

City of Comfrey Minutes
August 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the community center with all council members present. Also in attendance were S Berberich, J Henning, and Attorney Matthew Muske. Mayor Richter presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed with Hanson Communications added under old business.

The July 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$141,012.62 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported the new permit for the waste water treatment plant went into effect August 5th. The renewal of the new permit comes with the additional tests for phosphorus. The seal coating has been completed by M R Paving. Concerns have been raised about semis parking on city streets. Berberich talked with Bolton & Menk about weight limits of streets in town. Any roads that have been redone are 9-to-10-ton roads.

The fire department and first responders had nothing new to report.

The library board will meet in September.

The police report was reviewed.

No additional information available at this time for the Springfield ambulance financial situation. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously to pay the 2024 service rate of \$1730.

The final Comfrey Wastewater Treatment Facility permit was reviewed by Berberich. The permit is valid for 5 years.

Hanson Communications is looking for a couple individuals to go door to door in town and answer any questions about the fiber internet project. Each resident will need to decide if they would like to be connected to the new service at the time of the project. Training will be provided to the individuals. Wayne Redman and Linda Wallin have shown interest in taking on the task. Mayor Richter will relay the information to Hanson Communications and reach out to the City of Lambertton which is going through the process currently with Hanson Communications.

The City of Comfrey has been awarded a Local Climate Action Grant to install 2 new Air Source Heat Pumps in the City Clerk's Office and the Fire Hall. The total grant awarded was for \$34,354 with the city contributing \$1717.70 in matching funds and the grant portion is for \$32,636.30. The grant was accepted on a motion made by Evers, second by Redman and carried unanimously. The final grant agreement will be reviewed and approved at a future meeting.

The Emergency Manager position was discussed again as Steve Berberich would like to step down from it. He has found it is difficult to be the contact in flooding situations when he is also working on behalf of the city. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Redman and carried unanimously to appoint Rick Kastner as the new Emergency Manager. Berberich will review and pass along the information and responsibilities to him.

A gambling permit was approved for St. Paul's Catholic Church for their Calendar Raffle on February 2, 2025 on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

An update from Bolton & Menk on the lead service line inventory being required by the state has been completed and ready for final review. The submission deadline is August 30th and they will have it completed and submitted by that time. This is the first step in the new requirement and they will keep us informed as new information becomes available from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Clerk Kelly asked the council if the city office hours could be changed to being closed on Friday's instead of the current noon closing time. Responsibilities and work due will always be the main priority and hours will be adjusted to complete job duties. A motion was made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to allow the office to be closed on Friday's.

The meeting was adjourned on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers at 7:00 p.m.