

REGULAR MEETING May 22, 2023

The Independence City Council met for a Special Called Meeting, May 22, 2023, at 7:13 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK:

Councilmembers Stewart and Fears moved to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow for non-residents to speak during Citizen Request.

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes –Councilmembers: Fears, Perkins, Stewart, McCandless, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Rowland. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Jack Layman spoke to Council regarding trees on Lee’s Summit Road.

At 7:20 p.m., Mayor Rowland called for a short recess to correct sound issues. The meeting was called back to order at 7:21 p.m.

Amy Kleir spoke to Council regarding pit bulls.

Kenneth Love spoke to Council regarding dangerous dogs.

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 23-037, entitled, *[failed]*

“AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING A REPEAL OF INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 3.03.006 “KEEPING OF PIT BULLS PROHIBITED” AND A REVIEW OF INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 3.03.007 “AGGRESSIVE DOGS,” 3.03.008 “DANGEROUS DOGS,” AND 3.03.009 “VICIOUS DOGS,” TO ASSURE PROTECTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS FROM ANY DANGEROUS ANIMALS.”

was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Councilmember Fears shared his feelings regarding breed specific legislation and next steps he would like to see updated in the dangerous ordinance and City Code. Councilmember Stewart shared his feelings regarding breed specific legislation and shared why he will vote for this to go to a ballot. Councilmember McCandless shared some of her research on this topic and her feelings regarding breed specific legislation. Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his feelings regarding breed specific legislation and why he will be voting to send this item to the voters. Councilmember Hobart shared his feelings regarding breed specific legislation and stated he will be voting against sending this to a public vote and in two weeks he will vote to overturn the ban and ask for a 60 day stay on the repeal of the ban for updates Council would like to see in the City Code. Mayor Rowland shared his feelings regarding breed specific legislation and why he will vote to repeal the ban and why he will vote no to send this issue to a ballot.

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes –Councilmembers: Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Fears, Perkins, McCandless, Hobart and Mayor Rowland. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 23-038, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE REPEALING INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 3.03.006 “KEEPING OF PIT BULLS PROHIBITED” AND ORDERING A REVIEW OF INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTIONS 3.03.007 “AGGRESSIVE DOGS,” 3.03.008 “DANGEROUS DOGS,” AND 3.03.009 “VICIOUS DOGS.”

was given its first reading by title.

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Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his concerns with animal control staffing with any changes that are made. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mayor Rowland asked that his questions be directed to the City Manager and not ask the Chief of Police to the podium. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, City Manager, Zach Walker, provided information about how a call for service is handled between Police, Fire and Animal Control. Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his concerns with the ability to enforce what we put in place.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. Please Note: In accordance with RSMo 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

No councilmembers had comments to share.

At 8:15 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., June 5, 2023, in the Council Chambers.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk