

Enrolled Memorandum of the Meeting

**Study Session/Meeting (Convened Electronically/Hybrid)
Twenty-Ninth Town Council of Highland
Monday, September 18, 2023**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday, September 18, 2023**, at 6:30 O'clock P.M., in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

*This meeting was convened as both an in person and an electronic meeting. Some persons were participating remotely on a Zoom platform that allowed for real time interaction between and among all of the Town Council and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. People were able to participate in person and remotely, allowing for all councilors to be simultaneously seen and heard. When the agenda item provided for public comment, this was supported as well. Councilor Zemen, Councilor Toya Smith, Councilor Mark Schocke, Councilor Tom Black, Councilor Philip Scheeringa all participated in person.

The meeting was streamed live on the Town of Highland, Indiana Facebook page and participation was supported by the Zoom on-line communication platform.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Toya Smith, Mark Schocke, Tom Black, Philip Scheeringa, were present in person as indicated. The Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was present to memorialize the proceedings. *A quorum was attained.*

Officials Present: Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta, IT Director Ed Dabrowski were in person.

General Substance of Matters Discussed.

- x. **Discussion:** Appointments.
- **Statutory Boards and Commissions**
 - Executive Appointments (May be made in meeting or at another time)*

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

1. **Economic Development Commission.** (1) Appointment to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. Term ends just before February 1st. (*Currently vacant*)
 - a. Nomination by the Town Council. (*The council would pass a motion to nominate.*)
 - b. Appointment by executive. (*If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.*)

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

2. **Community Events Commission** *Multi-Year position: (1) appointment to be made by the Town Council President. Term: 4 years.*
Currently serving: *Jacqui Herrera, Sandy McKnight*
3. • **Tree Board:** (1) appointments, to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. (*Position currently held by Natalie Stromberg.*)
 - a. Nomination by the Town Council. (*The council would pass a motion to nominate.*)
 - b. Appointment by executive. (*If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.*)
4. **Municipal Plan Commission** (1) (vacancy) appointment to be made by Town Council President. (*Note: Unexpired term of Hunter Balczo, Esq., (D), term ending 1st Monday January 2025) No more than two of any party. Current composition is 2 Republicans, 1 Democrat.*)
5. **Redevelopment Commission:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. (*Note: vacancy created by the resignation of Bill Leep – term expires 1st Monday in 2024*)

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2023. *There are currently 11 of the 17 in place and serving. Currently serving are Teri Yookovich, Rhonda Bloch, Alex Robertson, Renee Reinhart, Diane Barr- Roumbus, James Roumbus, Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons and Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray and Kathy Smailis..*
2. **Community Events Commission** *Multi-year positions: (4) appointment to be made by the Town Council. Term: 4 years. (Note: Currently vacant)*

Single year positions: (1) appointment to be made by the Town Council. Term: 1 year. (Note: Currently serving, Jack Rowe, Carol Parker, Linda Carter, Rachael Carter, Maria Armagast, Michelle Coon and Erica Fizer Katepas)
 1. **FOP Presentation:** *Discussion of requests for consideration of the Town Council. Frank Peckler, President of the FOP,*

President Peckler began by saying that he is making this presentation on behalf of the FOP members. My Lodge Members have asked me to make this presentation to help increase wages and benefit to retain current officers and attract new officers. We don't want to continually loose officers to other agencies.

