

Animal Shelter Advisory Board Minutes December 14, 2012

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Animal Shelter Advisory Board of the City of Bedford met at 4:00 p.m. in the Training Room of the Bedford Police Department, 2121 L. Don Dodson Drive, on the 14th day of December, 2012, with the following members present:

Les Hawkins	Deputy Police Chief
Mark Bellinghausen	Animal Control Supervisor
Dr. Rebecca Epps	Board Members
Dawn Orr	

constituting a quorum. Also present:

Sherri Olsen	Council Member
Ken Horn	Animal Control Officer II

Absent: Dawn Schneider

(The following items were considered in accordance with the official agenda posted on the 11th day of December, 2012.)

CALL TO ORDER

Animal Control Supervisor Mark Bellinghausen called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2012, BOARD MINUTES.

Council Member Olsen proposed two amendments to the November 7, 2012, minutes. Recommended amendments included the spelling of Council Member Sherri Olson's name to Sherri Olsen and correcting the date of the Spring Pet Fair from April, 15, 2013 to April 13, 2013.

Dr. Rebecca Epps made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2012, board meeting as amended.

Animal Control Supervisor Bellinghausen seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved as amended. No opposition was recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

- REVIEW ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Copies of the revised Chapter 18 – Animals, of the City of Bedford Code of Ordinances were emailed to all Board Members for review prior to the December 14, 2012 meeting.

Deputy Chief Les Hawkins stated the Animal Ordinance revision will be presented to City Council on January 8, 2013. The Animal Shelter Advisory Board meeting was convened to provide input or suggestions for changes. Deputy Chief Hawkins explained some of the more significant changes to the ordinance:

- Language and Definitions - Definitions that were previously spaced throughout the ordinance were moved into one section and the language was updated to make the ordinance flow smoother throughout the document.
- Merging the Animal Control Board and the Animal Shelter Advisory Board - Members for the revised Animal Shelter Advisory Board have been selected and will be in place for the next scheduled meeting. The Animal Shelter Advisory Board will convene six times a year on the first Wednesday of every other month with the first meeting scheduled for January 9, 2013.
- Adoption Requirements – Adoption conditions will change from the current post adoption voucher system to a new system that requires all dogs or cats be spayed or neutered and rabies vaccinated prior to their release. The Animal Shelter is working with a local veterinarian who will provide reduced fees for these services. The spay/neuter and rabies vaccination can be waived if the adopter chooses to use their own veterinarian and pays a refundable deposit.
- Fierce or Dangerous Animals – This section was completely rewritten to be in compliance with state law.
- Educational Exhibits – This section has been added back to the ordinance due to inadvertently being removed during a previous amendment.

Board Member Epps stated some of the adoptability issues listed in Article IX, Sec. 18-108(B) could be owner related issues or health problems that could be cleared easily with medication and should not automatically eliminate an animal from adoption. Chief Hawkins stated the ordinance was written using language that gives Animal Control some leeway and is not absolute.

Board Member Epps asked if the amount of the adoption fee and deposit fee had been decided. Chief Hawkins stated that a fee schedule had been previously received from Dr. Bradford's office. Animal Control staff will check with Dr. Bradford's office to confirm the quoted fees are still valid and will set the adoption and deposit fee amounts before the next City Council meeting. Chief Hawkins stated the fee amounts should be comparable to the City of Hurst's fee schedule.

Board Member Orr stated that it seems unfair to deem an animal unadoptable for behavioral problems at the Shelter when 90% of the time the animal does not exhibit those same issues once it has left the Shelter. Board Member Orr suggested that criteria should be put in place where an animal would receive an honest evaluation before being considered unadoptable. Deputy Chief Hawkins stated that after the first of the year Animal Control staff could set up a time for Board Member Orr to visit the Shelter to provide training and assist staff with guidelines on behavioral issues.

Board Member Epps made a motion to recommend the Animal Control Ordinance revisions, as presented by Deputy Chief Hawkins be presented to the City Council.

Board Member Orr seconded the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Epps motioned to adjourn the meeting and Board Member Orr seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.