

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Animal Control Commission
June 21, 2021
7:27 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Animal Control Commission was held Monday, June 21, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing personally:

Mary Ann Fortune	Ronnie Rosenberg
Gail Gardner	Thomas Swan, Vice-Chairperson
Alex Thornton, Chairperson	

Comprising a quorum of the Board/Commission, and

Sharon Wittenkeller, Administrative Assistant III Clerk
Sandra Hill, Animal Control Manager
Raeanne Ross, Animal Control Officer
Jill Dolan, Borough Attorney

Absent & Excused

Jamie Marschner

MESSAGES

1. Communications to the Animal Control Commission

NONE

2. Citizen's Comments

Linda Cook, Goldmine Trail, Homeward Bound Pet Rescue and Referral Inc., Fairbanks, spoke of a letter she submitted to the Commission and her concerns of line items 75-79 of proposed Ordinance No. 2021-15. She asked the Commission to review the line items and expressed a job well done by rescue organizations in lowering the number of animals that are euthanized at the shelter.

The Commission asked questions of Ms. Cook on the undue burdens placed on animal rescue organizations within the proposed ordinance.

The Commission asked further questions of Ms. Cook on the how the proposed ordinance could be altered and still accomplish the original goal.

Susan Flora, Goldstream Valley, Fairbanks, spoke of the written comments she submitted to the Commission. She applauded and concurred with the comments from Ms. Cook.

Christina Hommel, North Pole, thanked everyone for their time and willingness to put the ordinance together and spoke of her concerns of Animal Control Officers having the ability to enforce the ordinance.

The Commission asked questions of Ms. Hommel regarding enforcement abilities of Animal Control Officers and regulation options for animal neglect and cruelty.

3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

FORTUNE,
Seconded by SWAN

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

APPROVED THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA WITHOUT OBJECTION.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Animal Control Commissions minutes of June 2, 2021.

Without objection this measure was approved on the consent agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Recommendation on Ordinance No. 2021-15: An ordinance Amending FNSBC Title 22, Animals, And FNSBC 1.20.070(E), Fine Schedule, Including Adding A Definition For Animal Rescue Facilities, Clarifying Responsibilities Of Caretakers, Requiring Proof Of Immunization And Registration In Certain Circumstances, Removing Mandatory Warnings, Adding An Animal Ownership Section, And Other Related Changes.

THORNTON,
Seconded by FORTUNE

moved to accept all the recommended
changes in Ordinance 2021-15 except for
Section 4, lines 58-79.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN ORDINANCE 2021-15 EXCEPT FOR SECTION 4, LINES 58-79.

Yeses: Fortune, Rosenberg, Swan, Thornton

Noes: Gardner

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 1 Noes

Robert's Rules of Order procedural discussion ensued.

THORNTON,
Seconded by ROSENBERG moved to retract his previous motion in favor to moving forward the entire action item recommendation on Ordinance No. 2021-15.

VOTE ON MOTION TO RETRACT THE PREVIOUS MOTION AND APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15.

Yeses: Fortune, Rosenberg, Swan, Thornton, Gardner

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

GARDNER,
Seconded by FORTUNE moved to amend the definition of an "animal rescue facility" on Lines 39-41 to "animal rescue", "means a person or entity that accepts four or more animals into their possession for the purpose of selling or adopting the animal to another whether for profit or not".

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF AN "ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY" ON LINES 39-41 TO "ANIMAL RESCUE", "MEANS A PERSON OR ENTITY THAT ACCEPTS FOUR OR MORE ANIMALS INTO THEIR POSSESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING OR ADOPTING THE ANIMAL TO ANOTHER WHETHER FOR PROFIT OR NOT".

Discussion ensued on the following:

- "Animal" is a broader term than what is currently proposed in the ordinance which states, "dogs or cats" and does not have an age limitation, puppies would qualify.
- Rabies requirements and proof of vaccinations for strays.

Yeses: Fortune, Gardner

Noes: Rosenberg, Swan, Thornton

MOTION DEFEATED 2 Yeses, 3 Noes

Discussion ensued on microchips, accuracy of the information on microchips, animal ownership and proof of ownership.

THORNTON, moved to amend lines 61-62, to add "may"
Seconded by FORTUNE after proof of ownership, to read, "Proof of
ownership may include but is not limited
to".

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Voluntary pet registration on record with Animal Control.
- Microchips and proof of ownership.
- Location of microchips and multiple microchips.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND LINES 61-62, TO ADD "MAY" AFTER "PROOF OF OWNERSHIP", TO READ, "PROOF OF OWNERSHIP MAY INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO".

Yeses: Swan, Gardner, Fortune, Thornton

Noes: Rosenberg

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 1 Noes

Discussion ensued on the definition of animal rescue facility.

THORNTON, moved to amend the definition of "animal
Seconded by SWAN rescue facility", lines 39 and 41, to mean
"any premises used for keeping six or more
unwanted, abandoned, or surrendered
animals, whether for profit or not".

Discussion ensued on lines 75-78, which mentions accepting dogs and cats, and proof of rabies.

THORNTON,
Seconded by SWAN

moved to amend the amendment, lines 75-78, paragraph B, within the following, "A person that operates as an animal rescue facility and accepts a dog or cat over the age of four months or any species that would require a rabies vaccination as standard veterinary care or as required by state law into their possession"

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT, LINES 75-78, PARAGRAPH B, WITHIN THE FOLLOWING, "A PERSON THAT OPERATES AS AN ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY AND ACCEPTS A DOG OR CAT OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS OR ANY SPECIES THAT WOULD REQUIRE A RABIES VACCINATION AS STANDARD VETERINARY CARE OR AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW INTO THEIR POSSESSION"

Yeses: Swan, Gardner, Fortune, Rosenberg, Thornton

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

VOTE ON AMENDMENT AS AMENDED TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY", LINES 39 AND 41, TO MEAN "ANY PREMISES USED FOR KEEPING SIX OR MORE UNWANTED, ABANDONED, OR SURRENDERED ANIMALS, WHETHER FOR PROFIT OR NOT" AND TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT, LINES 75-78, PARAGRAPH B, WITHIN THE FOLLOWING, "A PERSON THAT OPERATES AS AN ANIMAL RESCUE FACILITY AND ACCEPTS A DOG OR CAT OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS OR ANY SPECIES THAT WOULD REQUIRE A RABIES VACCINATION AS STANDARD VETERINARY CARE OR AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW INTO THEIR POSSESSION"

Yeses: Gardner, Fortune, Rosenberg, Swan, Thornton

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

VOTE TO RECOMMEND ORDINANCE 2021-15, AS AMENDED.

Yeses: Fortune, Rosenberg, Gardner, Thornton

Noes: Swan

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 1 Noes

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Gardner conveyed the ordinance is heading in the right direction, and enforcement is the biggest problem Animal Control Officers are facing.

Chairperson Thornton echoed Commissioner Gardner’s comments adding it is an improvement, a small step in the right direction. He noted he will reach out to Assembly members and if he is able, will testify at the next Assembly meeting. He supports Animal Control officers having more enforcement abilities and protecting animals with more regulations.

Commissioner Fortune echoed Commissioner Gardner and Chair Thornton’s comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Animal Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

APPROVED: September 1, 2021