

A regular meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 7:06 p.m. in Council Chambers at 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: John J. Buckley Mayor, 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, Fire Chief Frank Brzozowski, Firefighter Kelsey Brzozowski, Water Filtration Plant Chief Operator Leonard Fucci, Public Works Superintendent Mitchell Cornish, and one member of the public.

FROM THE MEDIA: Abby Sexsmith, Brian O’Neal

ABSENT: Kevin Valentine, Timothy Rosell

INVOCATION: Deacon Mark Clark – Our Lady of the Valley

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Buckley

BY: Brown/Peck

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Common Council meeting of June 15, 2026 be approved as read.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

BY: Davis/Sutfin

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

REPORTS FILED:

Gen Fund Rev.- 6/2026; Water Fund Rev.- 6/2026; Gen Fund Exp.- 6/2026; Water Fund Exp.- 6/2026; City Clerk- 6/2026; BPS Minutes –6/2026; Fire/Amb - 6/2026; Codes/Codes Log- 6/2026; Police- 6/2026; BPW Minutes – 6/2026; DPW/Sewer – 6/2026; WTP – 6/2026; WPCP – 6/2026; Petro – 6/2026; Humane Society 6/2026; HAT Commission - 7/2026

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

BY: Peck/Davis

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

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee

July 20, 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	\$ 363,642.78
CD	\$ 7,047.10
<u>PAYROLL</u>	<u>\$ 114,862.44</u>
TOTAL	\$ 485,552.32

Respectfully submitted,
John Carbone, Chairman
Audit Committee

Finance Committee

07/13/26

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

The Finance Committee met on Monday July 13,2026 in the second-floor conference room. 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 meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm to discuss the proposed increase to the water bill rates. After much discussion the new rates were set according to the attached document.

The motion to approve the rates was made by Shannon Davis and seconded by Joe McKay with an all in favor vote.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:16 pm motioned by Steve Peck seconded by John Carbone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Warriner
Chairman

Attached Schedule:**Flat Water**

	Current	New rate
Base	\$160.32	\$178.00
Surcharge	\$7.50	\$9.50
CBWS	\$12.50	\$14.50
Biannual Bill	\$180.32	\$202.00

Metered Water – Commercial Inside City

	Current	Dec.2026
Base	\$82.92	\$90.00
Surcharge	\$3.75	\$4.75
CBWS	\$6.25	\$7.25
Sewer	\$12.00	\$16.00
Quarterly Bill	\$104.92	\$118.00
Water rates over base usage		
10,001-50,000 per 1,000 gallons	\$4.01	\$4.35
Over 50,001 per 1,000 gallons	\$2.21	\$2.40
Sewer rates over base usage		
20,001 and up per 1,000 gallons	\$0.54	\$0.72

**Metered Water Outside City – Town of Hornellsville
(with sewer)**

	Current	Dec.2026
Base	\$121.61	\$137.00
Surcharge	\$3.75	\$4.75
CBWS	\$6.25	\$7.25
Sewer	\$36.00	\$42.00
Quarterly Bill	\$167.61	\$191.00
Water rates over base usage		
10,001-50,000 per 1,000 gallons	\$12.13	\$13.67
Over 50,001 per 1,000 gallons	\$6.42	\$7.23
Sewer rates over base usage		
10,001 - 50,000 per 1,000 gallons	\$3.60	\$4.20
50,001 and up per 1,000 gallons	\$2.16	\$2.52

**Metered Water Outside City – North Hornell
(no sewer)**

	Current	Dec. 2026
Base	\$121.61	\$137.00
Surcharge	\$3.75	\$4.75
CBWS	\$6.25	\$7.25

Quarterly Bill	\$131.61	\$149.00
Water rates over base usage		
22.01K-50K per 1,000 gallons	\$12.13	\$13.67
Over 50.01K per 1,000 gallons	\$6.42	\$7.23

Policies and Procedures Committee

July 20, 2026

To: The Honorable John Buckley, Mayor & Members of the Common Council
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Policies and Procedures Committee met on July 20th, at 6:00pm. The following members were in attendance; John Carbone, Joe McKay, Christina Hancock, Dan Warriner and Jim Bassage Chair.

