

APPROVED MINUTES
Special Session Earlham City Council
January 10, 2024

The Earlham City Council met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m., at Earlham City Hall. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Fredericksen, Mudge, Miller, Nelsen, Visser. Absent: Nelson. Also present: Mayor Lillie, Chief Stringham

1. Hearing to determine possible vicious dog.

Dog in question is a blue healer owned by Angie Mason. Mayor explained reason for meeting, and explained what will happen at meeting and the consequences of council findings. Mayor read applicable portion of ordinance, Chapter 57.04, and the definition of a vicious animal. Chief Stringham went over police report. Incident occurred Dec 31, 2023. Jessica Cutting, person who was bit, gave a statement on what happened. Husband Scott Cutting thought dog was possibly being protective of daughter. They hold no ill will towards dog or owners. They feel dog is not vicious. Jessica gave statement defending the dog. Angie Mason gave statement regarding dog's behavior. She has daycare, but says dog is kept downstairs when children are there. She stated Jessica did nothing to provoke him. Various people spoke in the dog's defense and felt he was trying to be protective. Mayor opened it up to council for questions. Miller asked what is their plan going forward, if council finds the dog to be non-vicious. Mason stated she plans to keep the dog away from new people, either by location or kennel. Fredericksen says this breed is a herding dog, and they will nip once in a while. If this happens again there will not be a hearing. It will just be taken care of. Mayor added the ordinance is pretty clear. Two strike policy. If council decides it is not vicious, this is still strike one. Mudge said she is an owner of a 100 lb lab who likes jump up and give hugs who understands this can happen. Was impressed by the number of people there to support the dog. Miller stated dogs need to be trained.

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Mudge, to deem dog not vicious. Mayor re-iterated this is strike one, and the dog has had the taste of blood. Studies show that can change an animal, so urged them to be cautious.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Motion by Visser, second by Miller, to adjourn.

Being there is no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk