

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMETOWN
JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
February 24, 2026

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hometown was called to order by Mayor Frank Finnegan on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Zak.

Roll Call: Roll call indicated that the following were present: Aldermen Forney, Weber, Barnhouse, Dolan, Rivas, Zak, and Kurysz.

Absent: Alderman Grochowski, Brookman and Reynolds

Also present: Elizabeth Blood, City Attorney, Salvatore Roti, City Treasurer, Chris Gatch, Code Enforcement

Press: Jan Forney, Hometown Hi-Lites.

Journal January 13, 2026 Moved by Alderman Weber seconded by Alderman Kurysz to approve as published the Journal of February 10, 2026 regular City Council Meeting.
Roll call, the vote was:

- AYES: (6) Aldermen Rivas, Barnhouse, Weber, Dolan, Forney and Kurysz
- ABSTENTION: (1) Alderman Zak
- ABSENT: (3) Alderman Grochowski , Brookman and Reynolds

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

CITIZEN’S HEARING

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Finnegan stated I’d like to appoint Alderman Art Rivas as our Mayor Pro-Tem.

Roll call indicated

- AYES: (7) Aldermen Rivas, Barnhouse, Weber, Dolan, Zak, Forney and Kurysz
- ABSENT: (3) Alderman Grochowski , Brookman and Reynolds

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

Mayor Finnegan said it was a busy week this week. There was a lot going on with Public Works, Alderman Dolan will tell us more about that. I am ready for Spring.

Office of the City Clerk:

No report

Office of the Treasurer:

No report

REPORTS FROM CITY APPOINTED OFFICIAL

City
Attorney: Attorney Elizabeth Blood had no report.
Police: Louis Dominguez, Chief of Police, was absent.
 Public Works
Department: Mark Trlak, Director, was absent.
 Building
Department: James Melnik, Commissioner, was absent.
Code: Chris Gatch, Director, had no report.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Accounts Payable Payroll
 Moved by Alderman Forney, seconded by Alderman Dolan, to approve for payment the accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$74,594.78 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$80,238.78 for a total expenditure of \$154,833.56.
 February 24, 2026

Roll call, the vote was:

- AYES: (7) Aldermen Rivas, Forney, Barnhouse, Zak, Dolan, Weber, and Kurysz
 - NAYS: (0)
 - ABSENT: (3) Alderman Grochowski, Reynolds and Brookman
- MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Zak, Chairman, had no report.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

Alderman Dolan, Chairman, reported that he spoke to Mark Trlak and Public Works had a water main break by the Mosque parking lot that the City was responsible for. Mark is working with the City engineer and waiting for a price on the 12-inch main feed under Pulaski near Main St. The repair to fire hydrant on Duffy & 87th is waiting to be scheduled. Residents will be notified when work begins.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Alderman Tom Brookman, Chairman, was absent.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Alderman Brian Barnhouse, Chairman had no report.

LICENSE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Donna Grochowski, Chairman, was absent. Alderman Barnhouse asked where we are at with the Ordinance regarding the e-bikes and e-scooters. Alderman Dolan asked if we could review. Mayor Finnegan said Alderman Reynolds, chairman of the Code and Ordinance Committee, can call for a meeting when he is back.

CODE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Robert Reynolds, Chairman, was absent. Alderman Forney asked about Robert Tietz and being able to put up his garage. Mayor Finnegan responded that a permit needs to be filled out. Robert said the ordinance states he can not build on the easement/vacated property. Mayor Finnegan responded that once it is vacated, it is no longer an easement. Attorney Elizabeth Blood is going to look into the ordinance.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

Alderman Melissa Weber, Chairman had no report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Luci Kurysz, Chairman had no report.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Alderman Rivas had no report. Mayor Finnegan said Chief Dominguez reported they will tackle the concerns about parking on Kostner during larger Mosque events.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Library: Alderman Grochowski, Liaison to the Library Board, was absent. Alderman Dolan reported the Winter Reading Program is ending February 28. They are having Crafty Crafters on March 9 from 2-3pm and their next meeting is March 3 at 7pm.

Legislation: Alderman Weber had no report.

Fire Department

Liaison: Alderman Reynolds was absent.

Personnel Review

Committee: Alderman Art Rivas had no report.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND ORDINANCES BY ALDERMEN

Special Events Committee: Liaison Donna Grochowski was absent.

HEALTH, WELFARE & COMMUNITY EVENTS: Alderman Grochowski was absent. Alderman Dolan reported Daylight Savings begins on March 8. Change the batteries in your smoke alarm. St. Germaine is having a Fish Fry every Friday during lent from 5pm-8pm. The VFW is having a St. Patty's party on March 14 from 4pm-7pm. The Illinois General Primary Election is March 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CITIZEN'S HEARING: Phil Mottl, 9054 S. Corcoran said the Secretary of State is looking into classifying e-bikes and e-scooters. Jan Forney, 8765 S. Kilbourn, asked about getting rid of vehicle stickers. Mayor Finnegan said they are good for identifying. There was a whole discussion on vehicle stickers. Jan asked Sal about increasing the gas tax. There was a discussion about the gas tax. Alderman Kurysz thanked everyone who came to the VFW's Italian Night. It was their biggest one yet.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Alderman Kurysz, Seconded by Alderman Dolan to adjourn the regular meeting of the Hometown City Council.

MOTION STATED CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Christina Walker
City Clerk/Collector