

City of Comfrey Minutes
May 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the community center with all council members present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, J Henning and City Attorney Paul Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The April 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes and April 15th Board of Review minutes were approved on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$79,279.89 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported the trees for the park are coming tomorrow. Redwood Nursery will be planting 12 in the South Park and one in the North Park. With the new regulations starting at the wastewater plant, he would like to order another 165-gallon ferric chloride tank for phosphorus removal at an estimated cost of \$465. A motion was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to move forward with the purchase of the additional tank. He will have the seal coating quote for review at the June meeting.

Fire Chief Berberich reported the department has been the busiest he has experienced. The guys on the department have been very dedicated in showing up for fires. a very busy month of March with several grass fires.

First Responder Captain Veerkamp left a message reporting they have elected new officers with Jill Veerkamp remaining as captain, Sandy Johns as Assistant Captain and Secretary and Josh Crowley as Treasurer.

The library board met and updated their policy regarding books and operations. Attorney Muske reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement with the School and it is in place until December 31, 2025 with an automatic annual renewal thereafter and a one-year notice requirement for termination of the agreement.

The police reports were reviewed for the months of January, February, March and April.

Attorney Paul Muske reviewed the process for the sealed bids for the 1990 Hull trailer. The city received 6 different bids for the trailer ranging from \$1200 to \$2000. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously with councilor Rick Kastner abstaining to accept the highest bid of \$2000 from Rick Kastner.

A joint resolution with Bashaw Township to annex into the City of Comfrey the property Commencing at a point 30 feet north of the northeast corner of Lot 1 of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE ¼ SW ¼), Section 34, Township 108, Range 34, Brown County, Minnesota, on the east line of said SW ¼, thence west parallel to the north line of Lot 1 of the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of said Section 34 a distance of 177 feet, thence north on a line parallel to the east line of said SW ¼ a distance of 132 feet, thence east 177 feet to the east line of said SW ¼, thence south along the east line of said SW ¼ a distance of 132 feet to the point of beginning; was approved by a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously. The resolution also needs to be approved and passed by Bashaw Township before moving forward.

A motion was made to approve the MPCA Grant contract for the storm sewer study on a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

A discussion was had regarding the upcoming blight inspection by the Brown County Sheriff's Department as the contracted police for the City of Comfrey. The council was in agreement on the process and all wanted to see the ordinance enforced consistently.

The council was also asked to start thinking about the items remaining with the police department. The 6-month review of the police contract with the Brown County Sheriff's Department will be coming up in June.

The city has been approached from time to time to advertise certain events and promote the city. Discussion was had and a motion was made by Kastner, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to spend up to \$100 on advertising/sponsoring city related events which help promote our small community.

The July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 liquor licenses for Comfrey Bar and Grill LLC were approved subject to all conditions being met on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A donation request from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation was reviewed with no action taken.

The new lifetime dog license was discussed and the best way to get information out to dog owners. Previously, the license was required to be renewed every three years. New tags have been purchased and all current and future dog owners are required to purchase a lifetime license with the city. Notice will be put on the city board and letters will be sent to current owners to inform them of the update. The lifetime license will have a fee of \$25 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$50 if not.

The postage increase was discussed and the council directed Clerk Kelly to purchase additional postage and stamped envelopes before the increase goes into effect.

With new building permits being submitted, discussion was had about the new responsibilities of the zoning committee and the best way to determine where property lines are located and the current accountability of the land owner to know where the lines are located. Attorney Muske is going to check with the city engineer about a set cost to survey property when property changes owners.

The meeting was adjourned on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner at 7:32 p.m.