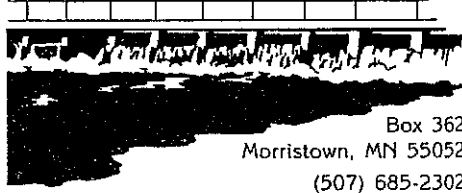


# City of Morristown

IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA LAKES REGION

*Best Little Town By A "Dam Site"*



Box 362

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 685-2302

## **ORDINANCE 2017-1**

### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 91.11 AND 91.12 OF THE MORRISTOWN CITY CODE**

THE CITY COUNCL OF THE CITY OF MORRISTOWN DOES ORDAIN:

1. Section 91.11 of the Morristown City Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted in its stead:

#### **"§ 91.11 DANGEROUS ANIMALS.**

(A) *Attack by an animal.* It shall be unlawful for any person's animal to inflict or attempt to inflict bodily injury to any person or other animal whether or not the owner is present. This section shall not apply to an attack by a dog under the control of an on-duty law enforcement officer or to an attack upon an uninvited intruder who has entered the owner's home with criminal intent.

(B) *Destruction of dangerous animal.* The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to order the destruction of dangerous animals in accordance with the terms established by this chapter.

(C) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this division, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

(1) **DANGEROUS ANIMAL.** An animal which has:

- (a) When unprovoked, caused bodily injury or disfigurement to any person on public or private property;
- (b) Engaged in any attack on any person under circumstances which would indicate danger to personal safety;
- (c) Exhibited unusually aggressive behavior, such as an attack on another animal;
- (d) Killed a domestic animal without provocation while off the animal owner's property;
- (e) Bitten 1 or more persons; or

(f) Been found to be potentially dangerous and after the owner has notice that the dog is potentially dangerous, the animal aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals.

(2) **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL.** An animal which has:

(a) When unprovoked, bitten a human or a domestic animal on public or private property;

(b) When unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public property, or any private property other than the animal owner's private property, in an apparent attitude of attack; or

(c) Has engaged in unprovoked attacks causing injury or otherwise threatening the safety of humans or domestic animals.

(3) **PROPER ENCLOSURE.** Securely confined indoors or in a securely confined and locked pen or structure suitable to prevent the animal from escaping and to provide protection for the animal from the elements. A proper enclosure does not include a porch, patio, or any part of a house, garage, or other structure that would allow the animal to exit of its own volition, or any house or structure in which windows are open or in which door or window screens are the only barriers which prevent the animal from exiting. The enclosure shall not allow the egress of the animal in any manner without human assistance.

(4) **UNPROVOKED.** The condition in which the animal is not purposely excited, stimulated, agitated or disturbed.

(D) *Designation as potentially dangerous animal.* The Animal Control Officer shall designate any animal as a potentially dangerous animal upon receiving evidence that the potentially dangerous animal has, when unprovoked, then bitten, attacked, or threatened the safety of a person or a domestic animal as stated in division (C)(2). When an animal is declared potentially dangerous, the Animal Control Officer shall cause 1 owner of the potentially dangerous animal to be notified in writing that the animal is potentially dangerous.

(E) *Designation as Dangerous Animal.* The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to designate any animal as a dangerous animal upon receiving evidence of the following:

(1) That the animal has, when unprovoked, bitten, attacked, or threatened the safety of a person or domestic animal as stated in division (C) (1)

(2) That the animal has been declared potentially dangerous and the animal has then bitten, attacked, or threatened the safety of a person or domestic animal as stated in division (C)(1).

(F) *Authority to order destruction.* The Animal Control Officer, upon finding that an animal is dangerous hereunder, is authorized to order, as part of the disposition of the case, that the animal be destroyed based on a written order containing 1 or more of the following findings of fact:

(1) The animal is dangerous as demonstrated by a vicious attack, an unprovoked attack, an attack without warning or multiple attacks; or

(2) The owner of the animal has demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to control the animal in order to prevent injury to persons or other animals.

(G) *Procedure.* The Animal Control Officer, after having determined that an animal is dangerous, may proceed in the following manner: The Animal Control Officer shall cause 1 owner of the animal to be notified in writing or in person that the animal is dangerous and may order the animal seized or make orders as deemed proper. This owner shall be notified as to dates, times, places and parties bitten. Any owner may appeal a designation of an animal as dangerous, and if applicable, prior potentially dangerous animal designations, according to the following procedure:

- (1) A request for an appeal hearing must be made in writing delivered to the Animal Control Officer or City Clerk within 14 days of the date of service of the notice designating the dog as dangerous. If no appeal is filed within the specified time, the designation issued by the animal control authority shall be final.
- (2) The hearing shall be held within 14 days of the request to determine the validity of the dangerous dog designation.
- (3) The City Council shall appoint a hearing officer to conduct the hearing.
- (4) In the event that the dangerous dog declaration is upheld by the hearing officer, actual expenses of the hearing up to a maximum of \$1,000 shall be the responsibility of the dog's owner.
- (5) The hearing officer shall issue a decision on the matter within 10 days after the hearing. The decision must be delivered to the dog's owner by hand delivery or registered mail as soon as practical and a copy must be provided to the animal control authority. If the hearing officer upholds the designation of a dog as dangerous, the owner must comply with all of the requirements of this section within 14 days of service of the hearing officer's finding on the owner.

