

City of Comfrey Minutes
November 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the community center with all council members present. Also in attendance were S Berberich and Attorney Paul Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The abstract of votes cast presented by the county was reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously. A resolution certifying the results of the November 5, 2024 election was approved on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously. A total of 217 votes were cast, which included both Brown and Cottonwood County residents, the following were declared elected:

Mayor (2-year term)	190 votes	Gary Richter
Council (4-year terms)	162 votes	Susan Evers
	173 votes	Wayne Redman

The agenda was reviewed and an information update memo from Bolten and Menk on the Drainage Improvement Feasibility Study was added under "Other". Berberich received estimates for the maintenance building addition and would like it added under new business.

The October 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$66,896.89 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for memorial donations to the fire department of \$50 from the Coreen Keenum family; a memorial donation to the fire department of \$120 and to the first responders of \$75 from the David Schiller family; a donation to the fire department of \$250 from Christensen Farms and a donation from Comfrey Area Pride to the fire department and first responders of \$1000 to each on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported a recirculation pump at the waste water treatment plant went out about 3 weeks ago. It was installed in 2011 and had 92,000 hours on it running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The purchase of a new pump at a cost of \$8,682 to be paid out of our restricted account if possible and if not, from capital equipment on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously. He is still looking for the water leak and has checked all the out-of-town services by shutting off water to each location with no luck so far. The next step is to shut down portions of town for a short time to try to find the leak. Minnesota Rural Water is going to help look and if nothing is found, we will need to hire Water Conservation Services again. Messages will go out to residents to notify the city if they have noticed low water pressure.

Berberich reviewed estimates from Eric Hall LLC, and Thomas Suess Construction LLC for the maintenance building addition. The estimate was for a 40'x 50' frame and steel storage addition with a cement floor. The Hall estimate was at \$65,097.15 and Suess at \$68,947.15. A motion was made by Kastner, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to hire Eric Hall, LLC at \$65,097.15 to build the addition to the maintenance building in the spring of 2025 with funds from capital equipment.

Fire Chief Berberich let the council know about the upcoming bingo fund raiser on November 23rd for the fire department and the first responders.

First responder captain Jill Veerkamp is still looking into the options of allowing minors on the department. Clerk Kelly has also reached out to the League of Minnesota Cities for any additional information.

Library board representatives will meet in November.

No police report for October available. The city was contacted by a private security company about the possibility of purchasing the police vehicle. The City of Lamberton has also inquired about. Mayor Richter will reach out to Lamberton to see if they are still interested. Councilor Kastner is going to contact Dan Kastner for removal of the Comfrey lettering on the squad.

The SCDP grant has closed out with a total of \$17,022.55 of unused funds being returned. Comfrey had a total of 11 projects and Sanborn 12.

Bolton & Menk informed us that we did not get enough income surveys returned to qualify for applying for the grant to help with funding of the street project. They will review other funding options in the upcoming months.

The snow removal contract with Heiderscheidt Digging for the upcoming season was reviewed with rates at \$130 per hour for the trucks and \$200 per hour for the backhoe. The contract was approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

The January City Council meeting date was discussed because of the second Tuesday falling on the 14th. This gets late in the month for the first meeting of the year. A motion was made by Kastner, second by Evers and carried unanimously to move the meeting to January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Comfrey Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman at 7:29 p.m.