

City of Comfrey Minutes
January 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the community center with all members present. Mayor Richter presided. Also in attendance were Schwarzrock, J Veerkamp, S Berberich and City Attorney Paul Muske.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

On motion of Arnsdorf, second by Evers and carried unanimously, the following official appointments were made:

Publication: Comfrey Times
Depository: Triumph State Bank
Attorney: Paul Muske
Weed Inspector: Gary Richter
Assistant Weed Inspector: Steve Berberich
Acting Mayor: Darlene Arnsdorf
Commissioners:
Water: Wayne Redman
Sewer: Darlene Arnsdorf
Streets: Rick Kastner
Hall & Park: Susan Evers

The agenda was reviewed.

The December 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes and December 13 and 19, 2023 special meeting minutes were approved on motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$74,998.38 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for donations to the Comfrey Fire Department from Farmwards Cooperative and Land O' Lakes of \$600 each and from the Darfur Sportsman Club to the Fire Department of \$8000 and to the First Responders of \$4000 were accepted on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported both plants are running well. With the nice weather he has been working on removing the dead trees behind the ball field.

Fire Chief Berberich invited the council to their annual meeting on February 27, 2024 at 7:40 pm in the community center.

The first responders had no new updates.

The police report was reviewed by Officer Schwarzrock. He has recorded a voicemail message stating the department has disbanded and to call the Sheriff's office. We will also need a resolution to suspend the police department with the Post Board. Discussion was had to leave the phone services active until the transition to the Sheriff's Office has been reviewed in 6 months. A thank you letter from Officer Matt Andres was also reviewed. Police department equipment and vehicle were discussed and it was decided to wait on taking any action on it until the 6-month review of the transition.

Councilor Arnsdorf reported on behalf of the library board. New officers have been elected with Jean Kopishcke at President, Jane Ever as Vice President and Nathan Hesse as secretary. Jane Evers is the new representative appointed to the Brown County Library Board.

The broadband grant applications are in the challenge period and Hanson Communications ended up being the only company to apply on behalf of Comfrey.

Council discussed the need to increase water and sewer rates and reviewed options presented by Clerk Kelly. Resolutions were adopted and passed on a motion made by Kastner, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to increase water rates to a base fee of \$26.50 and \$6.00/1000 gallons used effective on April 16th, 2024, and be reflected in the next billing to the consumer

thereafter and to increase sewer rates to a base fee of \$32 and \$6.00/1000 gallons used effective on April 16th, 2024, and be reflected in the next billing to the consumer thereafter.

An easement was granted by the city for an existing building encroachment on the alley located in the 11th Block, Lots 1 & 2, Original Plat in Comfrey on a motion made by Redman, second by Evers and carried unanimously.

Clerk Kelly presented the Earned Sick and Safe Time policy to the council. The policy reflects the new law by the state requiring all employees accrue time off at a rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked once they reach a total of 80 hours worked in a year. The policy was approved on a motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Redman, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously to set the Board of Review for April 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Comfrey Community Center.

The council approved the appointment of Troy Toll for the replacement of Julie Fredin on the EDA Board and Kevin Ludewig for another 6-year term on a motion made by Evers, second by Arnsdorf and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on motion made by Arnsdorf, second by Evers at 7:25 pm.