
**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL
ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005, AT 4:00 P.M.
LYNDELL N. HOWARD * MAYOR * PRESIDING**

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MASSAGLIA, RICHMOND, MADDOX

ABSENT: JONES

Notice of a special meeting for Public Input on proposed Animal Control Ordinance was received by Council on January 4, 2005, and set by Council at the meeting of December 13, 2004.

Roll was called and all commissioners were present except Commissioner Jones.

Mayor Howard opened the meeting by setting the parameters by which persons could address the Council:

- Speakers were asked to give name and address
- Sign an attendee sheet
- Be limited to 2 minutes

The purpose of the meeting was stated by City Manager Dennis Kief. He explained people bitten by vicious dogs asked that their concerns be addressed. Staff reviewed the City Ordinances and presented a draft to Council. Staff made some suggested changes after receiving feedback from the public. Suggested changes were:

- Regulation of all animals other than dogs and cats would be by State Statute
- The number if any would be determined after input by Council
- As original intent ordinance written to control vicious dogs

Corporation Council Sue Bosich stated while working on the revisions she met with concerned people, veterinarians, when out and observed dog owners. She was present to listen and take notes of concerns and suggestions. Council members stressed as was the original intent, the ordinance was written to control vicious or dangerous dogs not punish responsible pet owners.

The following residents addressed the issue:

Garnet Meischner	1401 Janssen Street	Denny Vaughn	2102 Marigold Drive
Mary Matheny	104 South 13 th Street	James Lercher	409 Fairlane
Richard Reeves	439 South Apt. D	Kim Kelly	915 Ann Eliza
Mary Reeves	1413 South 14 th Street	Phil Walker	712 South 7 th Street
Dinah Layne	1400 South 13 th Street	Diana Williams	1600 Crescent Drive
Leia Springer	3141 Edgewater Drive	Jason Juchems	3001 Broadway
Melba Hall	202 Cottage Grove	Debbie Farris	946 Edgewater Drive
Kristy Buchanan	1312 Sheridan	Rebecca Wilson	324 Henrietta
Dennis Lambert	1416 Matilda Street	Connie Constable	1406 North 9 th Street
Veronica Lemons	2007 State Street	Keith Gleason	905 Bacon Street
Robert Howard	1510 North 10 th Street		

The following were comments, concerns or suggestions given:

- Limit dogs to 2 per household
- Opposed to limiting number
- If limited number of dogs is imposed allow addition numbers with special license fee
- Suggested after 3 bites the dog be euthanized
- Owners should be educated on training
- Make sure bites are reported
- Animals should be kept on leash
- Exclude Park District's Dog Training area from portions of the ordinance
- Veterinarians should be given authority to be able to determine if dog is vicious
- Use present Code to enforce running at large
- Draft does not address
- Suggest jail time for owners in violation
- Animal Control lacks enforcement directed to the Code title

Questions received included:

- 6-3-6 (5) – considered a nuisance if attacks when on the premises. Dogs are to protect homes. Resident opposed this regulation
- 6-3-9 – will a show dog not wearing the proper tag be impounded
- 6-3-14 – can a dog be in the front yard with an electric fence
- 6-3-11 (n) and 6-3-6 (5) need better definitions - not clear on persons on property for lawful purposes or trespassing

Diana Williams representing Postal Workers and a carrier that had been bitten read from a prepared statement. She thanked the City for addressing the concerns of vicious dogs expressed appreciation to Sue Bosich, and requested 6-3-7 section of the Code be revised.

In response to concerns of unresponsive calls for enforcement, Police Chief Tim Gillespie stated that the police respond if people are at risk and maybe referred to Animal Control if not.

No questions were received from the press.

No action was taken by Council. Mayor Howard thanked all who participated.

No other business to come before the Council a motion was made by Commissioner Richmond, seconded by Commissioner Massaglia that Council adjourns. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:45 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk