

Animal Control Commission

Public Meeting

2/8/2023

Present: Maggie Wheeler, Trevor Dreher, Laura Butrum, Amy Schneider, James Schneider from Code Enforcement, Ray Buechler from THHS, members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM

1. Introductions:

- a. Introduction of the Animal Control Commission duties and responsibilities.
- b. Per city code, we are an advisory board only and can make recommendations to the city council regarding any animal ordinances. We are not an advisory board over animal control. We have discretion over spending funds from the licensing fees and fines only. We do not advise the city on any contracts with any organizations.

2. Old Business:

- a. Minutes from 1/11/23 meeting were sent to members via email. Trever motioned to approve, Laura second, all approved.

3. New Business:

- a. Chair report:
 - i. Maggie met with Mayor Bennett he hopes to approve more money for Project Hope, possibly \$25,000. Soon we should see an update for license fees on the website. Hopeful that payments can be taken online with the tags being mailed out. Approximately 10,000 adults in our city have not graduated high school. Need to look into other ways to reach people besides pamphlets.
 - ii. Code enforcement does cite people for code violations. It is then up to the city judge to hold people accountable.
 - iii. Per city attorney, Eddie Felling, we need to work out criteria for eligibility for receipt of the discretionary funds available.
 - iv. Maggie will send a PDF of a previous pamphlet for us to use as a starting point.
- b. Criteria for Discretionary Fund Allocation:

Discussion about the criteria was held. The ACC agreed to the following:

 - i. Funds must be used to help the welfare and education of animals within the city of Terre Haute.
 - ii. Requests need to be submitted in writing with a proposal as to how the money will be spent and what the benefit to the animals will be. Along with estimated costs prior to spending the money.
 - iii. All proposals will need to be submitted to City Legal Department to be reviewed.
 - iv. Proposals greater than \$1,000 need to be approved by the City Council. If less than \$1,000 it still needs to be vetted by City Legal department, but only needs the approved of the ACC.

4. Public Comments:

There was a discussion about the Terre Haute Humane Society and how they receive funds. Puppy mills in the area and how could we get them to stop selling in pet stores? What is Animal Control's process after hours and why are people being told the shelter is full? What can be done about animals in the county? People are calling other rescues after being told the shelter is full.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Vigo County Public Library Noon