He said he was fortunate enough to go to both the FOP State Conference and National FOP Conference. He said he met with a lot of members around the State, with a lot of them from this area, as well as, many from other states. Here in Indiana, we're not too shabby but there's a lot of states that have a lot more than what we do. He said we know that money is tight and we don't like having to come here every year and ask for more and more and come across as greedy. Our members are not greedy but we believe that we should be treated fairly and be compensated accordingly. I did present to Mr. Herak a few options that my Lodge came up with. A questionnaire was sent out to our members and voted upon by them. The option getting the most votes was for the Town to pick up the officer's Perf. He said about 30 years, the FOP was offered to have their contribution to be picked up by the Town, in lieu of raises, like the Town was offering to the civilian employees. The FOP declined that offer in favor of a raise which would benefit our retirees. Not to speak ill of any Town employee but the FOP is pretty much the only entity that meets with the Council regarding wages and benefits. We come here, almost every year, to present our case. The Town Councils have always been very willing to work with us for the most part. We actually ask for less because we feel that every employee deserves a raise. The rest of the Town Employees have been having their Perf paid for by the Town for these thirty (30) years, as well as, benefitting from raises every year one is offered. Rather than asking for a large raise, the FOP membership would like the Town to considering paying the members Perf going forth from this year. The membership is open to the idea of the Town picking up a portion of their Perf and the remaining in the form of a raise. We are trying to be respectful. Maybe a 3% and 3% of our Perf being paid. This would make a lot of our officers happy. A lot of the other agencies in the surrounding areas, including state, are having their portion of Perf being pickup by their employer. Our Perf is currently 6% and we contribute annually about \$4,600. That is annually. The idea of having a combination raise and Perf payment is because we do have some officers and some widows that are on the 1925 plan. They get a percentage based on the certified salary of a Master Patrolman. Those officers under the 1977 plan (those officers hired on or after 1977), have their pension regulated by the state based on years of service after twenty (20) years and do get a cost of living increase which is capped, I believe at 3%. The members in the 1925 plan don't get that.

Councilor Scheeringa said he is on the same 1977 plan, as he is a fireman in Hammond. The cost of living is only given if granted by the State. To me, I would want to increase my pension base, so I would rather have a raise so increases the pension base for future retirees. I concede that you're getting 3% of not having to pay towards your pension but wouldn't you rather see a 5% raise that gets compounded over the years or would you rather see we give you the cash upfront right now? You're not going to see that after all on your pension.

President Peckler said that most of his members would take the additional cash and invest in a Roth IRA or just invest the money and could possibly make more money on the back end. The members are already calculating the money taken out of their salaries, so by having their Perf picked up the Town, gives them additional they can invest. He said, I don't know if this is feasible but might the Town Council make a ruling that they could do a multi-year deal.

Councilor Schocke said that he didn't want to bind future Councils to a deal he made. He also added, that it isn't really a good idea in an election year. So ideally, what you guys are asking for is a three (3) percent increase in pay and the Town to pick up three (3) percent of your contribution to Perf. The Town would be paying roughly \$2,315 per officer, per year, if the Town picked up 3% of the officer's Perf.

Councilor Scheeringa asked President Peckler if he knew what the Master Patrolman's salary was? Off the top of his head, President Peckler thought around \$74,000.

Councilor Scheeringa continued as he wants to make sure the officers and the widows in the 1925 receive an increase, which a pay raise will do.

President Peckler said a 3% raise will help those officers in the 1925 plan and the widows a little bump of about \$750 per year but emphasized that's just us breaking the ice in the future.

Councilor Black said the Council will make no decision tonight.

The Clerk-Treasurer said he built 5% into the budget for raises, maybe closer to 4% if raises are considered for part-time and seasonal. We can easily do a 3% raise for the policers with the Town picking up 2% of their Perf. However, if the Council decides on a picking up 3% of the officers Perf, we'll make it work. He reminded the Council that the preliminary budget adoption hearing is this Monday, September 25th. The budget is funded. I did advertise high so the Council can make adjustments. Again, whatever the Council wants to do, we'll make it work.

2.. Discussion: *The Redevelopment Department Commission modified/revised Commercial Grant Guidelines.*

Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra began by saying since the beginning of the year, the Redevelopment Commission and Attorney Reed have looked at the old commercial property program as it currently exists. The Commission went back and forth for the past couple of months and what you have before you is the final product. Some things were added like the owners of the property must have their property taxes up to date. Attorney Reed did review as did the Commission. The Commission did adopt the guideline in August. Before we put it on the books, we wanted the Council to take a look and provide their input. I don't know if you had a chance to read through it. I did get some comments via emails from some of the Council members on a previous draft. Since the inception of the program, those properties that have been awarded grants have paid \$183,000 in property taxes.

