

Mayor's Minute-June 12, 2025

It has been a minute since I have been able to sit down and catch up with you! It has been a busy May and there are many things moving forward. The first thing I wanted to bring to your attention is that the Council has moved the Regular Monthly Council meeting to the third Wednesday of the month. We did this to enable our newly appointed Municipal Attorney, Mr. Todd Parish of Strang and Parish in Jerseyville, to be able to regularly attend the City Monthly meeting. Welcome aboard, Mr. Parish. We are looking forward to working with you. I also want to extend my appreciation and thanks to our former Attorney, Mr. Rick Verticchio. Thank you for so many years of faithful service to our City.

Another new beginning is to welcome our new police officer, Officer Jeff Schoen. He comes to us from the County Sheriff's office with a wealth of experience. We look forward to working with you and welcoming you to Bunker Hill. We also want to welcome back, former Mayor, Betty Phelps, as Alderman. Our Council is back up to full strength and brings a diversity of backgrounds and experience. Welcome back, Alderman Phelps.

Continuing the theme of new developments, the Council has continued to move forward with SIUE and the Department of Community Engagement. We have had our kickoff meeting and are now working to fill out the Strategic Doing Focus Group with some additional members from the community. The focus of this community group is to stimulate economic and community growth by choosing and focusing on a specific goal to accomplish with the help of our community and SIUE. We have several projects to discuss, however, if you have an idea you would like to have considered, please let the Clerk, Heather Kraus, know what you have in mind. We want to hear from you! Hopefully, next month, we can announce the members of the SDFG and let you know what ideas are being discussed.

The City is continuing the process of providing needed documentation with USDA-RD to replace and improve the water line infrastructure project. This project is aligned with the Alluvial water treatment system that is also moving forward. Bunker Hill is on the front lines of innovation and development of infrastructure in downstate Illinois.

Lastly, the CEJA grant for 2025 has been opened! Our eligible town organizations include the Fire Protection District, the Ambulance Service, the Township, the Public Library District, the School District, and the City. Each one of these organizations can request a significant amount of money that can be used to improve their organization. Last year, the City was part of this program and we have allocated our grant to prepare the engineering plan to develop the Resi as a full-service campground and park. This engineering plan will enable the City to apply for large grants to complete the work in the future.

There so many positive things happening in town! Please keep the atmosphere on a positive note with the things we say and do to each other. I'd like to extend the same challenge I did a few months ago. Please introduce yourself to someone you don't know each week. Chat with them and find out more about the people that you share your City with. Let's foster a sense of belonging and community with the people we meet along the way each day. Together, we can make Bunker Hill a place to revitalize and grow our businesses, continue to provide a safe and engaging community, and provide a place for our children to learn, our families to thrive, and our communities to prosper.

We will talk again, soon.

John Chapman, Mayor