

**Spring City
Public Hearing
Animal Control Ordinance
November 1, 2007**

Attending: Pam Anderson, Doug and Renee Howerton, Laurel Brown, Adam Burningham, Doug Owens, Kaye and Dennis Watson, John Dean, Lothar Janke, Scott Sorensen, Joe Bennion, Chad and Jackie Beck, Karen Mickel, Vickie Mickel, Lindsey Mickel, William Moon, Lee Bennion, Kim Stewart, Gary Walsh, Zach Barnes, Les Kraus, Kevin Brewer, Bob Kling, Gary Carter, Neil And Kim Sorensen, Jerry Johnson, Vern and Ranae Fisher, 5 people were unknown.

Public Comments

Laurel Brown stated that citizens shouldn't be required to have a kennel license or be told what they can or can't do with their animals. Owners of the animals should be responsible. Ms. Brown did not want to have the city take away the rights of animal owners. Councilperson Michael Workman inquired how many dogs should be allowed to be in one household.

Pam Anderson stated that as long as animals are taken care of that the owner was responsible.

Councilperson Boyd Mickel stated that the city had many complaints of barking dogs. Councilperson Mickel stated that one household had over 11 dogs and they were not taken care of properly. Councilperson Mickel stated that the city only had 70 dogs licensed in town and suspected that not all owners licensed their dogs. Councilperson Mickel stated that hydedit treatment was required by the stated and the citizens have been at risk in the past. Councilperson Mickel stated that both Fairview and Fountain Green had been updating their ordinances also.

Mayor Barnes stated that he would like to hear what the citizens would like to see in the ordinance. Councilperson Tom Allred stated that Planning and Zoning did not present a zone that gave permission for a kennel license.

Chad Beck stated that something needed to be done to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Beck stated that some people do not take care of their dogs.

Dennis Watson stated that the city lacked enforcement of the animal ordinance and most citizens are not aware of the loss of livestock if the ordinance is not enforced. Mr. Watson stated that some lots wouldn't be able to have dogs and that the footage of kennel requirements needed to be addressed. Mr. Watson stated that there is also a problem with barking dogs.

Laurel Brown stated that there was noise in town with other farm animals.

Lothar Janke stated that dogs barked as well as other animals at night and the sometimes it was impossible to have a open window at night. Mr. Janke also stated that if you went for a walk you sometimes had to protect yourself from dogs.

Mayor Barnes stated that the ordinance did not include farm animals that were noisy but did address dogs and barking as a nuisance. Mayor Barnes stated that the current ordinance put a bounty on dogs that were loose and attorneys had suggested to him to take this out of the ordinance.

Dennis Watson inquired if enforcement of the animal ordinance would include picking up cats. Laurel Brown stated that there was a cat problem in the city.

John Dean stated that he understood that licensing of animals to include shots was a good idea. Mr. Dean stated that if the dog were not licensed and picked up the city was responsible for the cost of impoundment.

Joe Bennion stated that he had dogs and unless another stray dog or person on foot his dogs did not bark. Mr. Bennion stated that the footage for a kennel was a problem and that most citizens had dogs for security. Mr. Bennion stated that he supported the local sheepmen who had problems with their livestock.

Mike Howerton was also concerned about the footage. Councilperson Mickel stated that this issue needed to be addressed.

Dennis Watson wanted the ordinance to define what a R1 zone or R4 zones were. Kaye Watson stated that the ordinance addressed harboring stray animals. Joe Bennion stated that he aided in the placement of dogs that were abandoned. Mayor Barnes stated that it was not illegal to adopt a stray dog but get the animals legal was helpful to the citizens.

Dennis Watson inquired how the impoundment fees were paid. Lee Bennion stated that the city should instate a fine for the dumping of puppies and kittens in town. Adam Burningham stated that noise and some being loose were simple problems to be solved. Mr. Burningham stated that diplomacy was needed to establish citizen trust and get citizens to conform to the city's ordinances.

John Dean stated that the citizens needed to be kept informed. Mayor Barnes stated that the city tried to keep the citizens updated through the newsletter. William Moon stated that it should be mailed to each citizen.

Kevin Brewer stated that the city had a leash law in effect but was not enforced.

Councilperson Mickel stated that animal control was a never ending problem and needed to be addressed. Renee Howerton stated that there was a property in town that had three horses that were being starved and not taken care of properly. Mrs. Howerton agreed that the ordinance needed to be enforced.

Vern Fisher inquired if new laws would impact the buffer zone if it were developed. Councilperson Workman stated that the city had no jurisdiction over the county.

Kimberly Stewart stated that if this was an urban city, enforcement and ordinances needed to be in place. Mrs. Stewart stated that in a rural community it was not reasonable to have a number of animals as long as the owner of the property was responsible.

Officer Barnes inquired how the citizens would like to see the animal control ordinance enforced. Councilperson Michael Workman stated that there was an obvious need for an ordinance and council should work on the ordinance.

Richard Moon stated he would like an officer going door to door to explain the laws and needs for licensing.

Adam Burningham stated that vaccinations could be replaced by use of herbs.

Adjournment

Mayor Barnes thanked the citizens for their comments and stated that regular council meeting would reconvene in five minutes.