



Minutes
Committee of the Whole

The Committee of the Whole met on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Council Members present: Mike Hanke, Brian Flynn, CW King, Jane Lardahl, Bill Hicks, and George Adrian. Absent: Chuck Hull.

Others Present: Mayor Greg Hoffman, City Attorney Robert Ferg, City Clerk Bridget Givens, and those listed on the attached attendance sheet.

Council President, CW King called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item #1: Discussion regarding the possibility of implementing a dangerous dog ordinance or other ordinance(s) related to problems caused by dogs within the City of Chippewa Falls. Possible referral to Committee or recommendation(s) to Council.

Councilor King began the meeting by asking for input from each Committee member.

Councilor Hanke looked at several different ordinance examples and does not agree with a ban on any specific breed of dogs, but would rather we strengthen our current ordinance and become stricter on fines. He suggested this be referred to Committee #3, Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic.

Councilor Flynn is not in favor of banning any specific breed of dogs and feels that any ordinance changes should address dangerous animals, not just dogs. Flynn further advised we need to work on enforcement of our current laws. He also discussed as we increase fines, it may be possible to hire an animal control officer or work with neighboring municipalities on cost-sharing measures.

Mayor Hoffman feels it is not necessarily a dog issue, but an owner issue and the City needs to advise owners of the expectation of care such that the animals are treated humanely, exercised, properly fenced in, etc. He also thought that higher fines may help offset some of the cost of an animal control officer. He does not support banning any specific breed of dog.

Councilor Lardahl does not support banning specific breeds of dogs and agrees that it is an owner issue. She also agrees with strengthening our current ordinance and referring this issue to Committee #3 for resolution.

Councilor Hicks reviewed other ordinance examples and feels there may be more we could do when a dog is classified as dangerous, such as imposing an annual fee to keep the dog, requiring proof of liability insurance, imposing fencing requirements, etc.

Councilor Adrian is not in favor of a ban on specific breeds, but did question if we had an animal control officer, what their hours would be as dogs are running at large all hours of the day. Adrian expressed he would like the citations more strictly enforced.

Attorney Ferg advised that the City can charge forfeitures and the Police Department has a fee schedule for infractions. He further advised that the City operated under the State Statutes when we had an issue with a dangerous dog previously, but had difficulty locating the dog as it was harbored

out of the City. Ferg shared that unpaid forfeitures could result in an individual losing their Driver License. Additionally, State Statutes give a "free bite" so if there was no knowledge that a dog would bite, it protects innocent owners. Actions typically arise after knowledge.

King synopsised that there appears to be no support to ban a particular breed, and the ordinance should be referred to Committee #3 for review. Ultimately, it is a matter of strengthening the ordinance and enforcement.

Item #2: Adjournment

Motion by Lardahl/Hicks to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. All present voting aye, motion carried.

**Minutes submitted by:
CW King, Council President**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ATTENDANCE SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Rick Flynn	304 Perry	715-577-252	_____
Janarany Wayne	17077 5TH AVE	715-519-0109	Janarany@gmail.com
Jennifer Johnson	17077 5TH AVE	715-563-6544	Jfulgione@yahoo.com
Saamnah Dayne	17077 57 th AVE	715-563-6802	mentorlover201@yahoo.com
Amy Mason	717 Westhaven Rd.	715-271-5922	_____
Celia B. Connel	8014 1834 th St.	715-733-2377	_____
Richard Rice	125 E. Grand St	715-783-5471	_____
Paule Young	15772 53rd Ave	715-720-9834	_____
Tony Brown	16140 87TH AV	715-723-5620	_____
Nolly Beekle-Barnes	3572 E. Meadows Pl	715-382-4832	directa@chipmunk.com