

Animal Control Advisory Board Minutes

2016 4th Qtr. Meeting

Date: January 12th, 2016
Location: City Hall / City Council Chambers
Time: 6:00 PM

The 2016 4th Qtr Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

ROLLCALL

Attending:

Royce Williams	MCPD
Alijah Hunter	Animal Control
Chris Schwanke	City Council (CHAIR)
Rex Bailey	Veterinarian (MC Animal Hospital)
Karen Edwards	Michiana Humane Society

Absent:

None

The determination of a quorum was made.

Minutes of the last Animal Board meeting – N/A

Royce Williams was not present for Qtr. 2 & 3 meetings, ALCO was not present for the last meeting either therefore no recording. An AUDIO Recorder will be present from here on out.

New Business:

Councilwoman Pat Boy requested that amendments be made to the City's Pig Ordinance and has provided a copy with proposed changes in advance for everyone's review.

Karen Edwards advised although we are all animal lovers here, she doesn't believe having pigs in the city would be a good thing because most people don't see pigs as pets, and that the rules won't be

followed by some leading to running at large Pigs that might even be someone's dinner. I believe they are Farm Animals where they have room to roam.

Councilman Chris Schwanke wanted to clarify the term "pig" as he believed there was a difference between the domesticated "Pot Belly Pig" and the traditional "Pink Pig" on a farm.

Dr. Rex Bailey requested to speak on the differences Schwanke was alluding to – The problem is, people can buy these "Pot Belly Pigs", but there's no way to prove/test what size they'll become and he has seen and conducted surgery on Pot Belly Pigs that were over 200 lbs. That will be a difficult thing to regulate.

Regarding the proposed ordinance modifications, the way they are presented in his opinion are too loose and/or too strict and Animal Control will be the person tasked to investigate. Furthermore, we should never allow anyone to have a pig pen on their property and leave the pig outside unsupervised, etc.

Alijah Hunter advised he has looked over this issue and spoke with several people familiar with pigs to include Zoo Personnel...they recommend we do not have pigs within our city limits. A pig's cry is Very Loud and that alone would cause problems. Pigs are also aggressive and could become protective and attack visitors. Ability to capture loose pigs are limited because you cannot tranquilize them.

Alijah also mentions that Michigan City has a large population of PITBULLS and that's a tragedy waiting to happen...not to mention the odor if pig(s) are left outside. In his opinion allowing pigs within city limits is a bad idea.

Chris Schwanke asked Dr. Bailey how many pigs he thought were already housed within the city limits and he advised less than 10. Schwanke then asked Alijah from the MCAC point of view, can he facilitate handle the violations, captures, facilities, transport, etc. for PIGS? Alijah advised pigs that were captured would possibly be transported to the LCSAS...as far as capturing the pig it will take more personnel than just him. Keeping the Pigs in the kennels with the Dogs would not be a good idea, so another structure would need to be built. Loading the captured pig onto the truck may require a lift...too many problems.

Royce Williams asked Dr. Bailey that for the few pigs he sees in his office, what are the reasons for that? Dr. Baily advised normally vaccination, trims, spayed/neutered, bowel obstruction removal, etc.

It was discussed by the board to form a special committee to further dissect and make proposed amendments to the ordinance...

Public Comment – **Candice Silvas** asked that in good faith effort table this issue for the next meeting because there are several families in the Michigan City area with Pot Belly Pig Pets.

With that it was determined that a special committee is formed, members – Schwanke/Bailey/Hunter.

Karen Edwards asked Dr. Bailey how many baby piglets do they have and he advised typically 4-6.

Unfinished business:

Chris Schwanke wanted to thank Julie Sosa and her husband, Rich Sosa as they have been discussing adding a “Dog Run” at the kennel for several reasons. Someone from a Boy Scout Troop needs to complete a project and would help design the run.

Public Comment – **Julie Sosa** states that the implantation of a run at the kennel would help Alijah out and would be great for the dogs who are temporally kept there. Some of the monies that was raised in the Fall of 2016 at the “Doggie Strut” can be utilized. Royce made a Motion to allow this Dog Run Project to move forward, Chris motioned with Dr. Bailey seconding the motion...was put to a vote, 5 Yes / 0 No. Passed.

Chris Schwanke states he wanted to continue the “Doggie Strut” fundraiser in 2017 and possibly a “wine tasting” as well and requested that he, Julie Sosa, and Karen Edwards be allowed to discuss those possibilities again as was done in 2016 – Royce made a motion to have the Fundraising Committee get together and move forward for fundraising event planning for 2017, Alijah made a motion seconded by Dr. Bailey – voted 5 Yes / 0 No. Passed.

Review of the Michigan City Animal Control Activities, 4th Qtr 2016:

Animal Bites:	5
Neglect Case:	0
Dog Impounds:	27
Cat Impounds:	11
Dogs Transported to LSAS/MHS:	27
Cats Transported to Frieds/Dr Ried:	11
Euthanized:	3 Cats (injured)
Citations Issued:	22

Fund Disbursement Reports:

Per the MOU, reports will be forwarded at the end of every QTR. All reports provided, Alijah motioned to accept followed by Schwanke, voted YES 5 / 0 NO. Passed.

Comments from the Public:

Julie Sosa reiterated that having pigs as pets within the city limits were a bad idea in her opinion for several of the reasons already mentioned...but wouldn't see a problem with grandfathering those already with Potbelly Pigs in if they register their pets.

Comments from the Board:

Alijah expressed how much he appreciates the volunteers and other persons and organizations that assist with the Animal Control / Kennel activities.

FOR COMPLETE MINUTES IN VIDEO/AUDIO FORMAT:
<https://alc.viebit.com/player.php?hash=EICqLbB4ak1Q>

The next Board meeting will be announced via e-mail

The Animal Advisory Board formally adjourned