Commissioner Georgeff said the revisions to the programs was at the request of the Council and some of the Council's suggestions were incorporated. We are still open to reviewing suggestions from the Council.

Councilor Schocke asked the Redevelopment Director regarding the \$183,000 paid thus far in property taxes. Is that the portion Highland received or is that the total tax paid to Lake County? Also, those that received a grant thus far, are they current on their property taxes? Another question from our previous discussions, I am not a big fan of including hot water heaters or air conditioning or HVAC systems yet those all seem to be left in.

Commissioner Georgeff said the owner cannot be simply replacing the water heater or furnace or HVAC because they want to fix or maintain but to actually improve. The Commission reviews each applicant before awarding the grant.

Councilor Black said there is a percentage breakdown where the percentage of the outside improvements had to be greater than the inside.

Councilor Schocke said she was looking for that percentage but couldn't find it. He added, where I appreciate where you are coming from with improved efficiencies but when I read this I don't see where the language says high efficiency but the language reads, installation of the appliances. There's no real measure. The wording is simply installation but nothing about energy efficient. He thought energy efficient lighting which makes sense but what is that standard? I'm sure that there are certain standards for certain products. He thought it made sense to put some type of standard in.

Redevelopment Director Becerra said an owner cannot be simply putting in new appliances but it has to be in conjunction with exterior work and the exterior work has to be a greater percentage than the interior.

Councilor Schocke said that is great but he couldn't find that in the documents he has.

Attorney Reed said there is a list of things that cannot be paid for with Redevelopment funds.

Councilor Schocke said if you go to page two (2) under interiors and go to item eleven (11), water heaters are specifically mentioned which suggests you can replace your water heater for maintenance purposes.

The Redevelopment Director said if you took an existing building and the owner came into apply to do the facade program and they said, well need to replace our hot water heater, she said that is not going to be allowed in the grant. It has to be in conjunction with a project that encompasses the whole building. She gave the example of Fuzzy-Line where they had to rip out all of their air conditioning. They replaced everything in there. It's not just maintenance. She said energy efficiency is not a requirement but rather encouraging people to become energy efficient. She said they would probably coordinate with Nipsco and pass out flyers on what programs Nipsco has to offer. Maybe, making energy efficiency a requirement should be included in the requirements. We can add it somewhere.

Councilor Schocke said were giving the owner money. We're in sensitizing them to make their building and business nicer. I think we have the opportunity to request certain things from the applicant that they are using energy efficient appliances and materials.

Councilor Scheeringa, whose water heater when out that morning said we have to be careful to make sure the appliances are energy efficient because all or most appliances have a sticker on them that says energy efficient. We have to make sure the owner is simply not going to Menards and picking up a water heater that simply has a sticker that says energy efficient when it is not. He said he agreed with Councilor Schocke that we need some definition or measurement as to what is truly energy efficient because energy efficient to one person may not be energy efficient to the next. There has to be some kind of standards.

The Redevelopment Director said she would take the comments back to the Commission.

Attorney Reed said he thought they did add percentages under Item 2 of the Program Guidelines. This might deter an owner coming in and saying, my water heater looks like its on its last legs, so I think I'll apply for a grant to replace it. He told Maria that he would make the change and have them for the next Redevelopment meeting.

Councilor Black said the improvement grant has to be a higher percentage on the exterior, maybe 60-40 or whatever versus the interior.

Councilor Schocke asked about the \$40,000 cap?

The Redevelopment Director said the maximum a business can get is \$40,000. Even if they did a \$250,000 ($\times 30\% = \$75,000$). the maximum they can receive is capped at \$40,000.

Councilor Schocke then asked about if a business got \$30,000 in improvements, not reaching the maximum, can they come back within the ten(10) years because as I am reading it here, they only have one shot within a ten (10)year period. He wanted to sure the language was clear.

