

City of Muscatine
In-Depth City Council Minutes
7:00 p.m. – October 14, 2021

Mayor Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, October 14, 2021, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Froelich, Malcolm, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich, Brackett and Hopkins.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave a report on the end of the year financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Steve Snider, Assistant Police Chief, gave an overview of the current animal control ordinances; Title 6, Chapter 8, Animal Regulations and Title 6, Chapter 9, Keeping of Pit Bull Dogs. Mr. Snider stated that the Ordinances had been revised in 2003 due to multiple complaints regarding attacks by pit bull dogs.

Mr. Snider stated this is the third time that Council has reviewed the possibility of removing the pit bull ban. He stated that the first two both failed and the ban has remained.

Comments from City Council regarding the Pit Bull issue included
30% of animals brought to Scott Co/Rock Island Animal Shelters were pit bulls
20% of adoptable dogs in a 50 mile radius of Muscatine are of Pit Bull breed.
Questions regarding if genetic testing had been done on all dogs said to be pit bulls
Recent local attacks from pit bull and other dogs
Request for behavior base regulations not breed specific

Mr. Snider stated that the Animal Control Officer reported 80-90 pit bull calls in the last year for enforcement of pit bulls in Muscatine.

The following are individual thoughts from each Council member;

Councilmember Brackett is for removing the breed specific ban and replacing with a behavior based regulation but states before that can happen other provisions need to be addressed such as animal abuse, tethering, licensing etc.

Councilmember Jindrich is in favor of keeping the breed specific ban.

Councilmember Gordon states she is opposed to removing the ban at this time. She stated before that can happen the animal control regulations need to be amended to fix many other areas of the ordinance.

Councilmember Froelich stated at this time he feels that keeping the ban is in the best interest of the Community. Mr. Froelich states that the problem is the issue of responsible ownership and that is hard to enforce.

Councilmember Malcolm chose not to state a preference until after he heard what the citizens had to say at the upcoming session.

Councilmember Hopkins chose not to state a preference but stated the codes need to be changed and they need to be written specific for Muscatine's needs.

Councilmember Brockert is not opposed to removing the breed specific ban but agrees that before that can be thought about there are many other animal regulations that will need to be put into place regarding licensing, obedience training, insurance etc.

Mayor Broderson stated that all Councilmembers agree that updating the City Code on Animal Regulations needs to be first step in the process.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of adding an additional Animal Control Officer.

Councilmember Froelich moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Diana Broderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carol Webb, City Administrator