

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ANIMAL CONTROL

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**May 20, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Animal Control was held in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administrative Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Scott Chesney, Chair.

**A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronnie Rosenberg      Mary Fortune  
                                 Alex Thornton      Lindsey Heaney  
                                 Gail Gardner      Scott Chesney  
                                 Jamie Marschner

MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED: Link Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandy Hill, Acting Animal Control Manager, Sharon Wittenkeller, Clerk

**B. MESSAGES**

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes – None.
  - a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing
  - b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda
  
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda made by **Commissioner Gardner** and seconded by **Commissioner Rosenberg**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from April 15, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections made by **Commissioner Thornton** and seconded by **Commissioner Gardner**.

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Shelter Report presented by Sandy Hill

The admissions clerk casual was hired, who trained for about 2 weeks, and then resigned due to high emotional stress of the job. A replacement is being sought out. An animal tender casual resigned, it was not a good fit, and she accepted a position elsewhere. Ariel Cunningham, Animal Control Manager returned to work today. She and Sandy will be returning to their previous positions. No more news on budget, approaching the end of the fiscal year and getting ready for the new fiscal year. April stats are standard. There has been an increase in sled dogs, there are 7 in the yard. There is an increase in small animals. There will be a new stat on the report in the months to come; home quarantine. The animals in home quarantine have not been tracked in the past, and consists of a large number of animals. These animals have not been getting microchipped. The shelter is updating their processes, working within the code and the shelter policy to have the animals come into the shelter and be admitted quarantine and excused as home quarantined if they meet all the standards for home quarantine. Moral has been very positive. With the restructuring of the officers, calls have been responded too very quickly. The lobby at the animal shelter is near completion; it needs some paint and counter tops to finish the front desk. Training; Sandy, and three officers attended the Alaska Animal Control Association conference in Anchorage. Representatives for animal control from all over Alaska attended. There was a great interest in emergency response. It was realized how much further along FNSB Animal Control is compared to other Boroughs or other reps of the State. They want to continue with that and be the organization others come to. Licensing was another topic discussed at the training; it was found FNSB is one of the last Boroughs to require licensing in the State. Officer Ross is going to NACHO Module B in June. Officer Bailey and Officer Fisher both won scholarships to the NACA conference in FL in October. Its bite season, the bite occurrences are very high.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners and Ms. Hill in regards to bites, euthanasia ordinances, euthanasia, staff morale, current staff workload, and staff coverage.

2. Commercial sale of exotic animals

**Commissioner Thornton** reported after researching, the best way to communicate with Petco is through Customer Relations at Petco.com. He reported needing more information to provide to Petco, such as weight of deceased exotics, statistics, etc. Ms. Hill will look into the chameleon web program for stats to include in the letter. **Commissioner Thornton** stated

he could draft a formal document to Petco stating the current stats, issues and impact to the shelter, community, and Petco, and give them 90 days to respond. **Commissioner Rosenberg** stated there is a specific issue of the sliders, the situation has gone from bad to worse with how many are being brought up, die in transport, sold without supplies, and the amount of uneducated buyers about the growth of sliders. **Commissioner Rosenberg** has reached out to people in the lower 48 in regards to sliders, consulted with Dave Pauli, Seattle Beagle Rescue, every place has a problem with sliders. Discussion ensued about the sliders in the shelter, and finding a place to re-home them.

### 3. Licensing

Commissioners reviewed a draft ordinance amending title 22 allowing for licensing of dogs and cats. The ordinance has remained the same except for the change of title numbers. Discussion ensued about cost of paying for multiple licenses per owner. Ms. Hill stated they could look into getting current pricing of licensing from around the state, and to use Ariel as the POC. **Commissioner Chesney** will follow up with Ariel in regards to current fee schedules of licensing pricing from other Boroughs in the state. **Commissioner Thornton** asked to see something in the ordinance about a no fee exemption for people with service animals, to avoid violation of disabilities rights. **Commissioner Thornton** would like a waiver form for individuals to sign stating their animal is a service animal, and state what the animal is trained to do. **Commissioner Rosenberg** would like the service animal to be microchipped or have a rabies shot, one or the other. Ms. Hill stated the shelter could offer a financial discount for those pet owners who had their animal microchipped; they could receive a free year of licensing, or some other similar scenario as incentive for the owner to get their pets microchipped, up to date on their rabies vaccinations and licensing. Further discussion ensued about different types of discounts, incentives, wording for the licensing incentives, and exemption for police dogs.

