LITTLE FALLS COMMON COUNCIL
Minutes of the Thursday Emergency Meeting, June 5, 2025

Present: Mayor Deborah Kaufman
City *Clerk* Kira Miller
Alderman Tim Lyon
Alderman Jonathan Shaffer
Alderman Michael Masi
Alderman Mark Ruffing
Alderman Dan Carter
Alderman Craig Lockwood
Alderwoman Laura Eysaman

Others Present: Alderman Todd Dillon

Emergency meeting to Amend Resolution #30 – Home Rule Message of Support to State Legislature

Resolution #57 -Amending Resolution #30 – Home Rule Message of Support to State

Legislature Bills

Whereas, updates from the State Legislature have been made to the bills related to the Home Rule Message of support to NYS Legislative resolution approved by Common Council April 1, 2025;

Whereas, the State has updated the bills to include necessary edits and new bill numbers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amended resolution #57 be approved to change the bill numbers to Senate S7028-B and Assembly A7902-B.

Motion Alderman Ruffing
Second Alderman Eysaman
Roll Call: Lyon, Shaffer Masi, Ruffing, Lockwood, Carter, Eysaman
Absent Alderman Dillon

Kira M. Miller, City of Little Falls City Clerk

Deborah A. Kaufman, Mayor of City of Little Falls

RESOLUTION #30
Little Falls Common Council
Home Rule Message of Support to the New York State Legislature Bills
No. S7028-B and No. A7902-B
Authorizing an Act relating to the City of Little Falls fiscal recovery act; and
Providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

June 5, 2025

Title:
Home Rule Message of Support to the New York State Legislature Bill Authorizing and Act relating to the City of Little Falls fiscal recovery act; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

Reason:
To Request State Representatives to Enact and Approve Legislative Authority to authorize the City of Little Falls to issue bonds on or before October 1, 2026, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $3.4 million dollars for the purposes of liquidating actual deficits in its general, golf and water funds expected at the close of its fiscal year ending 12/31/2025.

WHEREAS, the City of Little Falls (the "City"), in Herkimer County (the "County"), in the State of New York (the "State") faces an unprecedented budget deficit due to lack of tax revenue stemming from stagnant property values that haven't been re-assessed since 1972, shrinking population (12% loss since 2000) coupled with 28% poverty rate, heightened demands for emergency services, increases in pension fund and healthcare expenses (52% spent on retirees) resulting in the city making inter-fund loans from funds with positive fund balances to balance the ones with deficits, which has become unsustainable. The city has resorted to short-term financing and a tax anticipation notes to bridge an annual 4-month revenue gap to cover operating expense; and,

WHEREAS, the City's ability to replace such missing revenue and expenditure reduction measures to mitigate the imbalance have been exhausted; and,

WHEREAS, the City has accumulated a budget deficit that is unsustainable without immediate action to be taken; and,

WHEREAS, after consultation with the State Office of the Budget, Office of the Comptroller, the State Senator and Assemblyman representing the City, and the City's independent accounting firm, the City has decided to request such legislation via this Home Rule Message of Support for the City of Little Falls Fiscal Recovery Act (the "Act").

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City as follows endorses the Home Rule Message of Support:

Section 1. This act authorizes the city of Little Falls, Herkimer County, to issue serial bonds, subject to the provisions of section 10.10 of the local finance law, on or before October 1, 2026, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $3.4 million for the specific object or purpose of liquidating deficits in its general, golf, and water funds expected at the close of its fiscal year ending 12/31/2025. These bonds would not exceed 10 years in maturity.

Section 2. The State Comptroller would be directed to certify the need for the issuance of these bonds and notes as well as the aforementioned deficits.

Section 3. The City would be directed to issue to the State Comptroller a report detailing the amount and cause of such deficits as well as an independent audit and financial statement from the previous fiscal year.

Section 4: The City would be required to prepare quarterly budget reports as well as a 3-year financial plan which will be submitted to the State Comptroller for recommendations. As a result of any recommendations, the City would be required to make any adjustments.

Section 5: This resolution shall be effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City that this Home Rule Message of Support to the New York State Legislature includes both Assembly Bill #A7092-B and State Bill #S7028-B authorizing an Act relating to the City of Little Falls fiscal recovery act; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.
ADOPTED by the City of Little Falls on this 3rd day of June, 2025, by the following vote:

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m. with the motion made by Alderman Shaffer and seconded by Alderman Lyon with all in favor.