Attorney Reed said he would clarify the language because it was the intent that a business could receive a maximum of \$40,000 in a ten (10) year period. I believe that we have stated that within a ten (10) year period, the maximum pay-out can be is only get \$40,000.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked for clarification regarding paragraph two (2) and should the ownership change within that ten (10) year period and the new owners decide to change the character, can the new owners apply for another \$40,000 grant considering it is within that ten (10)year window?

Commissioner Georgeff said that the new owners could apply for another \$40,000 grant if they are changing the character of the business.

The Clerk-Treasurer then asked, if the business is sold after three (3) years after receiving the grant and the new owners decide to change the character and apply for another \$40,000 grant, does the original owners have to pay any of the grant back, as per item six (6) in the guidelines. He then asked if the owner does not sell but decides to change the character three (3) years after receiving a grant, can they apply for another grant within the ten (10) year window.

Attorney Reed reminded the Council that the grants are all discretionary, so if the above scenario happens, the Redevelopment Commission isn't obligated to give the applicant another grant. This is to prevent a business from doing a shell game. Each grant is on a case by case basis.

Councilor Schocke said he could get really creative and could form five (5) different LLC's and change hands every year and reapply for a new grant every year.

Attorney Reed said at that point, the Redevelopment Commissioner would simply tell the applicant that they're not going to participate in this silliness.

Councilor Zemen asked if he understood it correctly. He said we decide to give a business a \$40,000 grant for an exterior façade improvement. Then two (2) years later, they sell the business and the new owner decides they don't like the current façade and decides to change it, would the building qualify for another \$40,000 grant.

Commissioner Georgeff said yes, as long as, they are changing the character of the business. But again, the grant is at the discretion of the Redevelopment Commission. The Commission will ask if this is really good for the Town or is the owner simply trying to get money. And remember, the improvements have to be a 60/40 or 70/30 split between exterior and interior improvements. I don't think most people would do it unless they absolutely needed it to facilitate their business.

Councilor Schocke said he is leaning towards having the grant apply to the address or location of the property. So, if a property gets a \$40,000 grant and the owner sells the business after three (3) years, the new owner has to realize that they cannot apply for another grant on that property for seven (7) years.

Councilor Zemen said it seems like a shame that a grant is given for a façade improvement for \$40,000 and then 2 (two) or three (3) years later, the new owners and rip it all out and apply for a new grant. It seems like such a throw away of money. There are other businesses who could use the money and were giving it to the same business.

Councilor Schocke said he read that in order for a business to qualify for a grant, they must be in a redevelopment area or more specifically in an overlay district. Would it make sense to actually specify which classes of property qualify? He cited an example of

someone opening a business in their home because they need a new kitchen and then apply for a grant to pay for the kitchen. Its probably easy to get with Ken Mika and figure out which designations qualify and then prepare a list of property classifications that would qualify.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked about approved interior work and the item listed as ADA standards. Does that mean if a business receives a grant, they will have to upgrade their business to ADA standards?

The Redevelopment Director advised him no. What that meant was that a grant could be used to make ADA changes to their building but not a mandate.

Councilor Scheeringa said it would be like building a handicap accessible ramp or making the door wide enough for a wheel chair and other things.

The Clerk-Treasurer then asked regarding a cash donation of \$100 to a non-profit, is that something like extortion. Is it not like, if you want a grant, your going to have to make a donation to Main Street Bureau.

Councilor Schocke said its interesting how it is worded. Basically, a business applying for a grant could get advertisement out of the deal.

Councilor Black said he thought that in the past, contributions to main street went to pay for things like the downtown murals.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Commercial Property Improvement Grant
Program Guidelines 2023**

The Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program encourages property/business owners to renovate, restore, and improve buildings including both interior and exterior spaces. It is intended to provide financial assistance for significant improvements. The goal of the program is to encourage the growth of a vibrant and thriving retail climate within the Highland Redevelopment Area, as well as attract retail growth, additional business traffic and catalyze investment through improved aesthetics of aging commercial properties. By making noticeable enhancements within the Highland Redevelopment Area, the urban environment will improve and thereby impact the overall downtown revitalization efforts of the community.

