

MINUTES COMMITTEE MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG PUBLIC SAFETY, LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE
May 28, 2019

Chairman Mel Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM

Call to Order - Roll Call

PRESENT: Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner, Joseph

ABSENT:

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Bryant requested a Discussion of Chapter 505 Animals and Fowl
Agenda stands as amended.

Approval of Minutes

a. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee – Committee Meeting – May 13, 2019

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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NEW LEGISLATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY AUDITOR TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT FROM THE CITY'S FIXED ASSET LIST. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: good evening members of Council. So I have several items here to delete from our assets list. The three largest ones are three vehicles, cruisers 252, 259, and a 2007 F150 pick up truck. And the two cruisers are part of the initiating the rotation plan. To rotate 3 or 4 cruisers out each year and the truck was deemed and assessed as unsafe by the City crew. So those are the main ones, I can go over the other minor ones if anyone would like.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/28/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Chairman	
SECONDER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember	
AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO AN ACCOUNT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

Chief Plesich: Thank you, this is a donation of \$100.00 given tot the Police Department and asked that it be donated to the new K9 Unit.

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RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/28/2019 7:35 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Chairman	
SECONDER:	Caleb Skinner, Ward 1 Councilmember	
AYES:	Clemens, Baker, Bryant, Skinner	

Discussion on Chapter 505 Animals & Fowl

Ms. Bryant: Thank you Councilman Clemens. Back in 2014, the Council had an ad hoc committee do a review of chapter 505 which was the chapter dealing with animals and fowl. There were a number of suggestions that were offered and about 15 months ago as Council, we struck the breed specific language but haven't made any of the other suggested changes that were presented by the ad hoc committee. I believe there were about half a dozen people that participated on that committee, making suggestions. I had the Clerk of Council provide those changes to me late last year and have been looking at it periodically ever since. And there are a number of those changes that make a lot of sense. Some changes that I think are in order to streamline the chapter, there is a lot of redundancies and then there are also some inconsistencies. So I think the proposed changes that have been submitted to the Council members makes it a lot, a lot more fluid, you know that way you don't have to look in multiple sections to find an answer for something. Its all contained in one section. I do think that this is something that we should not try to devour at once. There is a lot of information here, some of which is divisive such as the, keeping, to keep or not to keep chickens. Seems to be probably the most divisive of those. But I do think that its time to modernize this chapter and acknowledge the work of the ad hoc committee, its my understanding it was struck down as a whole piece of legislation by a five to one vote, which for those that are not familiar, you either agree with it in its entirety you know or if there is one thing in there that your not in agreement with you have no choice but to vote against it. So I think this is something we should take small bites at as opposed to trying to pass it as whole and I would like us to start taking a look at that and would like to open it up to some comments from other members of Council.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you. Personally, I have comments but not this evening because I haven't had a chance to look at it.

Ms. Bryant: That's fine.

Mr. Clemens: But I want to thank you for bringing it forward. Are there any members of committee that would like to ask Kristin some questions pertaining to this, this evening? Members or Council? Yes.

Mr. Luzader: Thank you Mr. Clemens. I just have one and Mr. Joseph was here, he was the one that actually, actually offered up the committee, it was on his recommendation. But if I'm not mistaken that was actually voted on like four or five different parts wasn't it? I don't think it was voted on one unit as a whole.

Mr. Joseph: If I recall correctly, I think were a few, we would have to double check but I think there were a few blocked votes and they were all voted the same.

Mr. Luzader: Yea, I would have to go get the minutes too but I was thinking <INAUDIBLE>

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Mr. Joseph: Yea, if the Clerk could find that before the next meeting so we know exactly how Council dealt with it at the time. That's the way I remember it but obviously it could have been different. And that way we know what was voted on in each of those blocked votes if in fact that's how it was done.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you President, are there any other questions. Yea.

