

Present: Alderpersons John Ellington, Heather Kierzek & Kathleen Thurow  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Mayor Palm, Finance Director, Cynthia Haggard; Police Chief, Mark Schauf; City Clerk, Brenda Zeman; and City Attorney, Emily Truman.  
Citizen Present: Geri Petterson and her daughter

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Ellington at 8:00AM CST., with roll call and noting compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

Motion by Kierzek to approve the minutes of June 1, 2020 and June 18, 2020, seconded by Thurow and unanimously carried.

Motion by Kierzek to approve agenda, seconded by Thurow and unanimously carried.

Review and possible recommendation to Council to update Section 12.01(6) of the City Code regarding the expiration date for licenses and permits.

City Attorney Truman stated that the change was simply changing the expiration date from December 30<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to recommend to Council to update Section 12.01(6) of the City Code regarding the expiration date for licenses and permits by Thurow, seconded by Kierzek and unanimously carried.

Review and possible recommendation to Council to adopt a new Chapter in the City Code dedicated to ordinances regulating animals, and to instruct the City Attorney to:

- Update the Municipal Code to include the new Chapter
- Make the corresponding updates to §25.10, "Bond Schedule for Ordinance Violations,"
- Change all of the ordinances moved in their entirety to the proposed new Chapter to "Reserved," for future Code use, with the exception of §§12.08A and 12.13(M) which can be removed in their entirety, and
- Update all cross-references located throughout the Code (e.g., §§ 10.03(6) and 10.05(10), the City's Official Fee Schedule, etc.)

Motion to recommend to Council to adopt a new Chapter in the City Code dedicated to ordinances regulating animals, and to instruct the City Attorney to update the Municipal Code to include the new Chapter, to make the corresponding updates to §25.10, "Bond Schedule for Ordinance Violations," to change all of the ordinances moved in their entirety to the proposed new Chapter to "Reserved," for future code use, with the exception of §§12.08A and 12.13(M) which can be removed in their entirety, and to update all cross-references located throughout the Code (e.g., §§10.03(6) and 10.05(10), the City's Official Fee Schedule, etc. by Thurow, seconded by Kierzek and unanimously carried.

Review and possible recommendation to Council to amend Section 1.30, "Baraboo District Ambulance Commission" of the City Code by combining and consolidating Chapter 28, "Baraboo District Ambulance Commission" into that Section.

Motion to recommend to Council to amended Section 1.30, "Baraboo District Ambulance Commission" of the City Code by combining and consolidating Chapter 28, "Baraboo District Ambulance Commission" into that Section by Kierzek, seconded by Thurow and unanimously carried.

Consider application for keeping chickens for Michael Lutz @ 418 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Ellington referenced a letter from Lutz requesting a waiver for the placement of the coop. The waiver was received after the agenda was posted. A copy of the letter is included in the minutes of the meeting (Exhibit A)

Kierzek brought up a section in the Code that addresses the max size of a coop per chicken. Since there was an issue with the number of chickens and the size of the coop, the application was postponed.

Motion to postpone consideration of application for keeping chickens for Michael Lutz @ 418 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting by Thurow, seconded by Kierzek and unanimously carried.

Consider Request for Excessive Household Animals (4 Dogs) – Geri Pettersen

Ellington mentioned that a letter was received from Dave Mowers, Pettersen's neighbor, sharing past experiences. The letter came after the agenda was posted. A copy of the letter is included in the minutes of the meeting (Exhibit B).

Motion to approve and move on to Council the request for Pettersen's Excessive Household Animals (4 dogs) by Kierzek, seconded by Ellington and unanimously carried.

Member comments

The next meeting will be Monday, August 3, 2020 at 8:00AM CST. Meeting location will be 101 South Boulevard.

Motion to adjourn by Kierzek, seconded by Thurow and unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:36AM CST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Haggard, Finance Director

July 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Baraboo City Council,

We are writing in regards to the location of our chicken coop on **418 10th Street**.

