

City of Comfrey Minutes  
February 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM  
Comfrey Community Center

The City Council of Comfrey met in regular session on Thursday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the community center with councilor Kastner and Redman present and councilor Arnsdorf and Evers absent. Mayor Richter presided. Also in attendance were C Schleif, D Callanan, J Veerkamp, S Berberich and City Attorney Paul Muske.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

The agenda was reviewed.

The January 5, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

Total bills in the amount of \$65067.09 were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing acceptance and appreciation for donations to the Comfrey Fire Department and First Responders for \$50 each from the Adrian Township Fund was approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

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

Berberich reported with the nice winter all Ash trees have been removed on city property. There are about 50 stumps that still need to be removed. The lights on the outside of the municipal building have all been replaced with LED lights. Berberich would like to start looking for a new 24-foot trailer for the city. The current trailer is from 1990. The council asked for prices for the next meeting.

The fire department has their annual meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The relief association has decided to purchase another side by side for grass fires with the funds they have raised. The city will need to purchase the equipment with a donation being made back to the city for the total cost of \$28,897.50. The purchase was approved by a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously.

First Responder Captain Veerkamp informed the council Jessica Nachreiner has completed her training and has passed all of her skills testing. They are up to 11 first responders now. They will be holding their Chili and Soup Fundraiser on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are looking to purchase a carbon monoxide sensor that can monitor levels in the body. The estimated cost is \$4500 with the first responder association donating back \$3000 towards the purchase. A motion to move forward with the purchase was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

No library board updates.

No broadband updates.

The coding of ordinances will be finalized next month.

No one was present from RVS Sanitation and no information available for discussion.

Dick Callanan had questions regarding his building permit that was approved last year. Discussion was had and no changes were made. He also had questions as to who is in charge of enforcing the nuisance ordinance now without our own police department. The council informed him the Sheriff's Department would be addressing once a year otherwise it will be up to the council.

Chuck Schleif asked if there was an ordinance in place addressing semi-trucks driving and parking on residential streets. Attorney Muske said there is nothing specific at this time but it could be something the council addresses.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has informed us with the renewal of our wastewater treatment facility permit we will have some additional parameters to meet. The new phosphorus level must meet an average of .5 kg/day during the months of June – September in order to meet the monthly average of 1.1kg/day or a five-year period. In addition to the new phosphorus limits the plant must be monitored for total chloride, specific conductance, total sulfate and total dissolved solids. Unfortunately, the additional monitoring requirements and new phosphorus levels will require

additional chemical at an added expense for the city. A motion was made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously to use resources for the Comfrey Wastewater Treatment Facility to meet and comply with the new limits of Phosphorus of a 1.1 kg/day monthly limit by averaging 0.5 kg/day, June-September, over a five year/long-term period at the current flow, design flow and loadings.

An email was reviewed from City Assessor Amos Vogel regarding the additional requirements of him to do his own data entry on new tablets being purchased by the county. This will be a change from the current assessing process where notes and changes are hand written by the assessor and then the county would enter the information into the computer system.

A gambling permit was approved for the Whitetails Unlimited Raffle being held on March 16, 2024 by a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

The Pay Equity report was reviewed and approved on a motion made by Kastner, second by Redman and carried unanimously. It is submitted to the state for review also.

The March council meeting time was changed from 6:30 to 6 PM in order for Sara Oberloh to present our audit results on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

The 2023 annual financial report was presented by Clerk Kelly and approved on a motion made by Redman, second by Kastner and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on motion made by Kastner, second by Redman at 7:48 pm.