



**AGENDA**  
**ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7105 WHITLEY ROAD, WATAUGA, TEXAS 76148**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** If speaking for an organization or group, the speaker should identify the group represented. If speaking during Public Comment (for matters not posted on that particular meeting's agenda), members of the City Council and Staff may only provide a statement of factual information in response to the inquiry or recite existing policy in response (e.g., to correct a factual misstatement made by the citizen or provide factual information requested by the citizen). Any deliberation of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting. If necessary, the Chair will task the City Manager to respond to the citizen and report back to the City Council as soon as practicable. Such report to the City Council shall not constitute a meeting called by the City Council nor shall it constitute deliberation or formal action. Individual citizens addressing the City Council during Public Comment shall not exceed three (3) minutes in their comments; however, the Chair may extend or reduce the speaker's allotted time in order to conduct an efficient and effective public meeting. The time allotted shall not be donated to others desiring to speak. Public Comment is not established to engage in a conversation with the Council and no formal Council action will be taken.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS** Only those persons who submit a completed Request to Speak form prior to the agenda item being introduced by the Chair will be allowed to speak on agenda items set for action (this doesn't include presentations or reports). The Chair shall ask each person requesting to speak to approach the podium when called to speak. Speakers time shall generally not exceed three (3) minutes in their comments and all comments must be germane to the specific agenda item being discussed; however, the Chair may extend or reduce the speaker's allotted time. Speakers shall not be permitted to donate their time to other speakers. Members of the City Council may ask questions or discuss the item directly with the citizen during the citizen's testimony if necessary. Any discussion between a Council member and the citizen will not count toward the time limit and Council Members are encouraged not to speak until the citizen has first utilized their allocated time.

## REPORTS

1. Supervisor report of activities.

**CONSENT AGENDA** All of the items on the consent agenda are considered to be self-explanatory by the Council and will be enacted with one motion, one second, and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items.

1. Consider approval of the February 21st, 2024 meeting minutes.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider action on a recommendation to Watauga City Council on the adoption of a TNVR program.  
**Tonya DeGrand, ACO**

## ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

## ADJOURNMENT

## NOTICE

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT (817) 514-5825, OR FAX (817) 514-3625.

I, Linda Proskey, City Secretary for the City of Watauga, hereby certify that this agenda was posted on the bulletin boards at City Hall, 7105 Whitley Road, Watauga, Texas, on April 17, 2024, before 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

/S/ Linda Proskey  
City Secretary





## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 26, 2024  
**TO:** Animal Services Advisory Committee Member  
**FROM:**  
**SUBJECT:** Supervisor report of activities.

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**BACKGROUND/INFORMATION:**

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

**RECOMMENDATION/ACTION DESIRED:**

**ATTACHMENTS/ SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Supervisor report of shelter activities 4.3.24

**REVIEWED BY:**

Robert Parker, Police Chief	Approved - 3/27/2024
Tonya DeGrand, ACO	Approved - 3/27/2024
Joshua Jones, City Manager	Approved - 3/28/2024
Linda Proskey, City Secretary	Final Approval - 3/28/2024

*Approved as to form for inclusion on Agenda*

### **Supervisor Report of Shelter Activities**

1. Our new Environmental Services Sergeant and Vice-Chairperson for the Animal Services Advisory Committee is Sergeant Danielle Bannick. She will be included in the next meeting.
2. We have an opening for an Animal Control Officer position.
3. We currently have an 87.26% live release rate.



**MINUTES  
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024  
7105 WHITLEY ROAD, WATAUGA, TEXAS 76148  
12:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Stacey McCool	Chairperson
Sergeant James Varelans	Vice Chairperson
Tonya DeGrand	Secretary
And	
Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Lisa Benavidez	Assistant to the City Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION**

Joseph Stout: 5505 Janet Lane, Colleyville, TX; He made a presentation at council and is for the TNVR program.

Connie Stout: 5505 Janet Lane, Colleyville, TX; She is for the TNVR program.

Sandra Bits: 529 Holder Drive, Hurst, TX; Asked to speak when the action item TNVR was being discussed.