Grants will be awarded for up to 30% of the approved project improvements total. Projects over \$15,000 will take priority, however, the Redevelopment Commission will review any and all projects regardless of the amount being requested. Each recipient can apply for up to \$40,000, which is the maximum amount that may be given to an individual business within ten (10) years. However, if the subject property changes ownership, and the new owner(s) intend(s) to change the character of the business/use of the subject property, an application can be considered within said ten (10) year time limitation. Reimbursement for the Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program is made following an application procedure, project approval, final construction, final inspection, and the delivery and review of all applicable receipts and/or paid invoices for work and/or supplies.

The Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program will award up to \$100,000 in total grant money in any given year as decided in that year's Redevelopment budget approved by the Town Council. Grant funds may vary year to year and will be awarded at the discretion of the Highland Redevelopment Commission. Generally, a business will only be eligible for one (1) grant per year, however the Redevelopment Commission maintains the right to make allowances and exceptions, including to award multiple grants, depending on available funds.

Property Requirements:

1. Property must be located in a Highland Redevelopment Area.
2. Building(s) must be over 35 years old.
3. Owner must be current with property taxes.

Eligible Improvements Include:

Exterior

1. Building exterior enhancements including restoration of original architecture or new design that complies with current design standards, as well as Highland Municipal Code, Section 214.108: RD- Redevelopment District, Town ordinance, and building code, as well as ADA guidelines.
2. New or restored cornices, decorative detail, or awnings that comply with the previously mentioned standards
3. Exterior lighting that complies with Town standards.
4. New signs and window display area, so long as they comply with Town standards and the local Sign Ordinance.
5. Painting/Cladding Improvements that comply with Town design standards
6. Doors/Entryways and Windows
7. Roofing
8. Landscaping as part of the streetscape
9. Architectural fees

Interior

1. Painting (including clean up)
2. Upgrades to energy efficient lighting fixtures
3. Electrical work
4. Flooring, including new installation or repair/restoration of current flooring
5. Ceilings and walls, including new installation or repair/restoration
6. Doors, trim, woodworking
7. Hazardous materials abatement
8. Plumbing, only as to non-cosmetic replacement and/or revisions to comply with then current building codes
9. Compliance with ADA standards
10. Historic restoration of original features/architecture
11. Installation of the following appliances: commercial kitchen appliances, furnaces/boilers, hot water heaters, air conditioners, and HVAC systems.

12. Energy efficient insulating materials and the installation of same
13. Architectural fees

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds:

1. Acquisition of property
2. Building permit or inspection fees
3. Demolition
4. Repairs or new projects that do not comply with Town standards
5. Sidewalks, paving, or parking lot improvements
6. Fences or gates
7. Work provided by owner of the building or business, even if they are a contractor
8. Working capital or refinancing existing loans
9. Routine maintenance
10. Inventory
11. Furniture (chairs, couches, display racks, etc.)
12. Temporary fixtures including cubicles
13. Office equipment (computers, printers, copiers, etc.)
14. Renovation of a space on a speculative basis to attract new tenants
15. Moving or relocation expenses

Program Guidelines:

1. No work that has already been started will be eligible for funding through this grant.
2. For interior improvements to be eligible for reimbursement, exterior work must be completed concurrently or prior to any interior work.
3. The applicant must be the owner of the building, or if leasing, then the applicant must have written permission from the building owner for the proposed work.
4. If the applicant is leasing, the current lease term must be a minimum of five (5) to ten (10) years, depending on the age of the business.
5. Grant funds may only be used for commercial portions of mixed-use buildings.
6. If a recipient breaks or violates the lease term, a repayment of grant dollars will be due based on the number of years remaining in the lease.

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Revised and Adopted August 2023

7. Recipients must join the Highland-Griffith Chamber of Commerce.
8. Recipients must submit a cash donation of \$100 or more to a local 501(c)(3) organization located in the Town of Highland, the School Town of Highland, or the Highland Main Street Bureau.
9. Whenever possible, local (Lake County) contractors, tradespeople, and materials should be used for completing work. All contractors and tradespeople should be licensed in their field, as required by the Town of Highland.
10. Any and all significant and material changes, the materiality and significance of which shall be judged in a commercially reasonable manner, to original grant projects must be approved by the Highland Redevelopment Commission, otherwise funding will not be provided for those projects.
11. Projects must be completed within one (1) year of approval. After this time, the applicant is required to reapply unless the Redevelopment Commission approves a written request for an extension.

