



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date	02/17/2021	Department	Planning/Economic Dev
Agenda Item	4.c First Read of Gardiner City Code of Ordinances Section 1762 Changes Dealing with Dogs and Kennels		
Est. Cost	n/a		

Background Information

Attached is the proposed amendments to the City of Gardiner Code of Ordinances.

Update the barking dogs provision in Section 1762 of the Code of Ordinances.

1762.1 Excessive Barking – Any owner or person having custody of a dog or dogs within the City shall not permit the dog or dogs to create a nuisance by continued or repeated barking, howling, yelping or making other loud or unusual noises. A dog or dogs that bark, howl, yelp or otherwise create a loud or unusual noise for a sustained period of one (1) hour or intermittently for three (3) hours that can be heard beyond the property line of the property on which the dog(s) is located has created a nuisance and the owner or person having custody of the dog(s) is in violation of this section.

1762.2 Complaint – Any person disturbed by a barking dog in violation of 1762.1 shall file a written complaint with the City’s Animal Control Officer or any Police Officer. The complaint shall include the date and time the disturbance began, a description of the disturbance, and the length of time of the disturbance. The complaint must be signed and sworn to the Animal Control or other Police Officer. The officer shall investigate the complaint and may give written warning to the owner or person having custody of the dog(s) of the violation and may order that the violation ceases.

1762.3 Exemptions – The barking of certain dogs may be exempted from the provisions of this section by the Animal Control Officer or other Police Officer on an incident by incident basis including when the dogs are in kennels or are special purpose dogs such as guide dogs, working dogs, and rescue dogs. This provision is intended to provide the officers with the latitude to determine if the barking constitutes a nuisance, however, pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 3950(1), this section does not apply to dogs engaged in herding livestock or to agricultural guard dogs engaged in protecting livestock or warning the owners of danger to the livestock.

1762.4 Failure to Comply – If the owner or person with custody of a dog that has been determined to be a nuisance in accordance with 1762.2 allows the dog to continue to violate the ordinance and a subsequent complaint is filed, the owner or other person shall have committed a civil violation and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 1767.

1762.5 Repeated Violations – If the owner or person with custody of a dog that has been determined to be a nuisance is in violation of this section more than three (3) times in any twelve (12) month period, the Animal Control Officer may impound the dog in accordance with the provisions of Section 1763.

A Public Hearing has been held by the Planning Board.

Pertinent materials are attached.

Requested Action	'I move to send the proposed changes to the Gardiner City Code of Ordinances Section 1762 dealing with dogs and kennels to a second read on March 3, 2021.'
City Manager and/or Finance Review	The City Manager, CEO, ORC, Planning Board and EDD recommend the above action.
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading <u>02/17/2021</u>	Advertised <u>02/08/2021</u>	EFFECTIVE DATE <u>04/02/2021</u>
	2 nd Reading <u>03/03/2021</u>	Advertised <u>03/18/2021</u> w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

To: City Council
From: Ordinance Review Committee - Mark Eyerman
Subject: Barking Dogs
Date: January 19, 2021

The ORC has prepared possible ordinance amendments to address the situation with dogs, especially barking dogs. The amendments deal with both the Land Use Ordinance and Section 1762 of the Code of Ordinances. The amendments have been reviewed by Jon Pottle and the Police Chief who forwarded them to the District Attorney for review. The Planning Board held a public hearing on the amendments to the Land Use Ordinance and recommended adoption. The amendment package includes the following amendments to the Land Use Ordinance and Section 1762 of the Code of Ordinances:

1. Amend the definition of kennel in the Land Use Ordinance to reference the state definitions of kennel. This will solve the problem of anyone having three or more dogs being considered to be a kennel and therefore only allowed in limited areas of the City and make the City's provisions consistent with the state regulations.
2. Revise the zones within which kennels are allowed. Currently they are allowed only in the Rural and PD Districts. The amendments add kennels as a permitted use in the PIC District
3. Update the performance standards for kennels in the Land Use Ordinance.
4. Revise the provisions for fences in residential areas to limit fences in the front yard to a maximum of four feet in height and prohibit "privacy fences" or chain-link fences in the front yard unless they meet the setback requirements. This would apply in the RG, HDR, PR, PD and MUV Districts.
5. Update the barking dogs provision in Section 1762 of the Code of Ordinances.

Recommended Amendments to Section 1762 the Code of Ordinances Dealing with Barking Dogs

Proposed additions to the ordinance are underlined;
proposed deletions are ~~struck-out~~.

Amend Section 1762 of the Code of Ordinances to read:

Section 1762. Barking Dogs

~~No owner shall keep or harbor any dog which by loud, frequent, or habitual barking, howling or yelping shall disturb the peace of any person or persons.~~

1762.1 Excessive Barking – Any owner or person having custody of a dog or dogs within the City shall not permit the dog or dogs to create a nuisance by continued or repeated barking, howling, yelping or making other loud or unusual noises. A dog or dogs that bark, howl, yelp or otherwise create a loud or unusual noise for a sustained period of one (1) hour or intermittently for three (3) hours that can be heard beyond the property line of the property on which the dog(s) is located has created a nuisance and the owner or person having custody of the dog(s) is in violation of this section.

1762.2 Complaint – Any person disturbed by a barking dog in violation of 1762.1 shall file a written complaint with the City’s Animal Control Officer or any Police Officer. The complaint shall include the date and time the disturbance began, a description of the disturbance, and the length of time of the disturbance. The complaint must be signed and sworn to the Animal Control or other Police Officer. The officer shall investigate the complaint and may give written warning to the owner or person having custody of the dog(s) of the violation and may order that the violation ceases.

1762.3 Exemptions – The barking of certain dogs may be exempted from the provisions of this section by the Animal Control Officer or other Police Officer on an incident by incident basis including when the dogs are in kennels or are special purpose dogs such as guide dogs, working dogs, and rescue dogs. This provision is intended to provide the officers with the latitude to determine if the barking constitutes a nuisance., however, pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 3950(1), this section does not apply to dogs engaged in herding livestock or to agricultural guard dogs engaged in protecting livestock or warning the owners of danger to the livestock.

1762.4 Failure to Comply – If the owner or person with custody of a dog that has been determined to be a nuisance in accordance with 1762.2 allows the dog to continue to violate the ordinance and a subsequent complaint is filed, the owner or other person shall have committed a civil violation and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 1767.

1762.5 Repeated Violations – If the owner or person with custody of a dog that has been determined to be a nuisance is in violation of this section more than three (3) times in any twelve (12) month period, the Animal Control Officer may impound the dog in accordance with the provisions of Section 1763.