**ITEMS REPORTS**

**1. Supervisor Report of Shelter Activities**

1. The shelter is now fully staffed with one supervisor, three animal control officers, and two part-time kennel technicians.
2. There has been a decrease in dog adoptions, particularly for medium and large-sized dogs. The staff has been trying to reach out to rescues, but it seems like everyone is struggling to adopt our dogs. We have not had to euthanize for space, but if the rate of surrenders and the rate of decreased adoptions continue the way they are, that could be seen in the future.
3. The volunteer program is almost revamped, as well as a foster contract for volunteers who are willing.
4. The new backyard has been completed, so the shelter now has three yards. The walkway to the yards was also redone with walking stones and gravel to prevent flooding and mud issues.
5. The shelter's annual state inspection passed with no issues.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Consider approval of the October 18th, 2023 meeting minutes.**

McCool motioned to approve the minutes for the October 18th, 2023 Animal Services Advisory Meeting. DeGrand and Varelans seconded the motion to approve. McCool made a point in order that the vote passed unanimously.

Vote passed 2.0.0.0  
Ayes: DeGrand, Varelans, McCool  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Discuss TNVR (Trap Neuter Vaccinate Return) program and the potential for the City of Watauga being able to implement.**

### **TNVR**

- Most shelters that have a TNR program have a contract vet on staff and can have surgeries in-house.
- Some shelters have a rescue group that assists the area with the TNR program.
- Some shelters that don't have a TNR program have policies in place that if the citizen doesn't mind the animal being in that area, the shelter will sterilize, vaccinate, and return that animal to the area. But if the citizen does not want the animal in that area, then the option is a feral rescue group or euthanasia.
- Grants are only given to adoptable animals, not to TNVR cats. Very few are out there for TNR programs.
- If we were to implement a TNR program, the shelter would spend its budget on releasing feral cats and not on adoptable animals.
- TCAP offers low-cost feral cat sterilizations to everyone, including shelters and citizens.
- Some shelters have networks in areas that will allow them to release TNR cats out of their city.

- These funds can be spent on doing a special sterilization event for Watauga citizens only by hiring a temporary vet that the city pays to sterilize citizens' animals for a low cost. Our shelter is too small to hold this event, so seeking out another building, such as the community center, and using one of their rooms near the west end of the building as an entrance and exit with the animals.

**What we have been doing:**

- We educate citizens about feral cat issues by explaining that some citizens may have a feral cat colony nearby but should be sterilized so as not to reproduce. Bringing in an already ear-tipped cat is not necessary.
- If the shelter gets feral cats due to citizens trapping, we contact Barn Cat Rescue to see if they have somewhere available. This depends on availability and weather. During colder months, the rescue may not take ferals, causing the shelter to be euthanized.

We average about 25 cats starting from 2022 who were transferred to Barn Cat Rescue.

Sandra Bits: 529 Holder Drive, Hurst, TX; Spoke that she is for the TNVR program.

No action was taken.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson McCool adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM

Approved: this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Signed: this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey McCool, Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya DeGrand Secretary

**TNVR Policy:**

Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return (TNVR) is a nationally recognized solution to curb the overpopulation of community/feral cats. House Bill 3660 now allows for TNVR as well. Watauga Animal Services will handle community/feral cat situations as follows:

If a citizen has concerns over feral cats in their area, the citizen will be advised that they can trap the cats and have them vaccinated, sterilized, and ear-tipped by a veterinarian, to then release them back onto the property. The citizens will be educated that this will control the population rather than create a vacuum effect with feral cats. If the citizen is not willing to have the cats vetted, they can rent a humane live trap and they can be impounded at Watauga Animal Services. Feral cats will be held for 24 hours and will either be euthanized, transferred to rescue, or, at the discretion of the supervisor, be vaccinated, sterilized, ear-tipped, and then released back to the area where the cat was trapped. Cats with severe aggression will not be part of the TNVR program as well as cats that have bitten someone. The supervisor's decision to TNVR a cat will be based on the population control that is needed in that area, if there are community caregivers in that area, and budget restrictions. Officers may be sent out to investigate a possible community caregiver in that area to then educate them about TNVR. If a citizen wants to be a community caregiver, it is their responsibility to have the cats sterilized, vaccinated, and ear tipped. Otherwise, the citizen could be liable for at large citations for each cat that is not sterilized, vaccinated, or ear-tipped and they are providing food, shelter, or care, for a period of 10 days, according to the city ordinance 6-1 and 6-35. Watauga Animal Services can only TNVR so many and depend on community caregivers and rescues to assist in the overpopulation.

In addition, if a citizen calls and they have caught a cat in a trap and the ear is tipped, they will be advised to release it. Watauga Animal Services will not accept a notched-ear cat due to being a part of a TNVR program already. Unless the ear-tipped cat has life-threatening injuries, is severely ill, or has bitten/scratched someone, the cat may be impounded for euthanasia and possibly rabies tested.