

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES ANIMAL ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
June 20, 2023**

Board Members Present: John D. Caron, City Council Liaison
Abrial J. Barrett, City Clerk

Board Member Absent and Excused: Jason Allen, Chief of Police

Also Present: Eric Shepherd, City Attorney
Kyle Chauncey, Animal Control Officer
Lisa O'Connor, Petitioner
Patricia Zduniak, Petitioner's Mother & Home Owner

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Moved by Barrett, supported by Caron to excuse Chief Jason Allen.

Ayes: All - 2

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Barrett, seconded by Caron to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2022 meeting as presented.

Ayes: All - 2

3. LISA O'CONNOR - REQUESTING FIVE DOGS AT 21605 EVERGREEN STREET

Background Brief: Lisa O'Connor is requesting a variance on Ordinance 6.5 Exception to Limitation on Number of Dogs or Cats.

Previous Action: The letter of request for variance states that Lisa O'Connor moved here from Florida and has 5 dogs. She moved into her mother's home temporarily. All 5 dogs are fully up to date on shots and have been spayed or neutered. There are 2 out of the 5 dogs that do not have their license yet.

Economic Impact: N/A

Ms. O'Connor has five dogs CoCo, a fourteen-year-old shih tzu/poodle mix, Guinness, a twelve-year-old maltese/lab mix, Tink, an eight-year-old shih tzu, Finnigan, a ten-year old maltese/shih tzu mix, and Willow, a one-year-old golden retriever.

Mr. Caron summarized the petitioners request letter. He said it appeared that there was one barking incident that alerted a neighbor to call animal control.

Ms. O'Connor said yes, after the incident she sent the surrounding neighbors a letter to apologize. She said her mother has lived there for a long time and they love their neighborhood. She indicated that this was a rare circumstance that all of the dogs were outside at one time without someone with them.

Mr. Caron asked if there are any issues with waste cleanup in the yard.

Ms. O'Connor said no, they keep up on all of the waste. She said they do not want to deal with the barking and waste and they do not want their neighbors to either.

Mr. Caron noted that Police Chief Allen was able to look at the history at the property and there were no prior issues.

Mr. Chauncey added that he did not see any priors either just the recent barking incident.

Ms. Barrett asked if all five dogs were hers and if her mom had any dogs.

Ms. O'Connor clarified that there are six dogs total in the home. Her mom has a puppy from one her dogs, her name is Angel and she is five years old. She offered to send in the documents for the sixth dog. She noted that in her letter to the neighbors she offered for them to come over and meet the dogs.

Item #3 Continued

Ms. Barrett confirmed the ages of the dogs.

Ms. O'Connor said some of her dogs are older and she thought her husband was going keep some of the dogs. She was not aware of the ordinance until the deputy from Macomb County came to her home. She said that when her house sells in Florida and she is employed, she hopes to stay in St. Clair Shores. She noted that she will not have more than 3 dogs after any of her dogs pass away.

Ms. Barrett confirmed that we will need to change the motion to six dogs.

Mr. Caron asked Mr. Chauncey if they can make a note for this petitioner that if she moves within the City the variance for her five dogs will still be ok.

Mr. Chauncey said yes, as long as it is covered in the letter.

Mr. Caron reiterated that the five dogs that belong to Ms. O'Connor will stay in place if she moves within the city until the dogs pass away.

Moved by Barrett, seconded by Caron to grant the petitioner a variance to Animal Ordinance Chapter 6.5 Exception to Limitation on Number of Dogs or Cats allowing the petitioner 6 dogs at 21605 Evergreen Street. The 5 dogs belonging to Lisa O'Connor will be allowed at a different address if she chooses to move within the shores.

Ayes: All – 2

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

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

Ayes: All – 2

Prepared by: Katie Bala
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by: Abrial J. Barrett
City Clerk