Mr. Spalding: Yea I have a few. Yea, I think that when you say well that the whole document gets voted down, right, well it certainly does if I gets presented as w hole document. There is 24 pages here and you know what its pretty easy to vote this document down with 24 pages. But there pieces that your brought that are very interesting and actually have a pretty high probability of working, if we work on just that. But ill use a piece just right off the first page, that is to me, well two pieces that really disturbing. Everything on that first page has been struck out with anything to do with menacing, and ill use an example. I am walking grandchild in park, a dog comes running up. Now I don't care whether he is a loose dog or on a leash, doesn't matter to me. That dog is snapping and biting and growling. You know what, that's menacing and that's not ok, that is absolutely not ok. But we have struck, there is 3 different places in here, its all gone. It says right here there has to be injury. So I have got to wait for that dog to bite my child before there is something really bad here. No, no that's vicious dog right off the bat and it needs to be discussed. Its just like somebody pulls a gun on me but they have to shoot me before its a bad act. No, no, no please no. Its a bad act the second they pull the gun, its a bad act the second that dog chases after my grandchild. So this menacing piece has to be put back in there. We cannot strip this entire law of menacing as if it doesn't exist, it does exist. And that's where we need to prevent those dogs and identify those dogs before those injuries happen. And one particularly just jumped out at me, way down at the dangerous dog. And I'll read it. Dangerous dog; does not include police dog that caused injury, well that's good right. Well except eww comma, other than killing or serious injury. Whoa. Maybe, that's what the dog is suppose to do, I don't know. But it sounds like, just a second, to any person that has killed another dog while the police dog is being used to assist one or more law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties. Wow, that almost reads like, wow this dog can be put up for man slaughter. Just a minute, that's what this says. It changed it the second you stopped and said other than killing or serious injury. It changes the whole context of the paragraph. So, these are things that yes they might sound minor and we are really focusing on tethering a dog or chickens but not as far as I'm concerned. Were talking about the whole document, line by line of all the stuff that's been changed, we need to look at it and see does it change the overall document. So we got a lot of work to do on this and I would appreciate, has this gone through our legal services yet, has our attorney seen this yet?

Ms. Bryant: I've submitted it to Mr. Hood as well as to all of you. The reason the police dog section is stricken down in some places, is because its there in other places. That kind of lends itself to the redundancy and the inconsistencies that we have. You know I am not saying that a menacing, you know a menacing dog is basically encompassed by a vicious dog, is basically what were saying here, with some of these changes.

Mr. Spalding: I am just sharing with you, if it was my grandchild this would be a serious issue.

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Ms. Bryant: Well, again its addressed just using a different word.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you Mr. Spalding. I think this, like you say, this is something that has to be studied and looked in to. So would you wan to put it on for the next committee meeting and being it or...

Ms. Bryant: I would like to bring it back next time as another discussion item so that all of the Council members have some additional time to digest the suggested changes, you know I have some thoughts of my own on some additional changes just in having some conversations with various people. You know, since I have put this out there to the members. There is, I am trying to remember specifically, but you know one example would be the, you know I don't want to harp on chickens because honestly I have no, you know, no particular desire for or against them other than the fact that there does seem to be quite a number of people that have contacted the City to inquire and there appears to be interest. But there's been a lot of extra restrictions that were placed in here aside from just the original ad hoc committee suggestion. One of those suggestions that has, has been brought to me was that we put in a restriction on any eggs produced by a chicken are for personal use as opposed to you know, you cannot sell them. You now there is some other ordinances I have looked at that I brought in, the section on the Police Animals. I believe that was the Worthington ordinance that brought in a lot of that wording. So, I just, I wanted to I think most of you I have told in the last 3 or 4 months I wanted to bring this back around. This is what I had come up with in term of suggested changes a long with the ad hoc committee changes and you know, this is not anything in my mind should be etched in stone. I just want to open the door to discussion and have you, the rest of you have an opportunity to read through this a little more thoroughly and discuss it some more. Because it is a big piece of legislation.

Mr. Clemens: And I agree that it should be looked at item by item really. Because I am not going to pay somebody to count eggs, I can tell you that right now. Those days are gone. I do think we should look into it, take our time and go through it and see what we want to keep and what we want to get rid of.

Ms. Bryant: And specifically you know one of the concerns in wanting to bring this legislation back around again is since the breed specific language was eliminated, I do think we need to take a look at having an animal warden. You know we do have a contract with the Licking County Humane Society to deal with the Licking County portion of town but you know the Franklin County is probably a little overwhelmed to come out and deal with things that we may need, you know for instance we seem to have a flock of sheep that like to escape from time to time on an increasingly regular basis. So I felt that it was time for us to look at this again.

Mr. Clemens: We have had that of course before and I didn't pan out. Whether is was because of how we handled it or how the person handled it I cant say. Its something worth looking in to. Are there any other questions? If not, I want to thank you and we will put it on the agenda for next week.