

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APPEAL HEARING OF ALAN DUMAS
REGARDING CLASSIFICATION OF DOGS
AS DANGEROUS DOGS**

December 17, 2019
6:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael,
County Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Langston called the Hearing to order, said that it was regarding the “dangerous dog” classifications of two dogs owned by Alan Dumas, and she asked John Taylor, County Attorney, to conduct the hearing.

HEARING. Mr. Taylor said that this is an appeal hearing under the Animal Control Ordinance regarding the “dangerous dog” classifications of two dogs under the Ordinance. He explained the procedures and definition of “dangerous dog”.

Mr. Taylor swore in Clyde “Bit” Geter, III, Animal Control Officer, Alan Dumas, appellant, and Laurie Sherrill, complainant.

Clyde “Bit” Geter, Animal Control Officer, in response to questions from Mr. Taylor, explained that two dogs (Buttercup and Jasmine) belonging to Mr. Dumas had been classified as “dangerous” dogs as a result of the killing of two goats belonging to Mrs. Sherrill; that the incident occurred on November 14, 2019; that while there were three dogs involved, he could locate only two - the ones belonging to Mr. Dumas, but is making efforts to locate the other dog; that the notice for each dog regarding the “dangerous dog” classification was mailed to Mr. Dumas via certified mail; that Mr. Dumas received the notices and submitted the appeal notice; and that Mr. Dumas had been notified about the appeal hearing taking place tonight. Mr. Taylor said that exhibits A through G would be accepted into the record.

Mr. Taylor asked the Board if there were any questions for Mr. Geter. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Geter said that the dogs are known to hang around the Dollar General store in Cataula, about 1/4 mile from Mrs. Sherrill’s residence. There being no further questions from the Board, Mr. Taylor asked Mrs. Sherrill for her testimony.

Mrs. Sherrill explained in detail what she observed when her goats were killed; that she observed three dogs, to include two belonging to Mr. Dumas, had surrounded her goats, one of which was already dead; and that she was finally able to get the dogs to leave the premises. Mr. Dumas asked Mrs. Sherrill if she saw the dogs kill her goats, and she replied she had not. There being no further questions, Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Dumas for his testimony.

Mr. Dumas said that he did not think his dogs killed the goats, but that the goats were probably killed by the third dog. In response to questions, Mr. Dumas said that his dogs do hang around the Dollar General.

There being no further comments, Mr. Taylor closed the Public Hearing, said that the Board that can uphold the classification of both dogs as dangerous dogs by the Animal Control Officer, modify the classification, or over rule/overturn the classification. He then reviewed the requirements for owning a dangerous dog. He then turned the meeting back over to the Chairman.

Chairman Langston asked for a motion. Commissioner Andrews said that while the two dogs may not have killed the goats, dogs tend to run in packs, so there is a very good chance the dogs were involved in the incident. She then made the motion to uphold the classification of the two dogs as dangerous dogs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grant and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

Becky Langston, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk