

Pleasant Hill City Council  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 8th, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.  
212 Cedar St. Pleasant Hill, MO 64080

Present

Mayor: Mark Guffey

Council Members: J. W. Hanes, John King, and Tria Cartner

Staff: Shelby Teufel, Kristen Ayers, Robert Driscoll, Jessica Elliott, and Tony Bakken

Legal Counsel: N/A

Press: Connie Whitlock, Rick Kuenzler

Public: Don Donovan, Cathy Gilbert, Scott Crain

Mayor Guffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jessica Elliott called the roll of officials. A quorum was declared.

1. A motion was made by CM King to approve the consent agenda, seconded by CM Hanes. Vote as follows: CM King aye, CM Hanes aye, CW Cartner aye motion carried.

2. A motion was made by CM King to approve the regular agenda, seconded by CM Hanes. Vote as follows: CM King aye, CM Hanes aye, CW Cartner aye motion carried.

3. Bill No. 21-05 - A Bill Amending Chapter 8 of The Municipal Code Of The City Of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Relating to Dangerous Animals

Police Chief Robert Driscoll presented the Bill to Council per a discussion held during the December 14th, 2020 meeting. Driscoll outlined changes that were identified for improvement to the current ordinance.

- The Police Chief would be able to ban, keep in custody, either in a shelter or clinic, to allow a judge to hear the case in order to prevent the animal from being kept at the residence.
- No changes were made to the section relating to fences and pins for dangerous animals, however the new ordinance would require the structures to be inspected by both the animal control officer and the codes enforcement officer. This will prevent the owner from building a structure and then resume keeping the animal on the premise prior to adjudication.

CM Hanes expressed concern about the timeliness of the court system. Driscoll responded that it would be advantageous to ask for a speedy resolution noting any fees accrued by holding the animal at a shelter or clinic would be at the owner's expense.

CM King was concerned about how to prevent the animal from returning to city limits at another location. Driscoll responded that this is an area that is not addressed in the ordinance. City Administrator Shelby Teufel added that this falls under personal accountability and if the animal did return, it would be in violation of the ordinance and would be subject to adjudication.

CW Cartner asked if the proposed Bill helped the citizen that initiated the request to update the City's dangerous dog code. CA Teufel responded that the ordinance would not change a past incident, but does help with any future occurrences.

CA Teufel also relayed possible enhanced requirements that would allow clarity for the judge to rule such as:

- Added signage
- No access to entry points (screened windows and doors)
- Leash length
- Muzzles
- Required reporting
- Definitions (severe bite, fatal bite/attack, provoked, unprovoked)

CM King added that he would prefer stronger language for fencing requirements.

Mayor Guffey suggested adding a dangerous dog registry with the City requiring:

- Annual licensing of dangerous animals
- Proof of Insurance for a dangerous animal
- Inspection of structures and pins
- Microchip

CM Hanes conveyed that the issue comes down to personal accountability and the need to have an annual requirement once a dog is deemed dangerous, noting that there is no way to tell if a dog will become dangerous in advance. The best option is to encourage people to be responsible.

CA Teufel verified that Council would like to see the following changes to the proposed ordinance:

- Stronger language for structures
- When the animal should be muzzled
- Definitions, particularly regarding severe bites
- Dangerous dog registration with the potential for enhanced licensing and annual inspections

Teufel stated she is comfortable coming back to Council with an updated draft ordinance in two weeks. Council noted that they appreciated the work staff put into proposed Bill No. 21-05. No action was taken.

Other:

4. Police Chief Robert Driscoll reported domestic violence incidents are on the rise. The police department has been dealing with storm related issues and is participating in grand jury cases catching up from 2016, 2017, & 2018 and that officers will be spending a lot of time in court. Driscoll further reported that they have already presented over 100 cases.

5. Public Works Director Tony Bakken reported that crews have been busy working on water main leaks and snow removal with winter weather.

6. City Administrator Shelby Teufel reported that trash was delayed by one day for this week.

7. Mayor Guffey announced his resignation as Mayor of The City of Pleasant Hill; effective February 24th, 2021. John King will be serving as Mayor Pro Tempore until the next possible election. Mayor Guffey communicated the decision was hard and shared his gratitude for serving the public.

8. There being no further business to come before the City Council, CM King made a motion to move to closed session at 7:52 p.m., seconded by CW Cartner.

Roll call vote as follows:

CM King aye, CW Cartner aye, CM Hanes aye, motion carried.

9. Present for the closed session: Mayor Guffey, CM King, CW Cartner, CM Hanes, Kristen Ayers, Shelby Teufel, Tony Bakken, and Scott Crain. No action was taken in the closed session. CM King made a motion to go into open session at 8:13 pm, seconded by CM Hanes. Roll call vote as follows: Cartner: aye, King: aye, and Hanes: aye. Motion carried.

CM Hanes made a motion to accept donations of easements and right-of-way from the Pleasant Hill R-III School District related to the 163rd Street project and to authorize the mayor to sign associated documents that are in a form acceptable to city staff and counsel. The motion was seconded by CM King. Roll call vote as follows: Cartner: aye, King: aye, and Hanes: aye. Motion carried.

CM King made a motion to go back in to closed session at 8:18 pm, seconded by CM Hanes. Roll call vote as follows: Cartner: aye, King: aye, and Hanes: aye. Motion carried. Present for the closed session was Mayor Guffey, CM King, CW Cartner, CM Hanes, Kristen Ayers, and Shelby Teufel. Kristen Ayers left at 8:30 pm. A motion was made by CM King to go into open session at 8:45 pm, seconded by CW Cartner. Roll call vote as follows: Cartner: aye, King: aye, and Hanes: aye. Motion carried.

10. There being no further business before the Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Approved:

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Mayor, Mark Guffey

Attest

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City Clerk, Jessica Elliott