

City of Comfrey Minutes
January 7, 2025 at 5:00 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:00 PM in the community center with all council members present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, J Veerkamp, and Attorney Paul Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Oath of Office was administered by City Attorney Paul Muske to Mayor Gary Richter, and Councilors Susan Evers and Wayne Redman.

On a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously, the following official appointments were made:

Publication: Comfrey Times

Depository: Triumph State Bank

Attorney: Paul Muske

Weed Inspector: Gary Richter

Assistant Weed Inspector: Steve Berberich

Acting Mayor: Darlene Arnsdorf

Commissioners:

Water: Wayne Redman

Sewer: Darlene Arnsdorf

Streets: Rick Kastner

Hall & Park: Susan Evers

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The December 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$37,967.30 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Evers, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for donations from the Darfur Sportsman Club to the fire department of \$10,000 and first responders of \$5000 on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

The December financial report was reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Berberich has continued to look for the leak along with a representative from Minnesota Rural Water but did not find anything. The weather cooperated long enough to get the evergreens along the ball field in the South Park all cleaned out.

The fire department and first responders will be holding their annual meeting with the townships and city on February 25, 2025 at 7:30 PM.

First responder Captain Jill Veerkamp had no new updates at this time.

Library board met and Jean Kopischke has agreed to another term. A motion was made by Evers, second by Redman and carried unanimously to appoint Jean Kopischke to a 3-year term on the Library Board.

The police report was reviewed.

Berberich got in touch with the security company that had looked at the police squad car and they still have interest but would like to take another look at it. Mayor Richter has not heard anything from Lamberton.

The council discussed the new cannabis guidelines and they would like to leave the registration/permitting and compliance oversight with the counties. A motion was made by

Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously to have Brown and Cottonwood County oversee the cannabis regulations. Both counties are still working on their ordinance and guidelines. Additional information will be reviewed when available.

St. James Electric was not able to get to Comfrey with the boiler specialist as planned because of the weather. No further action was taken at this time to move forward with the grant due to many unknown variables and expenses.

The 2024 audit contract from Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd for \$5650 was approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A gambling permit was approved for the Whitetails Unlimited raffle being held on March 15, 2025 by a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kastner, second by Evers and carried unanimously with Arnsdorf abstaining to pay for 40% of the heat pump replacement in the library per the joint powers agreement. Total cost was \$10,750 with the City's share at \$4,300.

A motion was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to hire Linda Roiger as a library assistant at the current rate of \$11.50. Linda has experience and knows the TDS system so she will be able to step right in when the director needs hours covered.

Clerk Kelly is working on the new utility billing system but will be limited with time to dedicate to it with year-end. Our current software will no longer be available at the end of January which will require billing estimates to be sent out that will include all base charges along with an average water usage. A motion was made by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to allow monthly billing estimates until the new system is in place.

The Local Board of Review date was set for Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Comfrey Community Center by a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

The city received an insurance dividend from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust in the amount of \$2,796.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers at 5:35 PM.