Application Process:

1. Applicants must complete the attached form and submit it for approval, along with the following required supporting documents:
 - a. Project scope of work, including architectural renderings, color samples, product specifications/cut sheets and/or any other manufacturer product information.
 - b. Photos of existing building and close-up photos of areas to be improved.
 - c. Professional cost estimates from contractors, architects, and tradespeople, for both materials and labor. There shall be a minimum of two (2) estimates for each project unless an exception is made by the Redevelopment Commission for extraordinary circumstances.
 - d. A copy of your lease agreement and written permission from the owner of the building, if applicable.
2. The applicant must obtain all required building permits from the Town of Highland Building and Inspection Department.
3. Upon completion of all approved work and required inspections, the following documents must be submitted:
 - a. Copies of all receipts and paid invoices
 - b. Proof of charitable donation

TOWN OF HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Commercial Property Improvement Grant Application

Applicant Name: _____
Applicant Address: _____
Business Name: _____
Business Owner: _____
Business Owner Address: _____
Building Owner (if business is in a leased property): _____
Building Owner Contact Information: _____
Property Address: _____
Parcel ID number (18-digits): ____-____-____-____-____-____-____-____-____
Contact Phone Number: ____-____-____
Contact Email Address: _____
Estimated Start Date for Project: __/__/__
Estimated Completion Date: __/__/__
Total Cost of Project: \$_____.____
Owner Commitment: \$_____.____
Commercial Property Improvement Grant Commitment (30%): \$_____.____

- Please include required attachments:
- a. Project scope of work, including architectural renderings, color samples, product specifications/cut sheets and/or any other manufacturer product information
 - b. Photos of existing building and close-up photos of areas to be improved

c. Professional cost estimates from contractors, architects, and tradespeople, for both materials and labor. One

(1) Alternate estimate must be provided, with a minimum of two (2) estimates for each project

d. A copy of your lease agreement and written permission from the owner of the building, if applicable.

Check here to certify that you have read and understand the information provided in this document regarding the Highland Redevelopment Commission's Commercial Grant Improvement Program and all information you are providing is true to the best of your knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

If you have any questions, call Assistant Redevelopment Director Susan Hale at 219-972-7598.

Applications are to be submitted to Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra at mbecerra@highland.in.gov or at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road.

3. Discussion: Councilor Black asked Attorney Reed where he stood on the Animal Control Ordinance.

Councilor Black asked Attorney Reed if he had a chance to research other Towns/Cities Animal Control Ordinances? I know we were trying to find a number that we wanted to put in the Ordinance and you were going to research on what other Town/Cities had done.

The Clerk-Treasurer said he had done some research and what he found to be true was the comments Attorney Reed made at the last study session. He said most ordinances

called for a maximum of 2 (two) or 3(three) dogs/cats but one of the determining factors in the actual number was the living conditions within the house and how well the animals are being cared for. It's based upon the living conditions within the house and the areas outside. If the house was well maintained and clean on the inside and the outside area is well kept and the animals are well cared for, no set limit on the number of animals per household. However, if the house is filthy on the inside and the animals are not well cared for, the number of animals permitted in the house is reduced.

Councilor Scheeringa said that the Police Commission advised him that an ordinance on this topic was presented to the Council several years ago. The Commission is trying to locate a copy of the ordinance.

Attorney Reed answered Councilor Black in that he has done research and the ones that he has seen so far are like Mark said, are anywhere from 2 to 3 to 4. There is a mechanism for having more dogs but you have to license them to the property. The mechanism is to have your property inspected to make sure that you have the facilities for more dogs and everything's cleanly and that the current dogs are okay and everybody's in good shape. Then you could theoretically get a third, fourth, or fifth dog license depending on the condition of your property. I'm just not sure who would conduct those inspections other than maybe a code Enforcement Officer. He wasn't sure the Council wanted to even go that far.