The notice served upon the owner shall advise the owner of the procedure set forth in this section.

No person shall harbor an animal after it has been found by to be dangerous and ordered into custody for destruction.

(H) *Stopping an attack.* If any police officer or Animal Control Officer is witness to an attack by an animal upon a person or another animal, the officer may take whatever means the officer deems appropriate to bring the attack to an end and prevent further injury to the victim.

(I) *Notification of new address.* The owner of an animal which has been identified as dangerous or potentially dangerous shall notify the Animal Control Officer in writing if the animal is to be relocated from its current address or given or sold to another person. The notification shall be given in writing at least 14 days prior to the relocation or transfer of ownership. The notification shall include the current owner's name and address, the relocation address, and the name of the new owner, if any.

Penalty, see § 91.99”

2. Section 91.12 of the Morristown City Code is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted in its stead:

**“§ 91.12 DANGEROUS ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS.**

(A) *Requirements.* No person may own a dangerous animal unless the animal is registered as provided in this section. The City shall issue a certificate of registration to the owner of the dangerous animal if the owner presents sufficient evidence that:

(1) That the owner provide and maintain a proper enclosure for the dangerous animal as specified in § 91.11(C)(3);

(2) Post the front and the rear of the premises with clearly visible warning signs, including a warning symbol to inform children, that there is a dangerous animal on the property as specified in M.S. § 347.51 as may be amended from time to time;

(3) Provide and show proof annually of public liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$300,000;

(4) If the animal is a dog and is outside the proper enclosure, the dog must be muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash (not to exceed 6 feet in length) and under the physical restraint of a person 16 years of age or older. The muzzle must be of a design as to prevent the dog from biting any person or animal, but will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration;

(5) If the animal is a dog, it must have an easily identifiable, standardized tag identifying the dog as dangerous affixed to its collar at all times as specified in M.S. § 347.51 as it may be amended from time to time, and shall have a microchip implant as provided by M.S. § 347.151, as it may be amended from time to time;

(6) All animals deemed dangerous by the Animal Control Officer shall be registered with the county in which this city is located within 14 days after the date the animal was so deemed and provide satisfactory proof thereof to the Animal Control Officer.

(7) If the animal is a dog, the dog must be licensed and up to date on rabies vaccination. If the animal is a cat or ferret, it must be up to date with rabies vaccination.

(B) *Seizure.* As authorized by M.S. § 347.54, as it may be amended from time to time, the Animal Control Officer shall immediately seize any dangerous animal if the owner does not meet each of the above requirements within 14 days after the date notice is sent to the owner that the animal is dangerous. Seizure may be appealed to district court by serving a summons and petition upon the city and filing it with the district court.

(C) *Reclaiming animals.* A dangerous animal seized under § 91.12(B), may be reclaimed by the owner of the animal upon payment of impounding and boarding fees and presenting proof to animal control that each of the requirements under § 91.12(B), is fulfilled. An animal not reclaimed under this section within 14 days may be disposed of as provided under § 91.11(F), and the owner is liable to the city for costs incurred in confining and impounding the animal.

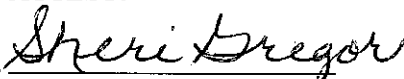
(D) *Subsequent offenses.* If an owner of an animal has subsequently violated the provisions under § 91.11 with the same animal, the animal must be seized by animal control. The owner may request a hearing as defined in § 91.11(F). If the owner is found to have violated the provisions for which the animal was seized, the Animal Control Officer shall order the animal destroyed in a proper and humane manner and the owner shall pay the costs of confining the animal. If the person is found not to have violated the provisions for which the animal was seized, the owner may reclaim the animal under the provisions of § 91.12(C). If the animal is not yet reclaimed by the owner within 14 days after the date the owner is notified that the animal may be reclaimed, the animal may be disposed of as provided under § 91.11(F) and the owner is liable to the animal control for the costs incurred in confining, impounding and disposing of the animal.

(E) *Registration Fee.* The city shall charge a registration fee for a dangerous animal in an amount as set forth in its Master Fee Schedule.”

Passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017, with the following vote: Aye 4; No 0;  
Abstain: 1; Absent 0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KURT WOLF  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHERI GREGOR  
City Clerk