

**PROPOSED MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES ANIMAL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
June 7, 2022**

Board Members Present: John D. Caron, City Council Liaison
Jason Allen, Chief of Police
Abrial J. Barrett, City Clerk

Also Present: Jeff Randazzo, Chief Animal Control Deputy
Michael & Kara Houghton, Petitioner

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Caron. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Allen, seconded by Barrett to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022 meeting as presented.

Ayes: All - 3

3. MICHAEL & KARA HOUTON - REQUESTING 4TH DOG

Background: Michael & Kara Houghton are requesting a variance on Ordinance 6.5 Exception to Limitation on Number of Dogs or Cats at 22409 Raymond Court.

They have four dogs, Bellatrix, a three year old Pomeranian; Nels, a three year old Golden Retriever mix; Rocket, a six month old German Shepard and Atlas, a five month old Siberian Husky.

Letters of support were submitted by neighbors Dorothy Leo of 22405 Raymond Ct., John Marchenia of 22413 Raymond Ct. and Brooke Nosek & Gregory Redd of 22408 Raymond Ct.

The neighbor directly behind them on Raymond Street spoke in support of granting the variance for four dogs. She said they rarely hear or see the dogs.

Kara Houghton stated they just moved to St. Clair Shores from Sterling Heights where they were allowed to have four dogs. When they went to register them, they were told they can only have three dogs. They weren't aware of the ordinance when they purchased the home.

Chief Randazzo said he was glad to see the dogs are all vaccinated. He confirmed the ages of the dogs and that the two males are still intact and asked about neutering.

The petitioner said both intact dogs have appointments to be neutered. She said that the Golden Retriever was a foster with an amputated leg that they have adopted.

Ms. Barrett mentioned how all the neighbors commented that they don't hear the dogs and asked how often they are outside and if exercise is being kept up on.

They petitioner stated they take walks a lot, that the dogs are outside for play and that because she works from home they are in and out all day. She said the only one that is a barker is the Golden Retriever mix but because of the amputation it doesn't get around as well as the other dogs.

Chief Allen said they have had no complaints at the address.

Mr. Caron said that with all the positive statements from neighbors, that they had the dogs prior to moving here and that they were proactive in taking steps to get the dogs licensed and to apply for a variance, he doesn't see an issue with granting one. He let the petitioner know that if something happened to one of the dogs, they would have to go through the variance request process again to have a fourth dog.

Moved by Barrett, supported by Allen to grant the petitioner a variance to Animal Ordinance Chapter 6.5 Exception to Limitation on Number of Dogs or Cats allowing 4 dogs at 22409 Raymond Court.

Ayes: All - 3

4. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

Motion by Barrett, supported by Allen to adjourn at 10:11 a.m.

Ayes: All – 3

Prepared by: Kendra Kroll
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by: Abrial J. Barrett
City Clerk