

City of Comfrey Minutes
December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the community center with council members Arnsdorf, Evers, Kastner and Redman present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, C Radtke, O Todd, J Albrecht, and City Attorney Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mayor Richter opened the hearing on assessing unpaid utilities to the tax roll. No individuals had requested a hear and none were present. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman to close the hearing.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The November 12, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$56,582.13 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 Farmward Cooperative and Land O' Lakes of \$600 to the fire department and \$600 to the first responders. Resolution approved by a motion made by Evers, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Owen Todd and Jordan Albrecht from Bolton & Menk reviewed the process for getting on the PFA funding list for the Clean Water and Drinking Water projects. We are in the fundable range and could qualify for low interest loans to help fund our portion of the 2026 County Road 17 project. Brown County will be the lead on the project and allow us to replace our infrastructure while the highway replacement is being down by the county. Our estimated portion of the project is at 1.1 million.

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

Berberich informed the council there has been some minor problems with the plants but things are going better recently. The first snow removal went well.

After 11 years as Fire Chief, Berberich has decided to step down as fire chief. The department has elected Clint Radtke as the new chief.

No new updates for the first responders.

The library board minutes were reviewed. The board would like to start the process of hiring a new librarian. Sharon Lang and Linda Roiger have started to put information together for the position.

The police report was reviewed.

No new updates on the fiber project.

The frame work has been put up for the solar panels and they have installed the first few units in the structure.

The Minnesota Paid Leave policy was reviewed. A motion was made by Evers, second by Redman and carried unanimously to adopt the policy.

A resolution was approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to certify unpaid utilities to the tax roll with a total of \$1916.15 for four properties.

A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to appoint Joshua Crowley as First Responder Captain and Clint Radtke as Fire chief for 2026.

A motion was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to appoint Judy Augustin, Julie Fredin, Andrea Toll, Cathy Berberich and Tammy Kelly as election judges for elections being held in 2026.

The table cart we purchased is working very well with the new tables. It is lower to the ground, holds an additional table and has a padded surface for the tables to rest on. After discussion, a motion was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to declare the 4 old table carts as surplus property and to sell them at a price of \$100 each.

A motion was made by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to purchase an additional 3 new table carts from Sam's Club at an estimated cost of \$690.00.

The council had approved a pension increase for the Comfrey Fire Relief Association for their retirement benefit going from \$800 per year to \$900 for each year of service effective January 1, 2025. The by-laws for the relief association have been updated to reflect the increase in the pension. The updated by-laws were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Darren Haugen had been contacted regarding options to sell the surplus equipment from the police department. An offer to purchase the equipment was presented to the council with no action being taken at this time. Councilor Kastner has volunteered to get some additional information and values of the equipment.

Per terms of the PFA financing agreement a Wastewater Infrastructure System Replacement Fund has been established to deposit \$.50 per 1000 gallons of flow annually during the life of the loan for future rehabilitation or expansion of the treatment system. This transfer deposit of \$5,905.00 was approved on motion by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

The final levy was set at \$361,028. This amount is the same total as the proposed levy presented at the September 9, 2025 council meeting. The final 2026 levy and budget was reviewed and approved on a motion by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

A motion to authorize the clerk-treasurer to assign general funds as needed for year ending December 31, 2025 was made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Discussion was had about parking on the streets during snow removal and if any actions should be taken at this time. Berberich was happy with how the first snow removal went and said there were only a few vehicles left on the streets during snow removal.

There have been issues with recycling being set out on windy days and the old red containers tipping over causing the contents to blow into streets and yards. Currently RVS does not require all residents to use the large recycling carts. Discussion was had if this should be required to cut down on debris during high winds. No action taken at this time.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers at 7:42 PM.