

Safety Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
June 6, 2016

The Safety Committee met in Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 following the Street Committee with these members present:

Mark Fraizer, Chair	Curtis Johnson
Jeremy Blake	Carol Floyd
Jeff Rath	

We wish to report:

1. **Ordinance No. 16-16** amending Chapter 618 of the codified ordinances of the City of Newark was considered.

Mr. Fraizer- this is an update to the ordinance adding conditions for seriously injuring or killing another dog and restricted animal registration.

Mr. Rath- there are two sections to this, I brought up one and Mr. Fraizer brought up the Other. The first one is changing the classification of a dog that seriously injures or kills a Dog. Originally if a dog killed another dog it would be deemed dangerous. In this Situation we are deeming a dog dangerous if it injures another dog but if it kills another dog it is deemed vicious. That gives us the ability to put more restrictions on a dog that has killed another animal, who is obviously vicious. The other part of this that I brought forward was the permit requirements for owners of a restricted animal. It basically says when you have an animal that needs to be permitted for being a vicious dog that it needs to be done annually by calendar year. It needs to be done by the 31st day of January. What that does is eliminate the administrative nightmare for our Animal Control Officer who has to chase down vicious animal registrations on a monthly basis because they weren't having to register their animal for a 12 month period of time from the time that they registered it. Every month you have a new batch of people who registered a dog previously and it perpetuates forever. Now he can deal with registrations one month only then the rest of the 11 months dealing with actual animal problems which is serving the community I believe in a much better way.

Mr. Johnson- I think that it strengthens our law and I will vote yes.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath

Mr. Cost- the last time that we all had these discussions and we voted to put the legislation through the three points that I said I still had concerns with were the classifications, the penalties and the enforcement. I think that what you are doing here helps clarify the classifications and the penalties but I am going to reiterate again I still have major concerns about the ability to enforce what we are doing here because we

have one Dog Warden and I think the number is 14 less Police Officers than what we are supposed to have. I am very concerned that we are going to have Police Officers out chasing dogs when it goes above and beyond Toby or whomever the Animal Control Officer is because I am assuming that it then goes to the Police Officers to deal with some of this as well. I have concerns about the enforcement. I would like to see us have another Animal Control Officer help out.

Mr. Rath- I agree with Mr. Cost I think another Animal Control Officer would be a wonderful addition as well as the additional 14 Police Officers on the force that we budgeted for or rather allocated for as far as positions and as soon as somebody can come up with a way to pay for any part of that I would be in full support that. Right now the only way that I know how to pay for that is to eliminate services elsewhere. We have a lot of laws being broken and the enforcement is up to the Police Department and the Safety Director and I think that we do a great job with what we do have. Shortage of manpower should be a reason that we don't have laws.

Mr. Johnson- I would rather have laws so at least there is some way to go.

Mr. Blake- can I direct a question to Director Spurgeon? Section two deals with the administration of the pet requirements for the restricted animal ownership, and I was just curious if you could shed some light on whether the Animal Control Officer is currently going throughout the whole year dealing with this. I wanted to hear from your perspective if this would help your department out or not.

Safety Director Spurgeon- while I can't speak to the specifics of how we do things now I do believe generally speaking you are correct and I do believe the revision would enhance the efforts.

Motion passed 5-0.

Mark Fraizer, Chair