

## **MEETING MUNUTES**

### **MEETING PURPOSE**

Ordinance for circus  
Animal in Billings

### **MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:**

November 5, 2019  
Zimmerman Center  
1801 Virginia Lane

### **ATTENDEES:**

Animal Control Board  
Members, Cara  
Chamberlain, John  
Scheuering, Charles  
Bushey, Delmer  
Schmidt, Pam Rogina

Animal Control Staff:  
Tom Stinchfield,  
Animal Control  
Supervisor

### **RECORDED BY:**

Tom Stinchfield

#### **I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Cara Chamberlain called meeting to order

#### **A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 22, 2019, were approved

## **B. INTRODUCTION OF A NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Pam Rogina was welcomed as a member

## **II. PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCE FOR CIRCUS ANIMALS IN BILLINGS**

Cara Chamberlain leads the discussion

### **A. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

(Renee Stone baker) talks about a public petition that they have that has Over 250 signatures to ban animals in the circus & also raises the issue Of animal cruelty. Also presents a copy of Missoula's Ordinance

(Blake Fulton) discusses the issue of whether the City of Billings has the Means to deal with circus animals getting loose, tigers, lions, elephants...etc.

And feels that there is better option for the circus than using animals

(Ryan Ulrich) talks about how he does not feel that animals in the circus Is not what Billings needs

### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. Do circuses have a contingency plan in case an animal were to Escape and were running loose
2. Is there a certification process that the circus goes through on how? They are required to keep and contain their animals
  - a. Certification varies from State to State
  - b. Do circuses have to pass a USDA inspection
3. Billings Police Dept\Animal Control are not trained to handle This type of situation

Discussion about whether anybody has had a chance to research Any laws within the State of Montana as it relates to circuses and Whether anybody has ever spoken with the Shrine about excluding Animals in the circuses they sponsor

### **C. ORDINANCE DISCUSSION**

1. Modeling a new ordinance for the City of Billings after an existing Ordinance another Montana City is using
2. Creating and passing a new ordinance is time consuming and will Need the support of the citizens of Billings for it to pass City Council

**D. A MOTION TO CONTINUE**

All attendees were in favor to continue research and move the Ordinance forward to abolish circus animals

**III. COLD WEATHER AND ANIMALS**

**A. DOGS AND CATS BEING LEFT OUTSIDE IN EXTREME TEMPERATURES**

Discussion of cruel treatment of animals and how these situations Are handled by Animal Control

**1. STATE CRUELTY LAW**

People that commit the offense of cruel or mistreatment of animals In the City of Billings can be issued a citation under the Montana State Cruelty Law, **45-8-211**

- a. A stringent ordinance could make it difficult to enforce  
So the City of Billings prefers to use the State Law as it gives  
A lot of latitude

**IV. WILDLIFE**

- A. Animal Control for the City of Billings does respond on injured wildlife calls
- B. Police Department Officers respond on large game animals that may require  
Being dispatched to prevent suffering
- C. Fish and Game are technically responsible for all wildlife

**V. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

Delmar Schmidt makes a motion to adjourn meet and the motion is seconded

