

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/GatewaytotheBakkenDecember2020/>

Minot, North Dakota's **GATEWAY TO THE BAKKEN**

COUNCIL APPROVES HAROLD STEWARD II AS NEXT CITY MANAGER

The Minot City Council officially hired Harold Stewart II as the next City Manager after approving a contract during a special meeting on Friday.

Stewart comes to Minot from Warrensburg, Mo., where he has been the city manager. He was chosen from an original pool of 50 applicants, which was narrowed to three finalists. The finalists were interviewed by the City Council and a separate panel of department heads and community stakeholders.

Read more [here](#).



INTERMODAL SERVICE CONTINUES TO FLOURISH

RMG is working towards shipping out one train per week, a huge benefit to crop growers and exporters in the region. RMG launched intermodal service at the Port of Minot in late October, shipping out its first train on October 30th. RMG employs about 30 people directly.

One huge benefit to The Port of Minot and the region is the BNSF Certification of the Industrial Park of Minot. BNSF certification ensures a site is ready for rapid development with

an extensive analysis of existing projected infrastructure, environmental and geotechnical standards, utility evaluation and site availability. By selecting a BNSF certified property, businesses greatly reduce development time, increase speed to market, and reduce upfront development risk of rail-served industrial sites.



MAYOR SIGNS TEMPORARY CHANGES TO LIQUOR LICENSING REGULATIONS

Mayor Shaun Sipma signed two temporary emergency orders on Wednesday to assist local alcoholic beverage license holders in dealing with business model changes due to COVID-19.

Emergency Order 2020-3 permits supper club licensees to sell beer and wine off-sale in addition to on-sale of liquor, beer, and wine. Emergency Order 2020-4 gives applicants an option to pay half the applicable license fee upon application for a 2021 license and half no later than July 1, 2021.

Read more [here](#).

NUMBER OF ZOMBIE HOMES DWINDLING

Another of Minot's zombie homes left by the 2011 flood was removed recently. The structure at 114 7th St NW was razed by a demolition contractor. Asbestos abatement was completed early in the week, and the structure was removed on Nov. 18.

The process to remove these blighted properties started with 34 structures, and there are now 10 remaining with one more expected to be acquired by the end of 2020. Efforts continue with the remaining nine homes, including working with the City's Community and Economic Development Department's Code Enforcement Unit and First District Health Unit, as well as tracking foreclosure records, reaching out to realtors who handle foreclosures, and periodically repeating purchase offers.

Read more [here](#).

46 STATES



REPRESENTED BY SUMMER TRAVELERS

July and August are typically busy months for Minot with incoming travelers to our city to experience all the opportunities and events we have to offer. This year more than ever, travelers focused on activities where they could be outdoors and socially distant. This cultural shift was an opportunity for Visit Minot to offer information on the [outdoor activities](#) travelers could enjoy in the Minot area. Even with foot traffic was down, we were pleased to discover travelers from 46 states signed our guest book at the Scandinavian Heritage Park where our offices are located.

COUNCIL APPROVES PURCHASE OF WELLS FARGO BUILDING

The Minot City Council voted 5-2 at its Nov. 16 meeting to purchase the former Wells Fargo building in downtown Minot, taking a major step in moving City Hall to a new location.



The Council agreed to a purchase price of \$2.608 million.

The current City assessment of the property was \$2.74 million. An independent appraiser listed the property's value at \$2.5 million.

Council members debated the issue at length during the three-hour meeting, with Tom Ross and Carrie Evans opposing the transaction. Both council members expressed concern that the option of adding on to the current City Hall facility wasn't given serious consideration.

Read more [here](#).

MERGER NEARING WITH VOTE EXPECTED IN DECEMBER

The Board of Directors of both the Minot Area Development Corporation and Minot Area Chamber of Commerce are nearing a final decision on a merger. 115 members responded to the survey sent to membership, with 90% in favor of the idea. Zoom meetings are planned to answer any questions members have in regards to the change. Once those are complete, a vote of both memberships will take place. If all goes as planned, the decision should be made by January 1.

[Here are some FAQs for members.](#) The Chamber and MADC encourage members to contact Chamber and MADC interim President, John MacMartin at 701-852-6000.

CITY TO BEGIN USING BRINE TO HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL

It's a learning process.

That's how City of Minot Street Superintendent Kevin Braaten describes using the City's new brine facility, which will help crews pre-treat streets to enhance the snow removal process.

"With this brine, we will be pre-wetting our roadways. The solution stays in the pavement so when the next snow event happens, it starts the melting process faster," Braaten explained. "When it's applied correctly, the solution creates a

barrier so you don't get ice sticking to the pavement, which makes it a lot easier for blades to get down to the pavement."



Other large communities in North Dakota and the North Dakota Department of Transportation have been using the brine mixture to pre-treat roadways with good success, Braaten said. This will be Minot's first year using the liquid brine on a full-time basis.

Read more [here](#).

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