

Dear Residents,

We would like to provide you with an overview of the recent City Council meeting held on December 16, 2024, where we discussed several important initiatives impacting our community.

Minonk Ambulance Department:

The Minonk Ambulance Service operates with financial support from the Minonk Fire District, which currently levies the maximum allowable amount for the Ambulance Department's expenses. Even with the current maximum levy, we anticipate another financial shortfall. Revenue is generated from taxes, patient payments, and contributions from surrounding communities. These shortfalls often lead the city to transfer funds from the General Fund to maintain operations; however, such transfers are not sustainable and result in the double taxation of residents, as they are taxed by both the Fire District and the city.

The city's role includes assisting with administrative tasks, as the Fire District lacks the necessary software and staffing for efficient management of reporting and to offset employee insurance costs. Additionally, like many rural communities in Illinois, staffing has become a challenge. It is the city's top priority to ensure that we have a properly staffed ambulance service, focusing on timely responses in times of need. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that has done a tremendous job, but they continue to require more resources, and we are committed to securing those resources.

We are actively exploring long term options to continue to support the success of the ambulance service, with providing timely response being our number one priority. Additionally, we would like to continue to thank the members of the ambulance service who are working tremendously hard to fill staffing gaps. If you would like to join, please contact Bill Moline, or Chief Mindy Goodrich.

New Millennia Park Recreation Building:

The Millennia Group has proposed the development of a new recreational building at Millennia Park. This facility would feature basketball and volleyball courts, two pickleball courts, and a walking track. The estimated cost for this project is approximately \$1.3 million, with about 85% of the funding coming from a trust managed by the Millennia Group, established for community projects.

The remaining funds will be sourced from city funds; however, the Millennia Group has pledged ongoing financial support to relieve taxpayers of these expenses. To facilitate this project, the city will be forming subcommittees. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Craig Kalkwarf (Millennia Group Representative) or Bill Moline.

Reverse Osmosis Replacement Project (Water Plant):

The existing reverse osmosis (RO) system located in the city building by Westside Park was installed in 1992 and is showing signs of wear. This system is crucial for purifying our water supply. The estimated cost for a replacement is around \$1.2 million, and the city is considering applying for a low-interest IEPA loan to finance this project, like the loan secured for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility a few years ago. To cover the costs of this necessary replacement, we are contemplating a debt repayment fee that would be added to your monthly water bill, like the existing "debt payment sewer" fee.

Estimated Timeline for the Reverse Osmosis Replacement Project:

- IEPA loan application (Deadline: March 2025)
- Engineering design process
- Request for bids
- Approve bid/contractor
- Estimated installation: 2027/2028

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Moline at City Hall.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our community.

Best regards,
Bill Moline, Administrator
City of Minonk