

City of Comfrey Minutes
November 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the community center with council members Arnsdorf, Evers, Kastner and Redman present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, J Veerkamp, J Veerkamp and City Attorney Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed with solar system update added under old business.

The October 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$82,321.24 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for donations from Comfrey Area Pride of \$1000 to the fire department and \$1000 to the first responders and a donation from Schult Homes of \$100 to the first responders. Resolution approved by a motion made by Evers, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich informed the council the solar project has been started with all electrical underground done along with all the permits secured. All the pumps at the wastewater plant have been pulled and maintenance completed on them. The city truck is in need of new tires and he received a quote from T & C Service Center on the State bid of \$1890 installed. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to purchase the new tires.

Fire Chief Berberich reported Justin Rosenstengel has started his classes. He has 2 classes a week and one Saturday a month until May 15th. The department also had their ISO inspection for insurance and all went well. They are currently a Class 6.

The First Responder Captain Veerkamp informed the council they have a new member interested in joining the department and would start classes in January. The department also would like to recommend an increase in pay for the captain position from \$300 annually to \$500 annually. A motion was made by Evers, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to increase the first responder captain pay to \$500.

The library board will meet in November.

The police report was reviewed.

Mayor Richter did get in touch with Dominic Hanson for an update on the fiber project. They are still digging in services to homes with 13 done this last week and another dozen scheduled to be done. They are ready to start connecting service to homes and will be starting that process.

Additional information has become available on the Minnesota Paid leave Law and it is recommended by our auditor for tax and reporting purposes to follow the 50/50 guidelines for premium payment. A motion was made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously to rescind the decision of the city paying 100% of the premium. A new motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to share the premium expense between the city and the employee, each paying 50% of the premium.

A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously to hire Sydney Rosenstengel as a new first responder.

Discussion was had about certifying unpaid utility bills to the tax roll. A public hearing for anyone requesting to appear before the council after receiving notice of intent to certify was set for Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Comfrey Community Center on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Options for a property that may be going into foreclosure which had received a SCDP loan were discussed.

The Brown County Sheriff's department contract rates for police services to the City of Comfrey were reviewed. An increase in the hourly rate of 3.7% was presented and approved for 2026 on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Council discussed the need to increase water and sewer rates and reviewed options presented by Clerk Kelly. Resolutions were adopted and passed on a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously to increase water rates to a base fee of \$28.00 and \$7.00/1000 gallons used effective on January 16, 2026, and be reflected in the next billing to the consumer thereafter and to increase sewer rates to a base fee of \$32.50 and \$6.50/1000 gallons used effective on January 16, 2026, and be reflected in the next billing to the consumer thereafter.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman at 7:11 PM.