

City of Comfrey Minutes
July 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the community center with council members Arnsdorf, Evers, Kastner present and councilor Redman absent. Also in attendance were S Berberich, T Juhnke and Attorney Paul Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The June 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved with on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$126,976.56 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for a memorial donation from the Mary Ann Prechel Family to the first responders of \$250; a donation from Denice Evers to the first responders of \$25 and a donation from the Sleepy Eye Sportsman to the fire department of \$500 on a motion made by Evers, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich updated the council on the shop addition progress. Everything is completed but the electrical. The float system at the lift station has become outdated and in need of repairs. A new float system that could be viewed on the iPad would cost an estimated \$6851. A motion was made by Kastner, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to move forward with the purchase of the float system from Automatic Systems of \$6851 from the Capital Equipment fund.

Fire Chief Berberich reported the fire department voted to add another department member to bring the total up to 28 team members. Full staff is at 24 but they will have several retiring over the next few years. They would like to add Justin Rosenstengel to the department.

First Responders also have two new individuals interested in joining the department.

The library board will be meeting the end of July.

The police report was reviewed.

The second reading of the Diseased Shade Tree Pest Control Ordinance #197 was held and the ordinance was adopted on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously. Because of the length of the ordinance, a motion was made by Kastner, second by Evers and carried unanimously to have attorney Paul Muske prepare a summary of ordinance #197 to publish in the Comfrey Times.

The new ordinance recommends the council appoints a tree inspector to coordinate the activities of the city relating to the control and prevention of damage by shade tree pests and help enforce the ordinance. After discussion by the council, Rick Kastner was appointed as the city tree inspector by a motion made by Evers, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

A donation request from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation was once again reviewed and a motion was made by Kastner, second by Evers and carried unanimously to donate \$100 in 2026 to the foundation.

The council approved an increase of the fire department roster to 28 members and the hiring of Justin Rosenstengel on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to hire Grace Winterfeldt and Lacey Simon as new first responder members.

An estimate from Brown County REA was reviewed to replace the overhead power line at the South Park with underground cable and combine 3 metered locations into one at an estimated cost of \$1550. We are still waiting on the estimate from ARC Electric for their part of the project. No action taken at this time.

A preliminary approval letter was reviewed from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of the facility plan for the County Road 17 street project replacing the sanitary sewer mains, manholes and a sewage grinder at the lift station.

The long-range planning meeting was set for August 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Comfrey Community Center on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

A request to share costs with the school according to the library joint power's agreement for the annual internet network connection fees of \$638.24. This amount is 40% of the total bill and was approved by a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner at 7:08 PM.