

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

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, August 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 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 July 8, 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 \$75,607.97 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for a memorial donation from the Mary Ellen Juhnke Family to the first responders of \$25; and a donation from Steve Windschitl to the fire department of \$50 on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich stated the water treatment plant has gone through 3 rounds of testing for PFAS by the State and has tested negative. This means the city does not need to treat at the wastewater plant and will be a big savings to the city.

Fire Chief Berberich reported Justin Rosentengel has gotten fitted for his gear. The air conditioning unit has been working well and has made a huge difference in the fire hall with humidity and temperature.

First Responder Captain Veerkamp stated the department has talked about the best practice for the new hires and they would like to wait until they both finish school before starting the training process.

The library board had a request to split the director's position between Sharon Lang and Linda Roiger. Sharon would like to retire and this would be a way to start to step back but still stay in the position for another school year. Linda has experience as a library director and will have no problem stepping into the shared role. A motion was made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously to allow Sharon Lang and Linda Roiger to split the library director's position at the current wage.

The police report was reviewed.

A gambling permit was approved for St. Paul's Catholic Church for their Calendar Raffle on February 1, 2026 on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

The annual Fire Relief Association report form SC-25 was approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously. No additional contribution is required for 2026.

The Farmward LP contract to purchase 8500 gallons of LP at \$1.59 per gallon was approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously. The city does have a credit for unused gallons that will be applied toward the new contract.

The city investments were reviewed along with time lines and interest rates. The first responders have 3 small CDs which will be combined into one CD.

The November City Council meeting was changed to Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm to observe Veteran's Day on November 11th on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

The library certification of minimum local support for operating expense requirement for 2026 was set at \$12,900 by the state. This is unchanged from last year and is the minimum base amount required to continue participation in our regional public library system. This was approved on a motion made by Kastner, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Mayor Richter asked the council to think of ideas that would qualify for the application of the CERTs grant again and to bring the ideas to the Long-Range Planning meeting.

Councilor Kastner asked for clarification on when Hanson Communications would be coming back to fix the ground they dug up on private properties during the install of the fiber internet. Mayor Richter will Call Bruce Hanson to request a community meeting to discuss repairs and answer any questions on the new high speed fiber internet timeline and how to sign up for service.

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