

City of Comfrey Minutes
May 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the community center with all council members present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, J Veerkamp, S Fair, T Zinniel, L Hillesheim, C Schleif and Attorney Paul Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The April 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes and April 14, 2025 Board of Review minutes were approved with on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$80,909.32 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for memorial donations from the Joanne Wall Family to the first responders of \$15; the Mark Evers Family to the first responders \$40; and the Tom Veerkamp Family to the fire department and the first responders of a \$100 each on a motion made by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported Electric Pump can rebuild our pump, so no need to purchase a new one. The boring crew for the fiber optic internet have starting doing drops to homes.

Fire Chief Berberich reported the fire department had a few calls this month and they did a total of 4 grass burns this year for additional funds of about \$5000.

First Responder Captain Veerkamp said they had good participation with the coloring contest at the school for EMS month.

The library board will be meeting later this month. They did have good attendance at the special music concert.

The police report was reviewed.

Leon Hillesheim was present and updated the council on activities Comfrey Bar & Grill would like to move forward with. He would like to put up a gazebo grain bin to add additional outside seating. The bin would have electricity and be able to close at night. They are planning to sponsor car roll-ins over the summer and this would give them additional space. The council recommended to work with the zoning commission on the project and liked the idea of bringing additional people into town to promote our community.

Tim Zinniel of Zinniel Electric gave a presentation of the plans for the solar project at the wastewater treatment plant. The panels should produce more electricity than is needed to run the plant. The solar panels come with a 12-25 year warranty and a performance warranty of 25-50 years. They will be installed 3 feet off the ground and reach up to 12 feet high. The estimated production payback on the project with the grant funding is 6.5 years. The total project is estimated to take about 3 months to complete. After discussion the council approved the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant contract for a 57-kilowatt direct current solar system at the Wastewater treatment plant with a total grant award of \$123,300 and city match of \$13,700 with a total project cost of \$137,000 on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and passed with 4 yes and 1 no vote.

The Joint Powers Agreement with Cottonwood County for Cannabis Enforcement and Regulation was reviewed and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

A Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for 3 locations was requested by Comfrey Area Pride for Community Days, July 11th & 12th, 2025 and was approved on a motion by Evers, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

The July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 liquor licenses for Juice Box LLC, DBA Comfrey Bar & Grill were approved subject to all conditions being met on a motion made by Kastner, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

A quote was reviewed from MR Paving for seal coating 15,338 square yards at a cost of \$30,982.76 and was approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A quote from Electric Pump on the rebuild of the submersible pump at the wastewater treatment plant was reviewed and approved to be paid out of the capital equipment fund on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Mayor Richter brought up concerns about dead trees in the boulevard. Attorney Muske will look into updating our ordinances and will bring information for the next council meeting.

Clerk Kelly updated the council on the final breakdown of the ARP funds. The final report was completed and a close out report will need to be done once the process has been set by the Treasury. The total funds of \$38,685.92 was expended through revenue replacement as outlined by the Treasury for small communities.

Mayor Richter brought up concerns that our Local Government Aid (LGA) may be cut by 3.1% or roughly \$4066 in the upcoming year.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers at 7:57 PM.