

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Regular Meeting

March 3, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, was held in the Common Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 5:30 P.M. All members were present, and Mayor DeBaun presided.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 25, 2014, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Mr. Finkel moved to approve the claims as presented, and Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Changing things around a little bit, Mayor DeBaun asked if there was any new business. There was no new business.

Under old business, Mayor DeBaun noted there were several people in the audience to discuss the matter with the dog, Cedar, who is currently owned by Amber Reid. Mayor DeBaun gave a recap of why everyone was here today, concerning the Board's order on January 28 to have Cedar euthanized, because it was considered to be vicious and couldn't be controlled by its owner from escaping. Amber filed an appeal with Judge Riggins of Superior Court 2, who said the Board's order was proper, but he gave her a 30 day stay to allow further appeal opportunities. After the hearing, Mayor DeBaun said he was contacted by Megan Jeanette and a group of interested individuals who wanted to come discuss other options for the dog. After meeting with the group, Mayor DeBaun indicated to them that if they had another proposal, they should bring it before the Board, which is what they have done, and what they will discuss today. Megan Jeanette spoke first as an advocate for Cedar, saying Bright Hope Dog Training and Rescue came to the Animal Shelter to do a temperament testing of the dog. They concluded that Cedar was not a vicious or aggressive dog, and passed everything in the test. She said Bright Hope was willing to take Cedar to their facility, and they have very good credentials to train dogs. She said Bright Hope would do additional training for Cedar before she's available for adoption. Megan said she has volunteered at the Animal Shelter for the past year, and she goes there almost daily. She said she also felt she knew whether or not dogs should be euthanized, and felt Cedar should not be euthanized, because she felt the dog wasn't vicious, and would be a good pet for somebody. Kelli Stropes came to the microphone to speak for Bright Hope Dog Training and Rescue, and said they work with families to keep their animals in their homes, and they also go to Animal Shelters to train dogs to behave better and place them in new homes. In the testing of Cedar, Kelli said the only thing that seemed to be difficult was that she was very forward when she meets other dogs, but that's something that is not difficult to change. Mr. Finkel said there were some things that bothered him about releasing the dog. He first asked if the dog is micro-chipped, and if not, it needed to be done. In the report, he noted that Cedar was in heat, and he asked if there were plans to spay the dog. If Cedar is taken to Bright Hope, Kelli said Cedar would be vaccinated, spayed, and micro-chipped. If the dog were to be released, Mr. Finkel said it would be important to let the new owner know that the dog was ordered to be destroyed for aggression. The last thing Mr. Finkel didn't want to happen was to have the dog be given to someone in Shelby County, or any contiguous County. Mr. Williams, who was on vacation when this hearing was held in January, said he's read up on this and agreed with Mr. Finkel that the dog should not be released to someone in Shelby County. Because so many people showed up to support Cedar being released, Mr. Williams said he would be willing to release the dog to Bright Hope to be re-trained and adopted out, but the dog must not come back to Shelby County. If Bright Hope could certify that that won't happen, Mr. Williams would be happy to release the dog. Kelli said she would let the owner of Cedar be made aware that the dog cannot be brought into Shelby County for a ball game, or any situation. Animal Control Officer Keith Barrett was asked to come forward, and was asked by Mayor DeBaun to describe Cedar since he's been there every day seeing her demeanor. He said she's acclimated very well and they haven't had any issues with her. He also said he felt Cedar could be assimilated into a family and not be a threat to the public. Mayor DeBaun asked Amber to come forward. He said he received a letter today giving consent to relinquish Cedar to Bright Hope to allow them to rehabilitate the dog and re-integrate the dog with a different family. Amber confirmed that she signed that letter, and was willing to forfeit her rights as the owner. Mayor DeBaun talked about the reasons why euthanizing the dog was ordered originally, but since then, options have changed, and he's

willing to take that step to release her to Bright Hope. Mr. Finkel moved to release Cedar to Bright Hope with the following conditions: that the dog was released with the acknowledgement that the dog was ordered destroyed because of its aggression; that the dog will be micro-chipped, spayed, and placed in a home that's not contiguous to Shelby County; and that any and all costs would be paid today concerning the dog. Mr. Williams seconded. Under discussion, Mr. Barrett asked when the dog could be released. Mayor DeBaun said the time frame would be based on his ability to transfer the dog because the quarantine time has expired. He believed there would need to be entered into an order because Judge Riggins has heard the case as well, so a formal order would be needed. He asked that Bright Hope give the City a day or two to generate the proper paperwork. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote to allow the release of Cedar.

There being no further business, Mr. Williams moved to adjourn.

Thomas D. DeBaun
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank M. Zerr
Clerk-Treasurer