

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Animal Control Commission
December 6, 2021
6:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Animal Control Commission was held Monday, December 6, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Ronnie Rosenberg
Jamie Marschner
Thomas Swan, Vice-Chair

Mary Ann Fortune
Gail Gardner

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Gina Gregg, Research Assistant, Clerk
Cullen Mahaffey, Administrative Assistant III
Jason Beal, Emergency Operations Director
Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager
David Bredlie, Public Works Director

Absent & Excused

NONE

MESSAGES

1.a. Citizens' Comments Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

NONE

1.b. Citizens' Comments Items other than those appearing on the agenda

NONE

2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

GARDNER,
Seconded by ROSENBERG

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Gardner, Fortune, Rosenberg, Marschner,
Swan

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Animal Control Commission Minutes from October 4, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager, Report.

Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager, provided updates on staffing, new hires, relevant news stories, animal shelter statistics and the upcoming budget process. Ms. Hill also reported on an influx of rabbits and elevated euthanasia rate due to breeding.

Commissioners questioned and discussed with Ms. Hill the following:

- Adoption rate; it was answered, quite a few animals went to rescue and foster, and animals are flowing in and out well.
- Adoption appointments; it was noted, adoptions are scheduled by appointment to mitigate COVID-19 by reducing the number of people at the animal shelter at the same time.
- Influx of chickens, roosters and rabbits; it was noted, public education of the problem is a possibility.
- Whether an active reptile rescue exists; it was answered, yes, but without great resources for large slider turtles.

REPORTS – continued

2. Update on CIP Animal Shelter Replacement by Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager.

Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager, and David Bredlie, Public Works Director, provided a presentation on the project's history, current status and schedule. The project's total estimated cost is \$17 million with a scope to construct a new facility on a new site to meet current and future needs. Public Works anticipates just over \$14.3 million of construction funding on July 1, 2022. A Request for Proposal for design services went out at the end of October with a closing date of Monday, December 13, 2021. Public Works anticipates a contract award to be before the Borough Assembly in late January or early February, a construction contract to go out next winter and ground to be broken in the summer of 2023.

Commissioner Fortune inquired about land of interest; it was answered, Natural Resources Development is looking for land with appropriate zoning and water and sewer nearby in a tough market.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint member of the Animal Control Commission to serve on the RFP Review Committee for the CIP Animal Shelter Project as requested by FNSB Mayor Ward.

Vice-Chair Swan provided an explanation on the request to appoint a commissioner to serve on the committee. Due to the time-sensitivity of starting the project, Vice-Chair Swan volunteered to appoint himself. Commissioner Gardner expressed interest in serving on the committee and was appointed with no objections.

2. Review Defeated Ordinance No. 2021-15 and make recommendations to the Administration on changes to Title 22 to improve the ability for Animal Control staff to determine legal ownership of animals, promote registration and improve the public process as requested by FNSB Mayor Ward.

Vice-Chair Swan suggested a work session to discuss the needs of the public, animal shelter and Borough and volunteered to contact assemblymembers regarding their thoughts on the ordinance. Discussion ensued on inviting an experienced officer and front desk staff as well as having a public hearing. The Commission concurred on the work session and public hearing being scheduled for a future date.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Rosenberg provided an update on the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund's charitable efforts.

Vice-Chair Swan spoke about information provided to the Commission on the effectiveness of ordinances in other jurisdictions. Vice-Chair Swan provided updates on Mush with P.R.I.D.E.'s efforts to support the welfare of dogs and generating interest in Juneau to change state statute to provide limited police powers to animal control officers for the enforcement of cruelty and neglect.

Commissioner Rosenberg mentioned various statewide sales tax proposals that could exempt animal food and medicine and brought attention to the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund's Facebook page.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Animal Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.