meeting was adjourned: 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman Joe McKay, Chair Law and Ordinance Committee

RESOLUTIONS:

HN 26-13 Approve Humane Society Contract

BY: Valentine/Carbone

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby approves the contract with the Hornell Area Humane Society to provide dog and cat control and shelter services for a one-year term, beginning April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

HN 26-14 Bridge NY Reimbursement for Church St Bridge Replacement

BY: Warriner/Sutfin

WHEREAS, a project for the Bridge Replacement (BIN 2218190) Church Street over Canacadea Creek, City of Hornell, Steuben County, P.I.N. 6755.65 (the Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, 23CFR as amended and PUB. L. 117-58 also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" (BIL); and

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell will design, let, and construct the Project: and

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the costs for Right of Way Incidentals and Acquisition.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Hornell Common Council, duly convened does hereby

RESOLVE, that the Hornell Common Council hereby approves the above-subject Project; and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the Hornell Common Council hereby authorizes the City of Hornell to pay 100% of the cost of Right of Way Incidentals and Acquisition work for the Project or portions thereof, with the understanding that qualified costs may be eligible for federal-aid, state-aid, or reimbursement from Bridge NY funds; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$27,500 is hereby appropriated and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase(s) of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Hornell Common Council hereby agrees that the City of Hornell shall be responsible for all costs of the Project which exceed the amount of federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding awarded to the City of Hornell; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in the event the Project costs not covered by federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding exceed the amount appropriated above, the City of Hornell shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the New York State Department of Transportation thereof; and it is further

RESOLVED, that City of Hornell hereby agrees that construction of the Project shall begin no later than twenty-four (24) months after award and the construction phase of the Project shall be completed within thirty (30) months; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Hornell be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Hornell all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for federal-aid and/or state-aid with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and City of Hornell's funding of Project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid

eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent –1 (Hancock)

HN 26-15 SEQRA Determination for Skate Park Project

BY: Valentine/Davis

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617), the Common Council of the City of Hornell hereby designates itself as Lead Agency for purposes of conducting the environmental review of the proposed project known as the “City of Hornell Skate Park Renovation.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council, in its capacity as Lead Agency, has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form (Short EAF) and supporting information prepared by the Planning Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby determines that the proposed project is classified as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after careful review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and supporting documentation, the Common Council finds that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby issues a Negative Declaration, determining that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for the proposed City of Hornell Skate Park Renovation project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council acknowledges that portions of the project area may be subject to jurisdiction by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under applicable environmental regulations, including potential freshwater wetlands or protection of waters requirements. Any disturbance to regulated wetlands, streams, or adjacent areas shall require review and approval by the Department, and the City shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals prior to construction.

Carried – 9 Ayes
Absent – 1 (Hancock)

CLAIMS:

BY: Peck/Brown

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$519,323.23, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, are approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$ 371,383.89
Community Development	\$ 41,327.54
Payrolls	\$ 106,611.80
TOTAL	\$ 519,323.23

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

MISCELLANEOUS: It is the intent of the Hornell Public Library to separate from the City of Hornell and become an independent entity effective April 1, 2026. The Chamberlain’s office is working with the Library on details of the separation in regards to retirement, insurance, and payroll. The City of Hornell wishes the Hornell Public Library all the best as they make this transition.

Mayor Buckley has been working with the Department of State on a transfer of grant funds for improvements to the Hornell Community Arts Center. Renovations will include changes to the facade, a new entrance door from Broadway, and various interior upgrades including ADA compliant bathrooms. The Hornell YMCA manages the Hornell Arts Center through an MOU agreement created October 2024. It is the hope that these renovations will make the space appealing for community theater, literacy events and other programs that enrich the lives of Hornell residents.

BY: Brown/Warriner

RESOLVED, that there being no further business the Common Council adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Carried – 9 Ayes

Absent – 1 (Hancock)

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lisi

Heather Lisi

City Clerk