



To: Public Safety Committee

From: Dylan Mulfinger

Subject: Lease Law

Date: 10/10/2022

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In the summer of 2022 Council was approached by a resident that asked that the leash law be reviewed. Council advised that the request could go to Public Safety Committee when time allows. I have worked with staff to provide the review and recommendation to council.

*Sec. 19-20. - Definitions.*

*At large means any licensed or unlicensed dog or cat found off the premises of his owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel, on a leash or "at heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's command.*

Dogs within the city of Oelwein are not required on a leash if they are on private property or the sidewalk. Oelwein code makes it clear that a dog that can be at heel is considered not at large and within the code of Oelwein. This means a dog may walk with an owner and be on private property not on a lease.

*Sec. 21-1. - Animals in parks.*

*Animals within any city park at all times must be under the control of a person competent to restrain and control the animal, either by leash, cord, chain or other similar restraint of not more than six feet in length or properly restrained within a motor vehicle.*

The law is specific that dogs must be on leash while at any park facility for the city. Code does exempt the dog park where well behaved dogs may run off leash.

In discussions with the Public Safety Chief, the city does need to make changes to the leash law.

The following code amendments are proposed:

19-20

At large means any licensed or unlicensed dog or cat found off the premises of his their owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel, ~~on a leash or "at heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's command.~~

19-21

5. Dogs must be on leash on public sidewalks. Dogs must be on leash once leaving private property.