### 4. Budget – moving along.

### 5. Legislative bills or activity of interest

The budget is the main priority. **Commissioner Rosenberg** has been trying to find out what will happen with the pipeline valuation; whether it will be taken out, and the tax will go to the state or if the Borough will be able to keep the tax as they have in prior years.

## F. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Mayor's memo

#### i. Sled dog housing

**Commissioner Chesney** asked Ms. Hill to pull together stats for sled dogs housed inside. Discussion ensued between Commissioners and staff on obtaining a conex, funding for the conex, functionality of the conex with water and electricity, where to place the conex, and weather elements which would affect the conex; rain and snow removal. Discussion followed about the pros/cons of adopting out the thin-coated sled dogs and housing them inside vs. outside during cold weather climate. **Commissioner Chesney** will draft a letter to Mayor Ward, with the information he requested in his memo, for review by the Commission at the next meeting. The letter is due to Mayor Ward by the end of July.

ii. Disposal of commercial animals –

Discussed in section 2, under Old Business.

iii. Bites

Bite stats needs to be acquired to include in a response to Mayor Ward's memo. Discussion ensued on how to lower bites, the increase in bites this season, bite hearings, and the lack of bite hearings. Fort Wainwright Safety Day is on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, shelter staff will be there for community outreach. Discussion ensued on community outreach, the possibilities of Borough funding specific safety outreach PSA's, safety outreach in schools. **Commissioner Chesney** wants to get the July letter to Mayor Ward out, and would like Commissioners to start thinking about the information that is needed to answer Mayor Ward's questions for the end of September deadline, the letter would need to be drafted by August and approved.

iv. Shelter facility

There is a semi-annual tour for the shelter in June, date TBD. **Commissioner Rosenberg** expressed concerns for having a proper place to isolate animals that are contagious; there is no separate place for them. She also expressed concerns about the public and their children wandering in the facility to look at the animals, and children placing their fingers and hands in the cages and moving from one animal to the next without being monitored, there is concern for potential bites and infection. Ms. Hill stated there is signage up in the areas where the animals are kept, however, it is not an effective way to keep hands out of cages, and they are low on staff to be able to monitor the visits the entire time. **Commissioner Gardner** asked

how the shelter would react on behalf of the dog if a child or person did get bit. Ms. Hill stated the situation varies. Discussion continued about the history of taking in animals who had a bite history, the conditions on adopting them out, and behavior of those animals, and euthanasia of animals who bite. Currently, they are not sentenced to be euthanasia just because they bite. **Commissioner Gardner** asked if the commission would still be holding a mock animal bit hearing training. **Commissioner Chesney** will follow up with legal to inquire about a mock training and or a hearing officer for bite hearings. **Commissioner Chesney** asked Commissioners to compile notes and concerns regarding the shelter.

G. **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES** June 17 - None

H. **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner's Comments

**Commissioner Rosenberg** reported a record was set at Round Up At the Register at the food co-op of all charities, \$3,085.44 was raised. There was participation on the adopted highway on Clean Up Day. Pints with Pups at Hoodoo will be held on Saturday, June 8, 11a,-4pm. Taxes are submitted. The annual meeting will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Girl Scouts building, at 6pm, with potluck and meeting to follow. Waugaman historical items sale in August, will likely not take place as Mrs. Waugaman has passed away. Pick. Click.Give. you can add to your donation or make a donation through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Looking for a new venue to hold the garage sale, GBC has been sold. Last year the shelter fund crossed the 2 million dollar mark, with help of bequests and large donations.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.