

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF CROSSLAKE, MINNESOTA
SPECIAL SESSION - May 2, 1988
1:00 p.m. at City Hall

The City Council of Crosslake, Minnesota met with the members of the Public Safety Commission on Monday, May 2, 1988 in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The following were present: Mayor Oliver Courts, Councilmembers Elizabeth Andolshek, Lyle Arends, Diana Gallaway and Oliver Yates and Public Safety Commission Members, Jim Gallaway, Chairman, Judy Cotten, Roger Bershem, Robert Wiebke and Robert Baker. Also present was City Attorney James Gammello.

Mayor Courts called this special meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. He stated the purpose of this meeting was to try to make some decisions on a dog ordinance for Crosslake and even though it was not a public hearing it would be open to the public for their input.

Mayor Courts stated that the Council would like to have the Public Safety Commission take all the information gained, study it and bring their recommendation back to the Council.

Mayor Courts read a letter from City Attorney James Gammello dated March 31, 1988. In the letter Mr. Gammello covered such topics as rabies control, public nuisance, dog house/shelters, and dogs at large. Mr. Gammello stated that the City could impose any combination of the above topics in their ordinance.

A list of animal complaints prepared by Police Chief John Backdahl was read by Mayor Courts. It listed a total of 83 complaints for 1986 and 1987 combined and 15 for this year so far. The fifteen for this year include one barking dog, no dog bites and no reports of being harrassed by dogs.

Mr. Bill Reed was present to say that as Chairman of the Public Safety Commission two years ago, the commission recommended to the Council that some type of dog ordinance was needed.

Various citizens said they did not feel that the City needed a dog catcher but some type of ordinance was needed for nuisance dogs. John Backdahl said he felt the state law pretty well covered the nuisance dogs. Chief Backdahl said under state law a person can file a complaint and press charges for nuisance dogs. The Police Department would be happy to help anyone file the necessary paperwork.

An ordinance calling for rabies vaccination and having the owner responsible for dog control was also discussed. Several citizens present said that rabies vaccination is required by State Law. The dog owner can be located with a rabies tag through the veterinarian who vaccinated the animal.

Discussion ensued regarding a lease law, licensing law and hiring a dog catcher. It was the consensus of those present that none of the above were really wanted in Crosslake. A dog catcher would be costly and the year round dogs were not the problem as much as the week-end or vacation dogs. Many dogs now are not leashed but are not problemsome to their neighbors.

Councilmember Gallaway said she did not feel that a dog catcher would be the answer because according to the papers Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Pine River are all having problems along those lines. Many present commented that they did not feel that an ordinance should be such that the police department were responsible for picking up dogs either. Many comments were made that the people do not want to press charges but want the police department to handle their problems for them.

Several other comments which were made include:

- People come up here for freedom and want freedom for their animals also.
- Most of the problems are with the owners, not the dogs.
- Policemen have more important things to do than catch dogs.

Chief Backdahl asked if it would be possible to adopt a portion of the State Statute No. 347 which deals with dogs. Mr. Gammello said the City could adopt any part of it or all of it and attach a penalty making it a criminal case rather than a civil case.

Mayor Courts said as long as everyone who wished to be heard, had been heard he would like to see the Public Safety Commission, Chief Backdahl and Mr. Gammello get together and come up with a workable ordinance that would cover nuisance dogs. MOTION NO. 5S-01-88 WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ARENDS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDOLSHEK TO HAVE JIM GAMMELLO, CITY ATTORNEY MEET WITH POLICE CHIEF BACKDAHL AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION ON AN ORDINANCE EVERYONE CAN LIVE WITH AND BRING IT BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Courts informed the citizens present that there will be a public hearing before the ordinance will be adopted.

MOTION NO. 5S-02-88 WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER GALLAWAY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARENDS TO ADJOURN THIS SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION AT 2:38 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recorded and transcribed by:



Arlene A. Buchite, City Clerk/Treasurer