
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

VILLAGE OF HARRISON

From: Vicki Tessen, Clerk

Meeting Date: January 28, 2025

Title:

Ordinance V25-03 Amending Chapter 6, Section 6-42(b) Kennel Licenses

Issue:

Does the Board wish to allow kennels in Rural Residential zoned districts, disallow kennels in Community Commercial zoned districts, change investigation authority, and remove a reference to an incorrect state statute?

Background and Additional Information:

Harrison currently issues three kennel licenses to residents. Two have been operating kennels, with ten dogs each, for eight or more years. Staff is not sure what the properties were zoned when the kennel licenses were initially licensed, but they are currently zoned rural residential. The third resident has had her kennel license for three years and owns or boards a total of four dogs on her over three-acre lot in a residential zoned district.

A fourth resident, also in a Rural Residential zoned district, has requested a kennel license for 2025. In reviewing kennel and zoning ordinances for this request, staff discovered the inconsistency between ordinances and past practices.

Staff (from the licensing and zoning departments) does not oppose adding kennels as an acceptable use in Rural Residential zoned districts. There have not been any known complaints regarding any of the three licensed kennels.

However, there are some reservations of a kennel possibly opening in a Community Commercial zoned district. The hope is to attract businesses, like coffee shops, offices, and retail stores, to the various commercial districts in the Village. A kennel, with its space requirements and noise, may not be conducive to that vision.

For these reasons, staff recommends adding kennels as a permitted use in Rural Residential zoned districts and removing kennels as a permitted use in Community Commercial zoned districts. If the board chooses to approve this change, staff will take the necessary steps to amend village zoning codes for Board consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Furthermore, an amendment is being requested to update the investigating authority from the Village Board to Law Enforcement. It is possible this was an oversight when the Village incorporated the Town's code of ordinances. In practicality, if a complaint was reported to the office about a kennel, staff would refer the issue to law enforcement first to investigate. If the issue, or issues, were significant enough to warrant consideration of revoking or not renewing their license then it would be brought to the Board.

Finally, staff is requesting striking the section referencing Wisc. Stats. Ch. 948 as that chapter does not address the care of dogs nor kennels. The intended considerations (for minimum standards of kennels) that are struck in this amendment will be incorporated in either the upcoming zoning code amendment proposal, in a rewrite of the municipal code, or in a formal kennel license policy.

Budget Impacts:

None

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve Ordinance V25-03 amending Municipal Code Chapter 6, Section 6-42(b) Kennel License to remove kennels from Community Commercial zoned districts, allow kennels in Rural Residential zoned districts, change the investigating authority from the Village Board to law enforcement, and strike the section referencing Wisc. Stats. Ch. 948.

Attachments:

Ordinance V25-03 with mark-up of Municipal Code Sec. 6-42(b)