Councilor Black said he wasn't sure but it seemed to him like we should just set a number of dogs per house and go with that.

Attorney Reed concurred and said that makes it easier and we don't have to worry about inspections. The Town has to be careful that it doesn't open itself up to warrantless searches or anything like that. He said he could provide the ordinance and statutory language and just leave those numbers blank and let the Council come to a conclusion.

Councilor Schocke said he was thinking in the area of three (3). Obviously, you'd have to grandfather people in that are currently with more than 3. We'll have to take into consideration, those who are fostering.

Councilor Black said he actually spoke to someone who was fostering and she says she does not like to get above 4 dogs.

The Clerk-Treasurer said that in the ordinances he reviewed, those that are grandfathered are required to have them all licensed and if they fail to license them all, the grandfathered clause ceases and the current ordinance takes effect. It is designed to encourage the owner to get all of their dogs licensed.

Attorney Reed said that most ordinances allow the owner to keep the puppies up to six (6) months after being weaned. After that date, the owner is considered in violation of the ordinance.

Councilor Schocke said the same should apply with fostering. I mean fostering can't be a forever thing. There has to be a limit as to how long you can keep the animal. I know it is a needed service in our society but limits have to set. I still think we should incorporate the square footage of the house. I understand that people can't afford like the biggest house.

Attorney Reed said you also have to take into consideration the neighbors as they too suffer.

Councilor Zemen questioned the six (6) months after weaning as being too long in length. He gave the example of his daughter who has two (2) mastiffs and they had a litter of fifteen (15). He said if his daughter had kept them till they were six (6) months old, they would have weighed almost 120 lbs. He thought it should be closer to thirty (30) or sixty (60) days after being weaned. He said all the puppies were sold by the time they were eight (8) weeks old.

Councilor Black suggested the time be shorten to around four (4) months.

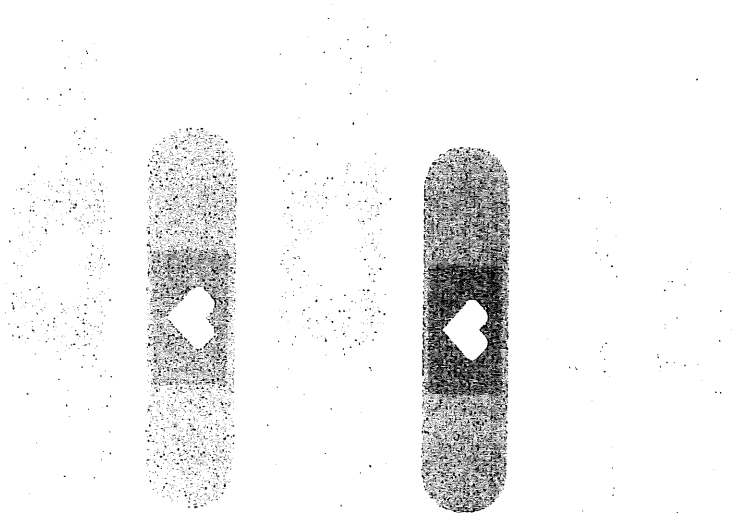
Attorney Reed said he would make the changes and hopefully will have a rough draft by the next study session.

4. **Discussion:** Councilor Schocke asked the Council that since Councilor Smith only got one (1) Council shirt and Councilor Scheeringa has none, he asked the Council to purchase three (3) additional shirts, one (1) for Councilor Smith and two (2) for Councilor Scheeringa. The Council didn't have an issue with that.
5. **Discussion:** Councilor Zemen asked the Clerk-Treasurer to follow up with CVS Pharmacy as they are offering free flu shots. He wanted to know if they might be willing to do the same for the employees of the Town.

 Health.

*WANTS TO
do Flu shots
here*

On-Site Vaccine Clinics



2023-2024 Client Guide
June 2023

Councilor Black asked if there were any additional agenda items. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.