

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF SWINK
HELD
July 28, 2008 (Monday)
One Audio Tape Available**

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Swink was called to order by Mayor Cordova on Monday, July 28, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Terry Clodfelter called roll.

Present: Cordova
Piquette
Stone

Also in attendance were:

Phillip Malouff, Attorney
Rick Dell, Public Works Director
Terry Clodfelter, Clerk

Absent: Lytle Wallace
Headlee Cox

AUDIENCE:

Debra Bayne, Carolyn Rightmyer – James Rightmeyer – Francis Martin, Louie Martin – Robert Jackson

Dogs

Mayor Cordova turned the meeting over to Attorney Phillip Malouff. Mr. Malouff stated that council did not have a quorum tonight so no actions will be taken. He stated that council would like to have input from the citizens of Swink.

James Rightmeyer asked why the tape was going if this was not a meeting. Mr. Malouff stated that council would like to have an accurate account of the public hearing.

Louie Martin, 411 Columbia, stated that the town had adopted an ordinance a few years ago and would like to know what we are discussing tonight. Mr. Malouff stated that yes we have an ordinance on the books but it does not apply to the number of dogs a resident can have, it does not talk about a dog kennel or barking dogs.

Francie Martin, 411 Columbia, asked why the barking dogs does not fall under the noise ordinance. Malouff stated that the noise ordinance is very open and very hard to enforce.

Martin also talked about the trains in the other area.

Debra Basye, 418 East 3rd, stated that she has 9 dogs and would have no problems applying for a dog kennel. She stated that her dogs bark when someone is walking down the alley or street but she has a fence yard and the dogs are barking for protection.

James Rightmeyer, 406 Powars, stated that it also alert everyone else and not just the dog owners.

Mrs. Martin stated that people need to be responsible for their animals.

Carolyn Rightmeyer, 406 Powars, stated that responsible owners do not need to have a law regarding the feed, water, etc. She stated that 3 dogs would be a lot of dogs in this area. Malouff stated that if an ordinance is passed it would not affect the current owners.

Robert Jackson, 407 Columbia, stated that he does not know how to stop a dog from barking. Dogs bark to alert people.

Mrs. Martin stated that people need to communicate with their neighbors and not always go before the council. She stated that council has a lot of major problems to work on than dogs.

James Rightmeyer stated that you sometime can not talk with your neighbors with out them blowing up.

Francie Martin asked Rick about how many complaints he gets about dogs running loose. Dell stated that last month he had no dogs running loose and explained if he sees a dog out running around he will pick it up. He stated that if he knows the owners he will take the dog back and talk with the owners. If this happens more than once he will write a ticket. The owners can pay the fine or go to court.

Francie Martin stated that the Town of Swink does not have the employees to enforce all the dogs' ordinance and council needs to focus on more important issues.

Mr. Jackson stated that he feels like the Martins, dogs will bark and he will do what every need to be done but is not crazy about more rules.

Mr. Malouff closed the public hearing and turned the meeting back over to Mayor Cordova.

Adjourn

Mayor Cordova adjourns the meeting at 7:40 pm.