

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING PURPOSE:

Pot Bellied Pigs\Barking
Ordinance

MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

April 11, 2017
Zimmerman Center,
1801 Virginia Lane

ATTENDEES:

Animal Control Board
Members, Jeanette
Vieg, Cara Chamberlain,
Delmar Schmidt, Chuck
Bushey,

City Attorney: Brent Brooks

Animal Control Staff: Tom
Stinchfield, Animal Control
Supervisor

Chris Dietz, Wayne Leischner,
Kevin & Lori Nelson, Lew
Gundlach

RECORDED BY:

Kristal Ward

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Jeannette Vieg called meeting to order

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 29, 2016 meeting were approved and seconded

II. Presentation on Pot Bellied Pigs

Board Member Cara Chamberlain leads the discussion on re-defining what A potbellied pig is and answering questions for City Council

- A.** Discussion on what the City Council is looking for and how the ordinance Will be enforced?
- B.** Counsel wants an accurate definition on what exactly a potbellied pig is?
- C.** Discussion on traits of a typical potbellied pig.

City Attorney Brent Brooks discusses how the Ordinance will be enforced By the way it is written. How the weight issue of the potbellied pigs is going To be enforced and what will happen when people get tired of their pigs, Where will the pigs go and who will take care of them.

III. BARKING DOG ORDINANCE

Discussion is led by Animal Control Supervisor Tom Stinchfield

- A.** Explains how the barking dog ordinance is enforced at this time, first Step: Letter sent to dog owner, Second step: Bark log is to be kept by The complainant, Third Step: Citation issued to the dog owner

A lot of discussion and comments. Folks very upset by having to document The barking and do not feel they should have to do that

Board Member Delmar Schmidt very upset and feels that people are moving Out of the neighborhood because of the barking and does not feel that the City is doing much to enforce the Ordinance. Also upset about having to Keep a Bark Log

- B.** City Attorney Brent Brooks discusses the City's position on barking dogs. People are not going to go to jail over their barking dogs no matter how Upset the public gets over this issue. Discussion of videotaping the barking Instead of doing bark logs. Possibly looking at ways to deal with habitual Offenders. Look at re-wording the barking ordinance and possibly adding a section where the dog can be removed by order of a Judge.
- C.** Animal Control Supervisor Tom Stinchfield is very open to fixing the Problems with the way the Ordinance is written at this time but wants to Fix it the right way and is open to new ideas. Suggests getting together with City Attorney Brent Brooks to look at different things that could Be done in order to eliminate the bark log

- D. Board Member Cara Chamberlain suggests that in a future meeting, Discuss and define the definition of “nuisance” barking

IV. RABIES AND LICENSING UPDATE

Animal Control Supervisor Tom Stinchfield leads the discussion

- A. 641 licenses sold by this date in 2016. 775 sold by this date in 2017, Total license up by 134 from last year
- B. 10317 total animals licensed in the City of Billings at this time
- C. Rabies vaccination has to be current in order to license an animal. The Vaccine has to be administered by a licensed veterinarian
- D. All animal bite reports for this area come through the Animal Control Office and are distributed to the proper Agency for follow-up
- E. No positive rabies results in domestic pets since 2003 in the County
- F. All pets in City Parks are required to display their City Registration and Rabies Tags and be on a leash at all time

Chuck Bushey speaks of the Rabies Summits and how All Agency’s involved are working together to improve communication And each specific Agency knowing what their role is so that the over-all Goal of improving animal health and reducing the number of people That have to go through the rabies shot series, can be reached.

The reason behind licensing is to ensure that pets are current and Up to date on rabies vaccinations

V. Service Animals

Brief discussion on what a Service Animal is and what a Therapy Animal or Emotional Stress Animal is. Majority of people that claim to have a Service Animal actually have a Companion Animal which can be used to alleviate Stress or provide companionship to its owner

VI. MEETING ADJOURNED

Board Member Delmar Schmidt moves to adjourn the meeting
Seconded by Board Member Cara Chamberlain