Excused-

Guests; Mayor Buckley, Jessica Cleveland, Deputy Mayor

The following items were discussed;

- I. Committee reviewed the City of Hornell Vehicle Use policy. In the discussion, there were suggestions and recommendations for some changes. The Policy will be updated with the changes and the committee will reconvene before the next council meeting for a final review and approval.

Meeting was Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting – TBD

Jim Bassage, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS:

HN 26-38 WOIP City of Hornell Intermunicipal Grant Application

BY: Warriner/Hancock

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is soliciting applications from eligible applicants for Water Quality Improvement Project Grants; and,

WHEREAS, Public sewer infrastructure in the Hornell region extends throughout the City of Hornell (City), Village of North Hornell (Village) and a portion of the Town of Hornellsville (Town). The municipalities proposed the following improvements: Town - Replacement of three pump stations (new wet wells and pumping equipment) and replacement of aging trunk line piping; Village - Replacement of one pump station (new wet well and pumping equipment) and lining of trunk main piping; and City - Repair of four existing wet wells and replacement of aging pumping equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell, the Town of Hornellsville, and the Village of North Hornell have entered into an Inter-Municipal Agreement to collectively undertake a project consisting of the

replacement, upgrading and general overhaul of a sewer line and related infrastructure components and equipment that serves the municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, resolutions authorizing the issuance of bonds to pay the cost of the improvement of the sewer facilities have been undertaken. The City of Hornell adopted a Bond Resolution dated August 25, 2025 authorizing improvements at a maximum estimated cost of \$2,570,000. The Town of Hornellsville adopted a Bond Resolution dated September 9, 2025 authorizing the issuance of \$10,710,000 bonds. The Village of North Hornell adopted a Bond Resolution on September 8, 2025 authorizing the issuance of \$3,502,000 bonds.

WHEREAS, the municipalities have been awarded an Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant (IMG) for the project in an amount not to exceed \$6,712,900; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell proposes to act as the lead applicant for the project for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hornell hereby authorizes and empowers the City Mayor to sign and submit an application to DEC through the 2026 CFA process and to act in connection with the submission of the application, including execution of all required certifications and forms and to provide such additional information as may be required; and, it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

HN 26-39 Climate Smart Communities Grant Application

BY: Brown/Carbon

WHEREAS, Public water supply infrastructure is owned and operated by the City of Hornell and includes Reservoir #1, Reservoir #2, and Reservoir #3 located in the Town of Fremont and water transmission infrastructure from the reservoirs to the water treatment plant located at 7460 Seneca Road in the Town of Hornellsville. The water system provides residential and business service connections to the City of Hornell, Village of North Hornell, and Town of Hornellsville Water Districts #1 and #3.

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell proposes a climate adaptation project to evaluate the existing conditions of the reservoirs and transmission main infrastructure and associated appurtenances thereof, and produce engineering feasibility studies to include watershed hydrology analysis, dam hazard classification study, hydraulic assessment of dam components, dam compliance with dam safety regulations, mapping of wetlands, Seeley Creek Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis, Water System Improvement Preliminary Engineering Report, 30% Detailed Design, and 60% Detailed Design.

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell hereby requests financial assistance from the New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Article 54, Title 15.

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell certifies that it has identified 20% of the total project cost, not to exceed **\$300,000.00** of matching funds from the Water Fund pursuant to the requirements of Environmental Conservation Law Article 54 Title 15.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the City of Hornell hereby authorizes the City Mayor, John Buckley, an official or employee, to act on its behalf in submittal of an application through the Consolidated Funding Application for \$1.5 million dollars to be used for Hornell Water Source Climate Adaptation Project.

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – 1 (Valentine)

HN 26-40 Budget Amendment General Fund - Fire Department

BY: Warriner/Peck

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is necessary to amend the 2026-2027 General Fund budget to account for Bethesda Foundation grant funds received for the Fire Department.

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 Revenue:
A 2705 – Gifts & Donations by \$20,000

Increase Expenditure:
A 4540.2 – Ambulance – Equipment by \$20,000

Carried – 9 ayes
Absent – 1 (Valentine)

HN 26-41 Water, Sewer Rates Increase

BY: Peck/Sutfin

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell is committed to maintaining safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible water and wastewater systems for the benefit of its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to experience significant increases in the costs associated with operating and maintaining its water and wastewater utilities, including but not limited to electricity, process chemicals, treatment materials, equipment, replacement parts, contracted services, and regulatory compliance; and

WHEREAS, inflationary pressures have substantially increased the cost of energy required to operate the City's Water Filtration Plant and Water Pollution Control Plant, both of which are energy-intensive facilities that operate continuously to provide essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to meet stringent federal and state environmental regulations, including enhanced wastewater treatment standards associated with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, resulting in increased operational and treatment costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hornell Common Council desires to establish water and sewer rates that generate sufficient revenue to support the continued operation, maintenance, repair, regulatory compliance, and long-term capital investment necessary to sustain the City's water and wastewater infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hornell Common Council authorizes the following increases:

1. Increase water and sewer rates according to the attached schedule.
2. Increase the water surcharge to **\$19.00** per year.
3. Increase the Chesapeake Bay Watershed fee to **\$29.00** per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council finds these adjustments to be necessary to ensure the continued financial stability of the City's water and wastewater utilities while maintaining reliable public services and compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Common Council.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

Attached Schedule:

Flat Water

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Quarterly Bill	\$131.61	\$149.00

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Over 50.01K per 1,000 gallons	\$6.42	\$7.23

HN 26-42 NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Grant Application

BY: Davis/Peck

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State Smart Growth Community Planning Program is providing funding for new or updated comprehensive plans for municipalities that integrate smart growth planning principles pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 28-A. Awards will begin at \$75,000.00. This grant, if awarded, requires a minimum local match of 10% of the project cost (City share starting at a minimum of \$7,500.00); and

WHEREAS, the City desires to submit a grant application via the 2026 CFA to update the existing Comprehensive Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor or designee is hereby authorized to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for the above grant program for up to \$150,000 (\$15,000 maximum city share).

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

CLAIMS:

BY: Sutfin/Warriner

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$485,552.32, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, are approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$363,642.78
Community Development	\$ 7,047.10
Payrolls	<u>\$114,862.44</u>
TOTAL	\$ 485,552.32

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland provided a brief update on HAT. Our current fleet of buses has been significantly reduced in number due to ongoing issues with vehicle repairs and lack of drivers. We expected three new buses to be delivered in March, which did not occur. Another three were expected in July, which again, did not happen. The total number of six buses have just begun being assembled and are now expected to be delivered late August or early September. The process for obtaining the new buses started in 2022 and it has been a long process to obtain them due to manufacturing delays. Due to the limited number of buses and drivers, some operations have been limited or canceled.

Mayor Buckley advised the Common Council that the City's annual financial audit is in process.

DPW Superintendent Mitch Cornish gave an update on the Spencer Box Culvert and Church Street Bridge projects. A survey crew will begin work on 7/21/26 at Spencer and we are waiting for permits for the Church St Bridge project before going to bid.

A preliminary cost estimate of the East Elm Street foot bridge has come back from La Bella. Council Members were given a copy of the engineer's findings for review.

The foot bridge along Route 36 will be removed by NYS DOT as the Route 36 road project moves forward. It will be replaced by a walking/bike path on one side and sidewalk on the other side, and will be ADA compliant.

Enter Executive Session 8:00 p.m.

BY: Warriner/Bassage

End Executive Session 8:06 p.m.

BY: Peck/Warriner

BY: Hancock/Brown

RESOLVED, that there being no further business the Common Council adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Carried – 9 ayes

Absent – 1 (Valentine)

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lisi

Heather Lisi

City Clerk