

A regular meeting of the Hornell Common Council was held on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 7:00 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, Brown, Bassage, Davis, and Carbone, Stenographer Ellen Kerr, and City Clerk Holly Snyder.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Jessica Cleveland, City Chamberlain Michele Smith, Steuben County Legislator Paul E. Van Caesele, NYS Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano, and thirteen (13) students and/or members of the public.

FROM THE MEDIA: None

ABSENT: Council members Warriner and Valentine

INVOCATION: Deacon Bob McCormick, Our Lady of the Valley Church

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: NYS Assembly member Philip A. Palmesano

AUDIT PRESENTATION: Erica Handley from Drescher & Malecki LLP

BY: Brown/Bassage

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Common Council meeting of August 25, 2025 be approved as read.

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

BY: Davis/Peck

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

REPORTS FILED:

Gen Fund Rev.- 8/2025; Water Fund Rev.- 8/2025; Gen Fund Exp.- 8/2025; Water Fund Exp.- 8/2025; City Clerk- 8/2025; BPS Minutes –8/2025; Fire/Amb-8/2025; Codes/Codes Log- 8/2025; Police- 8/2025; BPW Minutes –8/2025; DPW/Sewer 8/2025; WTP –8/2025; WPCP – 8/2025; Petro – 8/2025; Library 8/2025; Humane Society 8/2025; HAT Commission 8/2025

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

BY: Hancock/Sutfin

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

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Audit Committee**

September 22, 2025

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	\$365,207.85
CD	\$ 7,500.00
<u>PAYROLL</u>	<u>\$106,855.75</u>
TOTAL	\$479,563.63

Respectfully submitted,
John Carbone, Chairman
Audit Committee

RESOLUTIONS:**HN 25-59 Accept the Audit**

BY: Brown/Peck

WHEREAS the City of Hornell has entered into a contract with Drescher & Malecki LLP for accounting services, and

WHEREAS said firm performed an audit of the financial condition of the City of Hornell, and

WHEREAS said audit was presented to the Common Council on September 22, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that said audit be accepted and received as filed by the Common Council for the City of Hornell.

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

HN 25-60 Amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget - Bond Premium

BY: Peck/Sutfin

Amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget to account for bond premium to offset bond cost.

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is necessary to, amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget to account for bond premium to offset bond cost.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, NY, that the 2025–2026 City of Hornell General Fund budget now reflects the following adjustments:

Increase Revenue:

A 2710 – Premium on Obligations by \$32,568.32

Increase Expenditure:

A 1010.46 – Legislative Board – Contracted Services by \$32,568.32

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

HN 25-61 Amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget - Reserve #4 - new sewer truck

BY: Davis/Carbone

Amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget to authorize the use of Reserve #4 for a down payment on new sewer truck.

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is necessary to, amend the 2025-2026 General Fund budget to authorize the use of Reserve #4 for a down payment on new sewer truck.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hornell, NY, that the 2025–2026 City of Hornell General Fund budget now reflects the following adjustments:

Increase use of General Fund Reserve # 4 Restricted Fund Balance by \$150,000

Increase Expenditure:

A 8130.5 – WPCP Reserve #4 Expenditures

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

HN 25-62 Energy Choice Act

BY: Peck/Carbone

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY’S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, there are widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Hornell urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

CLAIMS:

BY: Hancock/Peck

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$479,563.63, as audited by the Audit Committee of the Common Council of the City of Hornell, are approved and authorized paid as audited.

Common Council	\$365,207.85
Community Development	\$ 7,500.00
Payrolls	<u>\$106,855.78</u>
TOTAL	\$479,563.63

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

MISCELLANEOUS:

- NYS Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano talked about CLCPA and how it is forcing everyone in NYS to convert to Electric and how NYS doesn't have the infrastructure to move to all electric.
- NYS Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano gave an update on the state budget.

BY: Hancock/Peck

RESOLVED, that there being no further business the Common Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Carried – 8 Ayes

Absent – 2 (Warriner/Valentine)

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Snyder

Holly Snyder

City Clerk