



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Location: Topeka Police Department, 320 S. Kansas Ave., LEC Classroom A

Date: June 12, 2017

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Attendance

Committee members Brendan Jensen (Chair) and Sandra Clear; Sylvia Ortiz arrived at 3:05 p.m. City Attorney Lisa Robertson and Animal Control Officer Lisa Pinkley.

1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Councilmember Brendan Jensen.

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 24, 2017 meeting were approved.

3) Continued discussion on including miniature pigs as part of TMC Title 6 'Animals' and reorganization and clean-up of TMC Title 6 'Animals'.

At the February 7, 2017 City Council Meeting, Councilmember Jensen moved to refer to the Public Health & Safety Committee the discussion and review of the proposed ordinance regarding miniature pigs, as well as a comprehensive review of all animal control policies (Topeka Municipal Code (TMC) Title 6 'Animals').

Dr. Edward Kester of Kester Animal Clinic, LLC is a large animal veterinarian for Shawnee County. He spoke to the committee regarding miniature pigs. He stated that pseudo rabies is a herpes type virus that was eradicated from Kansas almost 20 years ago. He did not recommend that the City require miniature pigs be vaccinated for pseudo rabies because 1) there is a very low chance of miniature pigs getting pseudo rabies and 2) there is not a readily available vaccine for pseudo rabies. He stated that the City could require that a pig be tested for pseudo rabies as part of the initial permit process, but not require that they are vaccinated. He stated that livestock are required to be vaccinated for rabies annually. He recommends that pigs be spayed or neutered after they are 6 months old. Dr. Kester stated that if a pig is in a stress free, calm environment, you can sedate a pig; if they are running loose and stressed, sedating them could kill them. He stated that he is only aware of approximately 8 to 10 pigs

running loose in Shawnee County over the past 15 years; loose pigs are picked up by Animal Control and given to Dr. Kester to hold.

Dr. Brian Stancliffe of Animal Clinic of North Topeka, is a small animal veterinarian for the City of Topeka. He stated that although he has never had to deal with miniature pigs in the past, he doesn't see a problem doing so in the future.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Lisa Pinkley stated that the current code does not require permits for livestock.

Councilmember Sylvia Ortiz asked Lisa Pinkley to send her a list of the problems they encounter in the field. Lisa Pinkley stated that she sent that information to the committee previously, but will resend it.

6.05.120 Animal Fighting. Lisa Pinkley stated that the State of Kansas handles animal fighting/cruelty per state law; there is no City code. City Police and Animal Control respond to animal fighting/cruelty calls, to assist State authorities, but the City does not issue citations. The City could add a notation in the code that references the state law. The committee agreed to delete:

(c) Subsections (b)(1) to (b)(4) of this section do not apply to conduct involving dogs.

(Code 1981 § 8-10. Code 1995 § 18-11.)

6.05.130 Deceased Animals. Lisa Pinkley asked if the City could contract with Shawnee County Refuse to have them pick up roadkill; not domestic animals. The Committee would like more data, such as how much time it takes daily, how many animals are picked up per day, what it would cost us, etc. The City currently has a contract with Waste Management for the disposal of dead animals that are picked up by the City Animal Control Officers.

The Committee asked that the fees to license a pig be the same as other animals, \$20 and \$8 (if sterilized). Councilmember Brendan Jensen asked Lisa Pinkley to check with Pet Data web registry to see if they can accommodate pig licensing.

Lisa Robertson will talk to Municipal Court Judge Geier about holding/releasing animals from the animal shelter, court hearings, etc.

Comment [LR1]: ACC would like to consider removing this provision since animal fighting is a state offense that only a police officer can address.

Councilmember Sandra Clear recommended replacing 'Helping Hands Humane Society' with 'any animal shelter that is contracted with the City of Topeka and licensed by the State of Kansas'.

Councilmember Clear recommended removing the word 'kennel' from the document.

Councilmember Clear asked if the \$2 late fee and \$1 replacement tag fee is high enough; is the City losing money? Lisa Pinkley said she would get an answer to the committee.

4) Discussion on any other items before the Committee

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnMM-xITCIU&feature=youtu.be>