

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: LANELL ENDRES, INTERIM CITY ADMIN/FINANCE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CITY ORDINANCE RELATED TO NUMBER OF DOGS
MEETING DATE: JULY 17, 2018

BACKGROUND

The Cannon Falls City Code restricts the number of dogs allowed per residence and states:

“The number of dogs permitted shall not exceed two per dwelling unit, or four per multi-dwelling structure, whichever is the lesser.”

The City has recently received two requests to consider increasing the number of dogs allowed per residence. In both cases, they have three dogs. Attached is a letter from one of the interested parties and a representative will be at the meeting to discuss this further.

The City did a brief survey of surrounding areas regarding the number of dogs they allowed and the results are as follows:

Goodhue	No Maximum
Hastings	3 dogs
Lake City	4 dogs, anything over would require a kennel license
Northfield	No Maximum
Pine Island	3 dogs
Rochester	6 dogs, anything over would require a kennel license
Zumbrota	3 dogs

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Staff is seeking direction from the Council as to the possibility of changing the number of dogs allowed per our City Code.

July 11, 2018

City Council Members
City of Cannon Falls
918 River Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Dear City of Cannon Falls City Council Members:

I am writing today to request a change to City Ordinance 94.02, which states "The number of dogs permitted shall not exceed two per dwelling unit, or four per multi-dwelling structure, whichever is the lesser."

My husband and I are prospective residents of the City of Cannon Falls and feel that Cannon Falls has many wonderful amenities to offer its residents and we would be disheartened to be excluded from the opportunity to become members of the community. Our current hurdle regarding a relocation to Cannon Falls is a concern for our pets under this current ordinance. As law abiding citizens and responsible pet owners of three (3) beloved dogs, we could not in good conscience relocate to Cannon Falls with the knowledge that we would have to leave a pet behind or risk being in violation of the law. It is my understanding that all other ordinances currently in place will prevent an abuse of a changed ordinance and will offer the City of Cannon Falls recourse in the event that a dog has become a nuisance or hazard to surrounding community members.

Currently, the trend in Southern Minnesota supports a change to this ordinance to allow an increase in dogs permitted in one dwelling unit. The City of Zumbrota amended their ordinance in July of 2017 to allow a maximum of 3 adult dogs per dwelling unit. The cities of Hastings (91.3), Oronoco (503.17), Apple Valley (91.06), Mazeppa (Sec 10.0511 Subd.5), Savage and others also allow for a maximum of 3 dogs per dwelling. The City of Rochester (106A.03) allows for a maximum of 6 dogs per dwelling.

I would ask that you reconsider the current ordinance to allow for a slight increase of even one additional dog per dwelling to encourage responsible pet ownership and to offer the same opportunity to pet owners that other cities offer. I would be happy to provide further research upon request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Hinkle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsey Dittmer Hinkle