

Lake City Council Proceedings
Thursday, August 15, 2024

These minutes are as recorded by the City Administrator/Clerk and are subject to Council approval at the next regular Council meeting.

The City Council of Lake City, Iowa met in special session at 6:00pm with Mayor Schleisman presiding. The following Council members were present: Gordon, Daniel, Wilson, Bruns, and Vogt CA Matthews, Aquatic Center Manager Bixenstine, and Chief of Police Schaffer were also in attendance. City Attorney Lauver attended via phone.

Mayor Schleisman addressed the Council and members of the public asked Chief of Police Schaffer to address the matter prior to public comment.

Chief of Police Schaffer addressed the Council concerning the dog incident and its owner Lakiesha Williams. He shared that on June 8, 2024 Williams' dog bit Jim Streufert while he was on the Williams' property. At that time the Police Department informed Williams that dogs could not be at large.

Chief of Police Schaffer shared that on August 13, 2024 Kendra Macke was walking down the street with her newborn child near the Williams property and the dog came out to the public property and bit Macke in both ankles. The bites resulted in stiches in both ankles.

Chief of Police Schaffer then distributed pictures of the dog bite to City Council. He then indicated this was the second dog bite incident with this specific dog. He noted the owner is not controlling their animals and that the public are not safe near the property.

He then referred to page 149 of the Municipal Code where it defines a dangerous animal. He then asked Council to use their authority in the Municipal Code to declare it to be a dangerous animal.

He noted the dog already met the definition of vicious, but if Council would declare it to be dangerous then the Police Department would have the legal authority according to the code to take the animal into custody.

He then noted that numerous nearby shelters have been contacted and they all indicated they would not take the dog. He proceeded to explain that the code would allow a dangerous animal to be euthanized if no facility could be found to house it.

He indicated if Council would declare it a dangerous animal it was the intent of the Police Department to ensure the animal would be euthanized that very night and it would be sent for rabies testing. He noted that Williams would be responsible for the cost of rabies testing.

He then again recommended that Council take immediate action. He explained that the Police Department would try to get into contact with Williams tonight to secure the animal, but if necessary, they would get a warrant to gain access to the house to retrieve the animal.

He then presented an Authorization Form to the Mayor and the Council and explained that if the dog were declared dangerous this form would allow the Police Department to proceed with its euthanization of said animal.

Mayor Schleisman then invited the public to give comment if they so desired.

Kendra Macke addressed Council. She shared that she was walking on the opposite side of the street. She explained that the dog ran across the street and was aggressive. She indicated it was growling and it bit her on both ankles.

Mayor Schleisman then offered his deep condolences to Kendra Macke that this incident happened.

Jim Streufert then addressed the Council. He shared that Williams' dogs have been loose on more than one occasion. He shared that Williams showed little concern for the dogs being loose and would often let several hours pass after becoming aware that the dogs were loose before actually rounding up the dogs.

Tiffany Green then shared that Williams said to her that nobody would stop her [Williams'] dogs from roaming the streets and that it was the dogs' neighborhood.

Chris Green noted the dogs have had to be chased away from their property on a regular basis.

Councilperson Daniel then shared that she had also had encounters with the dogs at the Williams property.

Chief of Police Schaffer then noted that since the August 13, 2024 incident numerous residents had called and complained to him about the dogs at the Williams property. He noted that there needs to be resolution to the problem at the property and that he hoped the declaration of the dog as a dangerous animal would lay the groundwork to help ensure this problem would not happen again. He noted there needs to be certain legal steps taken when dealing with an irresponsible dog owner.

Without any further comment from the public, Daniel motioned to declare the dog a dangerous animal in accordance with Municipal Code 4-1- 24 B. Seconded by Bruns. All Ayes. Nays-None. MC. The dog was declared by the City Council of the City of Lake City to be a dangerous animal.

Mayor Schleisman and members of Council then signed and dated the Authorization Form to allow the dog to be euthanized.

Mayor Schleisman then noted that at 10AM Friday August 16, 2024 the City would be meeting to review a potential change to ordinance that would allow the City to be able to deal with ordinance challenges in a more efficient manner, especially ones that typically go before a magistrate.

City Attorney Lauver concurred with all that was said by Chief of Police Schaffer.

CA Matthews noted that he and Chief of Police Schaffer had attempted twice to contact Williams on August 14, 2024 to inform Williams of the upcoming special Council meeting on the 15th. He

noted that Williams did not answer the door so a copy of the Agenda was taped to the front door. He indicated the City did this to ensure Williams had an opportunity to address Council concerning the matter.

Adjourn: With no further business, Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Daniel. All Ayes. Nays-None. MC. The meeting adjourned at 6:23pm. The next scheduled regular meeting of Council will be Monday August 19, 2024 at 6pm.

Mike Schleisman, Mayor

Jacob Matthews, City Administrator/Clerk