



**MINUTES
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024
7105 WHITLEY ROAD, WATAUGA, TEXAS 76148
12:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McCool called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Stacey McCool	Chairperson, Place 1
Sergeant Danielle Bannick	Vice Chairperson, Place 2
Tonya DeGrand	Secretary, Place 4
Donald McLeod, DVM	Place 3 (Absent w/o notice)

And

Linda Proskey	City Secretary
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Discuss possible amendments to Chapter 6.**
Tonya DeGrand presented proposed changes to the animal services ordinance for Council consideration. She recommended updating the definition of "Animal Services Officer" and adding "caretaker" to allow staff to vaccinate animals upon intake. A new definition for "traceable identification" was also proposed, to include methods such as microchips, registration tags, personal ID tags, or tattoos that clearly link an animal to its owner.

Staff proposed extending the animal impoundment period from four to five days and allowing owner notification by phone, in person, or a written

notice left at the last known address, instead of relying solely on mailed letters. The revised ordinance would also clarify that animals not redeemed within this period, or voluntarily surrendered, become the property of the City, allowing for adoption, transfer to rescue, or euthanasia.

DeGrand recommended requiring that all redeemed animals be microchipped before release, with a \$20 fee as listed in the fee schedule. If an animal cannot be microchipped due to behavioral or medical reasons, a written warning would be issued, requiring the procedure to be completed within 10 days. This change aims to improve identification and reduce repeat impoundments, as unchipped animals are often difficult to recognize.

The updated ordinance would also formally define "abandonment" to include animals left at the shelter, in public places, at businesses, or with individuals who have not agreed to care for them. After the holding period or upon being deemed abandoned, ownership would transfer to the City.

Finally, DeGrand proposed removing the current, unenforceable provision related to animals in estrus and replacing it with a spay/neuter requirement modeled after the City of Dallas. Exceptions would include animals under six months of age, those with veterinarian-certified medical exemptions, animals held for adoption, and certified competition animals. This change is intended to reduce pet overpopulation and the high number of accidental litters that strain shelter capacity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to speak

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION

There were no requests or public testimony

REPORT

1. Supervisor report on shelter activities.

Tonya DeGrand, ACO presented the item. She reported on recent animal services updates. The department participated in the Clear the Shelters event throughout the month and successfully adopted out 33 pets, marking one of the highest monthly adoption totals. Thanks to shelter support, several kennels were cleared. Both animal control officers have completed their probationary periods, with one reaching their first anniversary. The live release rate remains steady at approximately 82% for the current fiscal year. The volunteer program is active, with several applicants in progress. One individual has completed training and is ready for assignment, though they have not yet signed up for duties.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of the April 24, 2024, meeting minutes.**

Tonya DeGrand motioned to approve the minutes for the April 24, 2024, Animal Services Advisory Meeting. Danielle Bannick seconded the motion.

Vote passed 3-0-0-0

Ayes: DeGrand, Bannick, McCool

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discuss and consider action to recommend to the City Council for their consideration and potential adoption of proposed amendments to Chapter 6, Sections 6-194 and 6- 195 to comply with State Law.**

Tonya DeGrand, ACO recommended that they present to the City Council for approval amendments to Sections 6-194 and 6-195 of the city ordinances to resolve discrepancies with state law, as outlined in Attorney General Ruling KP-0274. The current ordinances conflict with state law regarding the timelines for appealing a dangerous dog designation and meeting compliance requirements. Specifically, Section 6-194(A) should be amended to allow dog owners up to 30 days to register the dog and provide proof of compliance, instead of the current 15-day requirement, which is often too short due to difficulties in securing veterinary appointments. Section 6-194(B) should clarify that owners have 15 days to appeal the designation, in alignment with state law. Section 6-194(C) should be updated to require that the dog be microchipped and spayed or neutered within 30 days. These changes are intended to ensure consistency with state law while providing more practical timelines for compliance.

Tonya DeGrand made a motion to approve the changes and send them to the City Council. Danielle Bannick seconded the motion to approve.

Vote passed 3-0-0-0

Ayes: McCool, DeGrand, Varellans

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 2. Discuss and consider action on scheduling the Animal Services Advisory committee meetings for the year 2025.**

Available dates were discussed, and June 4 and October 15th were selected as the preferred dates for the 2025 meetings.

Tonya DeGrand made a motion approve June 4 and October 15. Danielle Bannick seconded the motion to approve.

Vote passed 3-0-0-0

Ayes: McCool, DeGrand, Varelans
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no requests for future agendas items.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson McCool adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Approved: this 4th day of June, 2025

Signed: this 4th day of June, 2025

APPROVED:

/s/ S. McCool

Stacey McCool, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/ D. Bannick

Secretary