The location we are proposing is to the north of our garden and adjacent to our neighbor's garage (see photo below).



This "garden" location seems most ideal for all, as it is tucked away and out of sight of all three adjacent neighbors. We understand that our neighbor to our south (across the alley) was concerned about the chickens causing her dog to get overly excited. The garden location would help alleviate these concerns. (See next photo).

Our alternate, less preferred location is near our large silver maple, in the middle of our yard (see right). This "tree" location would be in sight of our southern neighbor with the dog, as well as the neighbors to our west. This is also an almost 100 year old tree that will likely need to be taken down in the near future, which will leave little shade for the chickens.



Below are signatures from our neighbors to the East, who own the garage in the first photo, and are agreeable to this location near the garden and garage.

Michael and Aimee Lutz,

Joe and Claudia Bavlnka,

115 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
July 1, 2020

Administrative Committee  
City of Baraboo  
101 South Boulevard  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
VIA E-MAIL

Re: Excessive Household Animals Request from 719 Oak Street

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to you today in response to a notice we received today about the request from Mrs. Geri Pettersen before your body on the Monday, July 6 agenda. While we ultimately support Mrs. Pettersen's request for an exemption, we felt it was important to share our experience regarding her family's dogs with you.

We purchased our home at 115 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in March 2017, moving here so that Dave could work at Trinity Episcopal Church, which sits kitty-corner across the street from Mr. and Mrs. Pettersen's home. Dave goes back and forth to the church multiple times daily, each time walking past the Pettersen property. When we moved in, Mr. and Mrs. Pettersen had two dogs, and these dogs would bark at any person who would pass by on the sidewalk, often jumping along their side of the fence as someone walked by. In September that year, those two dogs sired a litter of approximately 10 puppies. At the time, Mrs. Pettersen offered one of the puppies to our family (we declined) but told us that their family's intention was to give all of the puppies to other homes. However, two of the puppies remained at their home, so for the last two and a half years, there have been four dogs living in Mr. and Mrs. Pettersen's home.

As Dave would walk by going back and forth to work, the two additional dogs quickly took up the behavior of their parents, barking, snarling and jumping at him and at every other person passing by while they were in the yard. After our third child was born in December 2018, the four dogs would occasionally bark loud enough to wake him from sleeping (his bedroom faces the Pettersen property). To this day, the dogs essentially bark continuously whenever anyone is visible to them. So if the dogs are outside and we are standing on our front porch, going from our front door to our cars parked on the street, or standing outside in our yard, the dogs will bark until we leave or until they are brought into the house. We have on a number of occasions thought about setting up chairs on our front porch or in our front yard to allow our children to play on the sidewalk with good supervision, but the presence of the dogs so close by has limited our ability to use our property in that way.

Additionally, there is a neighbor to the south of the Pettersens who occasionally opens his window and yells because of the noise the dogs are making. This is, of course, in no way the fault of the Pettersens, as this gentleman's responses are solely his responsibility, but we have changed our behavior at times because we have been nervous about walking by the Pettersen property, causing the dogs to bark, and then having the gentleman yell (sometimes vulgar, profane things) in the presence of our children.

As we stated at the beginning, notwithstanding these concerns, we support Mrs. Pettersen's request to retain these dogs. We know that animals become part of our families. That is why we resolved, even though we knew that having four dogs was contrary to city ordinance, and even though these dogs are annoying to us, that we would never contact the city to report the violation of the animal ordinance. However, since these proceedings have started independently of us, we felt it was important to share our experience. Our hoped-for outcome in this case would be for the Pettersens to work with their dogs to help them to bark less, and be less intrusive to people who are passing by their property, and to have this exemption approved with that condition in place.

Please let us know if further details or information would be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Dave and Elizabeth Mowers

**The Rev. Dave Mowers**  
**Rector**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
111 Sixth St.  
Baraboo, WI 53913

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
211 W. Pleasant St.  
Portage, WI 53901

Baraboo Area Homeless Shelter  
President, Board of Directors