



**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 29, 2017**

Present: Billy Smith, Neil Robinson, Jimmy Ray Douglas, Dan W. Ruff, Bertha Goins, Council Members; Jason Taylor, County Administrator; Davis Anderson, Deputy County Administrator; Patti Locklair, Clerk to Council.

Absent: Mikel Trapp.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle, and one hundred twenty seven other individuals.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the Work Session to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Council Member Douglas and seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

III. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Goins led the invocation.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Animal Care and Control Ordinance:

- A. Mr. Bob Innes, Animal Control Director, gave a presentation concerning the Animal Control Mission Statement, objectives, staff, types and process of calls and numbers since October 2016.

Council questions and discussion:

- Process of adoption
- Process if an "owned" animal is picked up
- Process of transferring animals
- Adoption turnover since October, community awareness
- Further explanation of releasing to the wild
- Adequate staff
- Ratio of phone calls received by department
- Class III certification
- Rabies

- B. Current Ordinance #535. Chairman Smith briefly went through the current Ordinance and Council was encouraged to give feedback.

C. Public Comment:

- Deborah Richelle
- Marguerite Ferguson
- Kathy Faulk
- Mary Lynn Kinley
- Paula Spinale
- Sarge Douglas
- Doris Macomson
- Minge Wiseman – signed to speak but had to leave
- Laura Thomas
- Kerry Matthews
- Randy Bright

D. Council Discussion

Council Members thanked everyone for coming out and participating in this work session and also for all that is done by the organizations for animals. Many useful ideas were given. Listed below are some items discussed by Council:

- Emphasis needs to be on education
- There would need to be collaboration on City/County Ordinances
- Housing, protection from extreme elements
- Weight and length of tethers, swivel ends
- Cruelty to animals
- Reporting violations to the police
- Exceptions

Mr. Innes followed up stating his office has already been going into the schools to educate the children including Midlands Stem, McCrorey Liston and Geiger so far. Also, he feels Council must ensure that the County has an Ordinance the Animal Control Department can control and enforce. He asked that the Council remember a lot of the dogs on chains are in Winnsboro, which would fall under the City ordinance. Finally, Mr. Innes advised the Council to take into consideration that the counties (York and Aiken), whose ordinances have been referred to in this meeting and in the past, have a lot of help in assisting with their animals, including the Humane Society. He asked that the Council take all of this into consideration when discussing these matters.

V. Adjourn

At 7:45 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Ruff, properly seconded by Vice Chair Goins to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

PATTI LOCKLAIR
CLERK TO COUNCIL

WILLIAM B. SMITH, JR.
CHAIRMAN