

September 17, 2024

A special meeting was called to order by Mayor Douglas Duinink at 5:30 p.m. on September 17, 2024, at the Monroe City Hall. Roll call was taken and the following Council Members were in attendance: Andrea Steenhoek, Jennifer St. Peter, Jean Goemaat, Andy Algreen and Earl (Butch) Umble. City Administrator Kim Thomas, Police Officer Carter Reichmann and City Attorney Richard Scieszinski were in attendance. Mayor Duinink announced the meeting was being recorded.

Visitors at the meeting were: Susie Phifer, Chuck Henkenius, Shannon Henkenius, Sarah Blood, Tyler Jenkins, Sam Munson, Brad Woody, Judy Woody and Jordan Uitermarkt.

The purpose of the special meeting was to hear the appeal from Britney Hitze to remove two dogs from 514 North Commerce Street deemed to be considered vicious animals by the City of Monroe Police Department. Ms. Hitze received a 3-day order to remove the animals on September 4, 2024, and requested a hearing to appeal the process. Britney stated that the dogs were let out of the fenced area without her permission on August 20th, and that in no way are dangerous animals.

Police Officer Carter Reichmann opened the meeting with verbal review of the Animal Protection and Control Ordinance 55.12 which states no person shall own, possess, harbor or have care of a vicious dog within City limits. For the purpose of the section, a "vicious dog" means any dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack, unprovoked, as evidenced by its habitual or repeated chasing, snapping, or barking at human beings or domestic animals so as to potentially cause injury or to otherwise endanger their safety. The Mayor and Council were aware of three separate incidents requiring police reports concerning Britney's dogs.

Both Susie Phifer and Shannon Henkenius spoke of a recent instances that happened on August 20, 2024, where both dogs were loose and scared them both as they were walking. One of the dogs had attacked and bit Shannon's dog as they were walking by the corner of Tool's Point Park. Jordan Uitermarkt saw the latest incident and had ran over to help. As a daycare provider Jordan is concerned for her daycare children as they visit Tool's Point Park 2 or 3 times per week. Jordan stated that the dogs when loose bark, jump and act aggressive towards the children and adults.

Council Member Andrea Steenhoek moved and was seconded by Council Member Earl Umble to deem the dogs (Zeus & Jager) vicious animals as defined in the Monroe Code of Ordinances 55.01 (22)(B) in that each dog has evidenced a propensity, tendency or disposition to (1) attack without provocation, and/or (2) cause injury to, or otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or domestic animals. The 3-day order to remove the animals within city limits is affirmed. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Council Member St. Peter moved and was seconded by Steenhoek to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Douglas P. Duinink, Mayor

Kim Thomas, City Clerk/Administrator