

**CITY OF MUSCATINE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
7:00 p.m. – October 28, 2021**

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday October 28, 2021, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Hopkins, Froelich, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich, Malcolm and Brackett.

Mayor Broderson stated this meeting was being held for City Councilmembers to hear the public input and opinion regarding Title 6, Chapter 9 of the City Code regarding the keeping of Pit Bull dogs. Mayor Broderson stated each individual will be given a maximum of three minutes to speak regarding this topic.

The following residents were present to show their opinions and suggestions regarding new animal regulations for the City of Muscatine.

Roger Roth, Clark House, stated in his opinion in favor of repealing the current ban on keeping of Pit Bull dogs and stated it is a violation of constitutional rights.

Brenda Hood, 1224 Park Ave. stated that Pit Bull Dogs behave according to how they are raised just like children and that the ban should be lifted.

Randy Duncan, 205 Riverside Drive, stated he would like to see the ban remain in place.

Steve Zellmer, 3117 Hwy 22 stated he is in favor of repealing the ban.

Torie Depauw, 520 Maple Ave, stated she is in favor of repealing the ban.

Fey Sanchez, 404 Broadway, stated the focus should be on each dog and the individual behavior not the breed of the dog. Stated she is in favor of repealing the ban.

Freedom Malik-Roberts, 1836 Hershey, stated the City Council needs to trust the citizens to do the right thing and to follow the rules put in place by City Council. Ms. Malik stated that there are other breeds of dogs that have bitten and are not being banned. Stated that the ban should be lifted.

Linda Kelty, 302 Parkington Drive, gave statistics regarding animal bites by type of animal and breed. Ms. Kelty stated behaviors should be banned not breeds and stated the breed ban should be removed.

Marci Edwards, 2915 Mittman Road, compared breed bans to racism and stated the ban should be lifted.

Robin Young, 2829 Highland Ct, stated that many dogs are misidentified because they have a big chunky head. She states the ban is unfairly punishing responsible dog owners and the ban should be lifted.

Maria Mendoza, 610 Iowa Ave, stated the Pit Bull is one of the top 10 family dogs in the state of Iowa and that only three towns in Muscatine County currently ban them. Ms. Mendoza stated the ban should be lifted.

Juan Lopez, 400 Peachtree Lane, stated he is against the pit bull ban and it should be removed.

Vanessa Lopez, 400 Peachtree Lane, stated the ban should be lifted and that there needs to be better enforcement regarding licensing, vaccinations and leash laws.

Amanda Lopez, 400 Peachtree Lane, stated the ban should be removed and more focus should be placed on education regarding dog ownership and behavior around dogs. She stated there should be a charge if people want a breeding permit.

Becky Butler, 875 Newell, voiced her opinion against the breed specific ban and stated dogs should be judged by temperament testing. Ms. Butler stated pit bulls passed temperament testing above many other popular dog breeds.

Sarah Evans, 2015 Solomon, stated her dog, an American Bulldog has been mistaken as a pit bull on multiple occasions and stated breed specific bans do not work because of misidentification of dogs.

Cathy Deters, 2455 Longhurst Crt, stated she is against the ban of breed specific dogs and by having these laws it cause people to move out of town.

Andrew Wilford, 1025 Orchard was present to share that she feels the ban should remain in place.

Lisa Schnedler, 1518 1st Avenue, states that animal breeds should be banned by behavior not breed.

Karen Hartman, 1555 West Acre Drive, was present with several of her students to show their support in favor of replacing the pit bull ban with a dangerous dog ban. The following students spoke to council in favor of repealing the ban. Jack Evans, Garrick Fillmore, Briar Evans, Isabell Koehler, Griffin Koehler, and Peyton Story.

Casey Koehler, 1512 Bidwell Rd. stated the fear of pit bulls has been narrated by the media and states that negative draws attention to the public. Spoke in favor of repealing the ban.

Paul Connor and Shantel Durant, 1204 Cedar, state the ban should be lifted so they can bring their pit bulls back to their home as they are currently living with someone outside of the City.

Megan Koehler, 1512 Bidwell, stated in order to create a safer community more effective regulations should be put into place for all breeds of dogs. Stated that unaltered dogs are three times more likely to attack than altered dogs. Ms. Koehler also stated dogs that are tethered are more aggressive than other dogs because a dog on a leash is a dog on guard.

Brandi Lundstrum, 1210 4th Street, was present virtually to state she feels the ban should be kept in place for the protection of her family and the community.

Preston Moore, PO Box 1203 Cedar Rapids, IA State Director of Humane Society was present virtually to share his thoughts on breed neutral dangerous dog regulations. Mr. Moore stated he has worked with many cities to implement such regulations and for no charge would be willing to work with the City of Muscatine on this process.

There was discussion between the City Administrator and City Council on a date for a draft ordinance to be brought back for Councils consideration. City Administrator Webb stated it would take some time and stated she would try to bring something back at the December In-Depth meeting. All Councilmembers were in agreement with this time.

Councilmember Brackett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm.



Attest:

Diana L. Broderson

Diana L. Broderson (Nov 8, 2021 13:02 CST)

Mayor Diana Broderson

Carol Webb

Carol Webb (Nov 8, 2021 13:03 CST)

Carol Webb, City Administrator