

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES
February 12, 2018
4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM D - COUNTY SQUARE

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Council Office and mailed to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Rick Roberts
Vice Chairman Xanthene Norris
Councilor Mike Barnes
Councilor Bob Taylor

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Councilor Fred Payne

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeffrey D. Wile, Assistant County Attorney
John Vandermosten, Assistant County Administrator
Debbie Templeton, Administrative Coordinator
Helen E. Wood, Clerk to Public Safety Committee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Willis Meadows, Vice Chairman, Greenville County Council
Joe Dill, Councilor, Greenville County Council
Lynn Ballard, Councilor, Greenville County Council

CALL TO ORDER:

Rick Roberts
Chairman

INVOCATION:

Xanthene Norris
Vice Chairman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Vice Chairman Xanthe Norris moved to approve the minutes of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services' meeting of December 18, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

PRESENTATION: TETHERING OR "CHAINING" OF DOGS

Speaker Kelly Teal of Fountain Inn presented the findings to her year-long study on why dogs attack people. She has concluded that it is the treatment of dogs that ultimately leads to the reason behind dog attacks. The National Canine Research Council has deemed 2 types of dogs: the family dog and the resident dog. The family dog lives in the home while being nurtured and interacting with people. The resident dog is tethered outside the home with only the food and water necessary and little interaction with people. Resident dogs are most likely to have the fight not flight instinct due to limited space to flee the situation. Resident dogs are also less likely to be spayed or neutered. Because the resident dogs are isolated with little interaction with people and because their instinct is to fight, this type of dog is involved in the majority of the attacks on people. Ms. Teal shared examples of recent fatal dog attacks, as well as the maltreatment of dogs; all of which had been tethered "resident" dogs. Ms. Teal believes a tethering ordinance would improve public safety and the well-being of dogs. A tethering ordinance would:

- Reduce dog bites/attacks on people
- Reduce number of dogs running at large
- Lower number of dogs entering Greenville County Animal Care
- Reduce dog fighting
- Will make people more responsible dog owners
- Reduce work load on Animal Control

Speaker Lori Raymond of Simpsonville agreed with Kelly Teal's assessment. Ms. Raymond shared additional examples of maltreatment of dogs.

Speaker Chris Rochester of Old Hunts Bridge Rd. shared his feelings on a possible tethering ordinance. Mr. Rochester stated laws are already on the books pertaining to animal cruelty that are not being enforced. An additional anti-tethering ordinance would likely not be enforced and would hinder hunters. Hunters and their dogs live as one and respect one another. During the off season, hunting dogs are tethered to an 8ft tether in safe, clean conditions. This gives the dogs 201 square feet to exercise. Mr. Rochester believes the animal cruelty laws should be enforced and is against any additional anti-tethering laws.

In conclusion, Chairman Roberts stated that all groups of speakers had a lot in common and that the Committee was not at the point of putting together an ordinance and before any action is taken he would develop a one on one relationship to talk with each group regarding this issue.

Chairman Roberts, thanked all for coming and stated that we all agree that there are places that dogs are not being treated humanely

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilman Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra S Templeton, Administrative Coordinator