

**SERGEANT BLUFF, IOWA**  
**City Council Minutes**

**II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Council Chambers, 8:00 AM  
October 31, 2017

| Attendee Name    | Title                   | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Ron Hanson       | Mayor Pro Tem           | Absent  |         |
| Bill Gaukel      | Assistant Mayor Pro Tem | Present |         |
| Jim Linafelter   | Council Member          | Present |         |
| Nicole Cleveland | Council Member          | Present |         |
| Carol Clark      | Council Member          | Present |         |
| Jon Winkel       | Mayor                   | Present |         |

Motion by Carol Clark second by Bill Gaukel to Approve the Agenda. Motion Carried.  
[Unanimous]

1. Hearing Regarding Dangerous/Vicious Animal

Sam Vice, Sergeant Bluff resident requested a Council hearing for his American Staffordshire Terrier which was deemed an animal listed under Chapter 56 as a dangerous animal.

Assistant Police Chief Rosendahl presented the facts to the case regarding original finding of dog and subsequent letter that the citizen (Sam Vice) received. Rosendahl stated we are at the point where the decision needs to be made to keep the law as is or consider changes to the ordinance.

Carol asked if there were any other known pit bull breeds in town. The Police Department is investigating another dog that is an American Bulldog breed mix. In Woodbury County the most bites are from Labrador Retrievers; however, there are more of them by a 6:1 ratio. Carol agrees with the fact the dog may be a nice friendly family dog, but also has read that the genetics of the pit bull is to have a hold and shake bite style. Carol asked that if the ordinance is changed to remove the pit bull breed and then several families buy pit bulls, how do the officers determine if the dog is friendly. Jim stated potentially changing the ordinance to enforce training and registration of specific breeds. Bill stated it is tough to specifically say that a dog is full pit bull. Carol asked if Sam carries a "break stick" to snap the jaws open when in a bite situation. Sam and Alyssa (Sam's fiancée), dog owners, spoke that when walking they do own a muzzle for the dog. Sam presented a letter from a neighbor, who is a Sioux City police officer, that they allow their children play with the dog and do not feel threatened. Amie Hanson, representative with Noah's Hope animal rescue, went over this weekend to meet Nikko and found him to be very friendly. Amie found Nikko to be very gentle and no concerns were noted. Sam and Alyssa discussed the dogs history and presented a document regarding "bully" breeds that include a wide range of dogs, big and small.

Discussion took place regarding bans on different breeds over the years. Pit bulls were originally banned due to gang related reasons. Historically other breeds such as Rottweilers, Doberman Pinchers and other breeds have been targeted as well.

Jim mentioned that the Police are only doing their job and we need to support them by either upholding or changing the ordinance so they understand what is expected.

Mayor feels there are two choices; the dog must leave town to enforce ordinance or table for 45 days while trying to address potential ordinance changes. Jim is on the side to table for 45 days while the ordinance is addressed. Bill agrees with tabling for 45 days and have staff present ordinance language for consideration. Motion to Table for 45 days.

Motion by Bill Gaukel second by Jim Linafelter to Table Hearing Regarding Dangerous/Vicious Animal. Motion Carried. [Unanimous]

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Linafelter second by Cleveland to adjourn meeting. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 am.

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Mayor/Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:

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Michelle Colvert, City Clerk